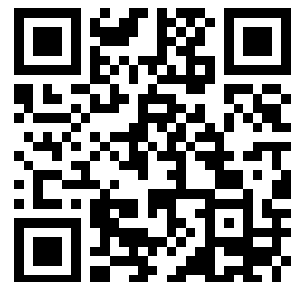
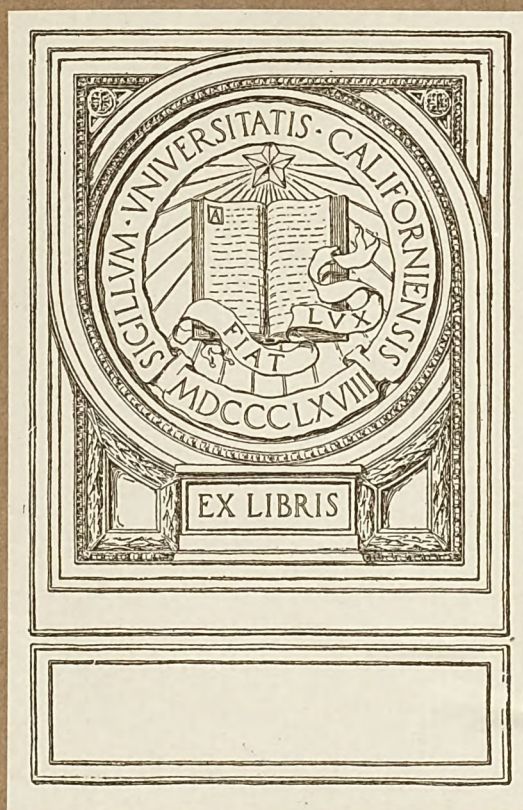

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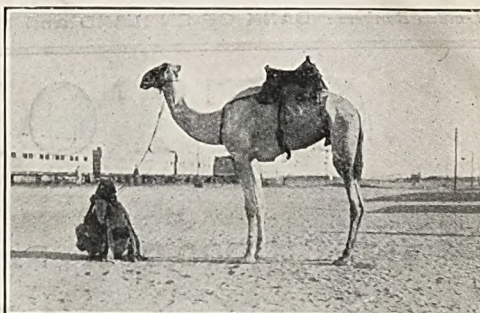
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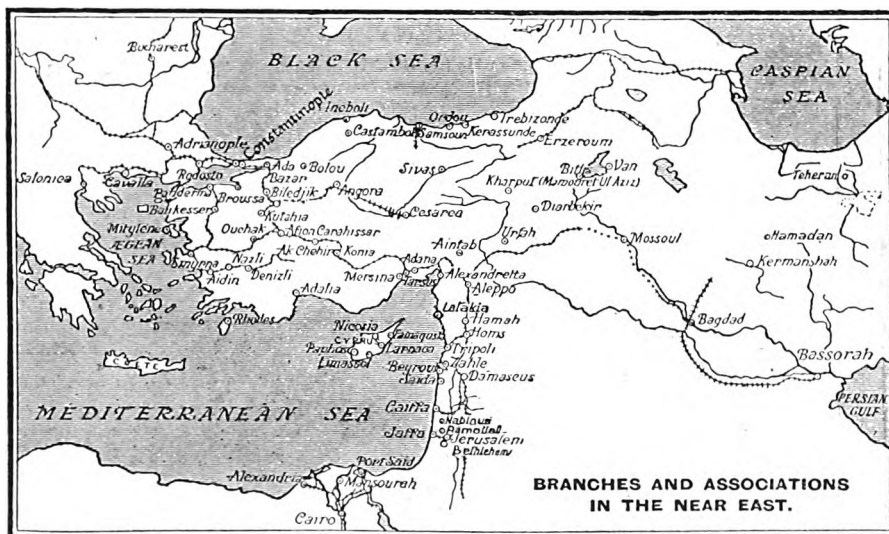
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Notes of the Week.

The Seif Ed-Din Affair.

Egypt is learning that in political affairs things are not always exactly what they are represented to be by political opponents. The truth of this statement is exemplified just as much in Egyptian comments on many of Great Britain's actions, whether real or merely imputed, as in the manner in which what is known as the Seif ed-Din affair has been represented in the Egyptian Press. In the first place no precise date was attributed to the part that Nahas Pasha and Wissa Bey Wassif were alleged to have played when acting in their legal capacity on behalf of Prince Seif ed-Din after his escape from an English asylum, and it was left to be inferred that the head and front of their offending lay in their abuse of their high political positions. The wisdom of the suggestion made in these columns last week that judgment should be suspended until these two high officials had been afforded an opportunity of giving their own explanation of the matter has been shown by the subsequent course of events. The contract to which exception was taken, it is now explained, was entered into sixteen months ago, before there was any question of Nahas Pasha's becoming Prime Minister or President of the Chamber of Deputies. As soon as the two chief signatories accepted official positions, they withdrew from any active part in the legal proceedings. As for the letter in which their associate claimed that their new posts would materially assist them in their efforts to promote Prince Seif ed-Din's interests, it is claimed that it was written without their knowledge and that the translation from the Turkish, in which it was written, has been deliberately distorted as a pretext for a case against them. The reason for the very high fees is stated to be the great value of the stake at issue—an estate of four or five million pounds. Finally, there was nothing clandestine in the whole affair, as the three lawyers concerned had already appeared in open Court on the Prince's behalf.

The Danger of Hasty Conclusions.

Nowhere will the refutation of the charges brought against the late Prime Minister of Egypt be more welcomed than in Great Britain, in view of the fact that, after the forty years of close association of the British and the Egyptians, anything that reflects on the honour and good faith of the latter detracts to some extent from the credit to which Great Britain is entitled for her painstaking and well-meaning efforts in the building-up of Egypt as a modern independent State. This aspect is often lost sight of by the Egyptians themselves when indulging in criticism of British action. In the present crisis, which is essentially of purely Egyptian manufacture, it is at once supposed even by highly-placed Wafdists that Great Britain must necessarily be responsible and must be aiming a blow at constitutionalism in Egypt. Yet constitutionalism is a product so closely identified with British principles the world over that it stands to reason that Great Britain has a far greater interest in witnessing its success, wherever it is tried, than in encompassing its failure. It could be only a source of pride for the British people to be able to point to Egypt as an outstanding success in the application of constitutional methods, in a country where they were previously unknown, as a result of a few decades of British tuition. The allegation that Great Britain is likely to stultify her record by wrecking constitutional government in Egypt can spring only from motives that might be expected to underlie satisfaction on the part of Egyptians, if a Prime Minister were to be convicted on a criminal charge. The honour of the country is linked up with the honour of its first citizen, and if Nahas Pasha had been guilty of the charges brought against him, Egypt's reputation also must have suffered. What may conceivably happen, is that Great Britain, anxious for the success of the constitutional experiment in Egypt, may find it hard to refrain from pointing out

where her wider and longer experience shows her that the Egyptians through ignorance and inexperience are in danger of jeopardising the future of constitutionalism in their country. If the Wafd have occasion in the present instance to complain of unfair tactics on the part of their political opponents, it is to be hoped that in the interest of Anglo-Egyptian relations they will be chary of jumping to wrong conclusions on insufficient evidence in regard to Great Britain's policy in Egypt.

The New Egyptian Government.

The new Egyptian Cabinet under Mohamed Pasha Mahmud may be regarded as an attempt to enlist Moderate opinion in the country in the cause of good government. Rightly or wrongly, the impression gained ground during the premiership of Nahas Pasha that he was not as independent of his Wafdist extremists as he would have liked to be. Just as he strove hard to perpetuate the coalition with the Liberals which the more intransigent section of his Party was bent on destroying, so he would have preferred a general line of policy calculated to avoid constant friction with the British authorities. Mahmud Pasha can have no illusions regarding his ability to govern the country in the Wafd's despite. He has advised King Fuad to prorogue Parliament for a month, and will doubtless use the period of grace allowed him to bring home to the country as a whole a better appreciation of the political situation than was possible amid the quarrels that had broken out under the late coalition. If in the event of a fresh general election the Wafd again sweeps the country, it will still have to decide whether it will be content to subordinate the task of promoting the material interests of Egypt to the policy of providing occasion for Anglo-Egyptian friction. The charges brought against Nahas Pasha have been the means of increasing his popularity in the Wafd, and he may find as a result his hands strengthened for restraining the extremists of his Party. Only political vindictiveness run riot can attribute lack of patriotism to the Egyptians who have sought to find a basis for an Anglo-Egyptian understanding in the conviction that, not until that has been reached, can Egypt settle down to the work of governing herself according to her own genius. The pity of it is that so much valuable time is being wasted in attempts to put the cart before the horse.

A Greek Crisis.

M. Venizelos has administered another violent stirring to the Greek political cauldron. When, a little over a month ago, his sudden return to Greek politics brought about the fall of the Zaimis Ministry, owing to the resignation of M. Kaphandaris, Minister of Finance, he was not prepared apparently to take office at once, and the Coalition under M. Zaimis was reconstructed. This time the veteran politician has thrown down the gauntlet to M. Kaphandaris, whom his return ousted from the leadership of the Liberal Party and has indicted two important items of his financial policy. The points at issue are of a technical nature; M. Venizelos attacks the issue by the National Bank of the shares of the new Bank of Greece—a step taken by the Financial Minister without consulting the Cabinet, but provided for in the agreement with the League of Nations and, therefore, not lightly to be set aside in Greece—and accuses M. Kaphandaris of having caused Greece serious financial losses by setting off the Greek debt to France, which was in paper francs, against the French debt to Greece, which was in gold francs. Once again the resignation of M. Kaphandaris has involved the fall of the whole Cabinet; and this time M. Venizelos's acceptance of office appears to be inevitable. The holding of a general election as soon as possible is indicated—probably in September—and M. Venizelos will set himself the task of re-establishing stable government in Greece. Whether his efforts will meet with the success that he anticipates for them remains to be seen. His return to the country had brought about an impossible state of affairs, so long as he wielded the real power without having the responsibility of government. The chief

danger lies in the revival of the old passions that kept Monarchists and Republicans in two bitterly hostile camps.

General Pangalos.

Two problems that will immediately confront M. Venizelos, in addition to the promised financial measures, are the tobacco strike, which attempts are still being made to expand into a general strike, and the fate of General Pangalos. Successive Greek Governments have contrived to postpone the inconvenient case of the ex-Dictator; but M. Zaimis, in spite of frequent changes of Cabinet, had been compelled to make a show of bringing the trial nearer. If the Chamber is now dissolved, an excuse will be provided for postponing the trial for several months longer, unless M. Venizelos refuses to be a party to a state of affairs which has seriously impaired Greece's claim to be regarded as a civilised State. While parties and politicians have wrangled, the man who, with the acquiescence of the people, was the recognized ruler of Greece for a considerable period, has been kept in prison for two years without a trial. It would seem as if the instinct of justice in modern Greece is so lacking that no single Greek, whether in a public or in his private capacity, has come forward to denounce the outrage. General Pangalos may quite well be guilty of all the charges laid against him; but until a judicial system which has allowed him to remain incarcerated for two years without trial has been purged, Greece would not seem to be in a position to pass judgment on any one who, whatever his faults and mistakes, had worked according to his lights for the good of the country.

Marking Time in Yugoslavia.

Although it is taken for granted that M. Voukitchevitch must hand in the resignation of the Government in view of the tragic episode in the Skupshtina, he has so far refrained from taking the step. Explanations for the delay have been found in the necessity for awaiting the Foreign Minister's return from Bucharest, in the incidence of a national holiday in commemoration of the Battle of Kossovo, which entailed the absence of King Alexander and the Cabinet from the capital, and in the concern of the Government to ensure a smooth transfer of authority to its successors. It may possibly be nearer the mark to suppose that M. Voukitchevitch and the Radicals are trying hard to discover whether some way does not exist by which the present Prime Minister, or at least his Party, can retain power. There would seem to be a general consensus of opinion in the country that impartial elections held at this time would give the Opposition parties a substantial majority, as the position of the Radicals has been badly shaken by the Skupshtina murders, and they can no longer count on much support outside Serbia. On M. Voukitchevitch's behalf it can be said that until M. Raditch has recovered sufficiently from his wound to leave the hospital, and is available for consultation, deliberations between the parties are necessarily incomplete owing to the personal antagonism which M. Pribitchevitch, the other leader of the Peasant-Democrat group, is credited with inspiring. There can, however, be little doubt that M. Voukitchevitch, if he aspired to win the esteem of the Yugoslavia nation as a whole in contradistinction to any position that he has in Serbia alone, has played his cards badly in postponing his resignation. The effect of his retention of office has been to represent his Government in the eyes of the majority of the people as indifferent to the grave blot on the national escutcheon which the murders in the Skupshtina have brought about. In the face of such a grim development to party quarrels, however, it may well be that a Government finds itself momentarily non-plussed and seizes any excuse for postponing action.

"De-souling" the Zionist Movement.

It was easy to foresee that the report of the Palestine Survey Commission, which was published in our last issue, would meet with criticism at the hands of a certain

section of Zionists who never have been happy at the proposed inclusion in the Jewish Agency of non-Zionists and who now are inclined to stigmatise the Commission's report as a mere appeal to Jewish philanthropists. And so it has proved. Dr. Weizmann's own expression—"de-souling" the Zionist idea—has been used against him: it is felt by those Zionists to whom we refer that the whole ideal of Zionism has been muddled by the grovelling to the wishes of wealthy non-Zionist Jews. It is well, therefore, to examine from an ideological aspect and particularly from the aspect of its effect upon Palestine this report of the experts: does it or does it not reduce an ideal to pounds, shillings, and pence? That is a question which the Jewish nation must answer for itself. But it is, in effect, the greatest question concerning the "Jewish National Home." Other things, such as the decline of unemployment (it is said that there are now but a thousand unemployed), the still prevailing balance of Jewish emigrants from Palestine over Jewish immigrants into it, and so on, important though they seem, are little compared with the great problem, which is apt occasionally to be lost sight of, whether idealism shall prevail in Palestine among the Jews over practical politics, or *vice versa*. On the one hand are those who incline to the view that as an ideal tends to become a reality it ceases to be an ideal (although they probably object to this way of putting it), and on the other are those who assert that a reality can always exude an ideal—the firmer the reality the more potent the ideal. Dr. Weizmann and his supporters know that Palestine can never include "a Jewish National Home" unless the support of the non-Zionist American Jews is secured, but it is, of course, quite true that a certain self-containing quality in Zionism may be lost by his working upon the basis of that knowledge. In any case, the majority of Zionists are prepared to support him. At the same time, however, it is proper to record that so far the report of the Commission does not appear to have awakened very much new enthusiasm.

Lord Plumer and Palestine.

The forthcoming departure from Palestine of Lord Plumer, who for the last three years has been High Commissioner of Palestine and of Trans-Jordan, will, we are sure, be the cause of much regret in many different circles. For this renowned soldier has performed his task most admirably in the Holy Land. His energy has been amazing; he has touched life at every point among the peoples under his charge; and his discretion has been a model to future High Commissioners in this somewhat sensitive region. To petulance on the part either of Arab or of Jew he has never lent an ear: the scales have been kept perfectly even; and the result—apart from the question of economics and finance, over which he had no control—has been far from unsatisfactory. The Arabs, who under the régime of Sir Herbert Samuel, just and impartial though it was, resolved that they could not expect a square deal, have in the régime of Lord Plumer come to realise that what the British Government lays down, its servant on the spot carries out; nor have the Jews, who at first were inclined to show dismay at the appointment of a British soldier to succeed a Jewish civilian, any grounds for complaint that the High Commissioner has failed to carry out the promises of the British Government. Rather may Lord Plumer's name be remembered with gratitude in Jewish circles, for it was under his aegis that the Government effected so timely a rescue of the depressed colonists during the last year or so. If Lord Plumer's successor, whose appointment now needs only the Royal Assent, is able to inspire the affection and respect which are the merited reward of the gallant Field-Marshal, there need be no fear about the administration of the Holy Land.

Affairs in Trans-Jordan.

Although the discontent in Trans-Jordan with the recently-published Anglo-Trans-Jordan Treaty has very

possibly been exaggerated in interested quarters outside the new Arab State, there is little doubt that among a few educated inhabitants of the Amirate the opinion prevails that the Amir Abdullah signed the Agreement with too easy a complaisance. This Amir, however, is a shrewd realist compared with a few of the townsmen of his country, and although at one time he, like all his family, may have entertained notions of immediate, absolute, and vast independence, he now sees the wisdom of making sure of the lower stake instead of playing hazardously for the higher. He has probably heard his ultimate fate compared with that of his father, now an exile in Cyprus. At this he may have smiled, for whatever the urban Trans-Jordanian may think of his Amir, the tribesman generally and genuinely likes this merry-eyed monarch. But "Nationalist" notions have a way of spreading; already the cry has been heard in Trans-Jordan for union with Syria; and no impartial observer can doubt that the great conception of a federated, independent Arabia will at no distant date be popular in places such as Amman, Irbid, and so on. It will be unfortunate, however, if the urban Trans-Jordanian gets too far in advance of his tribal brother, who, after all, is the mainstay of the country. The more practical policy of the "Nationalist" in Trans-Jordan would appear to be, therefore, rather to concentrate upon educating the backward tribesman up to his ideas than merely to revile the Amir Abdullah, and, by implication, the Mandatory Power also. As things are, it is absurd to suppose that the "Nationalist" shaikh or journalist who accuses the Amir Abdullah of treachery to his country's interests represents more than a fraction of the real opinion of that country.

Hashimite and Saoudi.

It might be thought that the main feud between the Sharifian family of Mecca and the Saoudi family of Riyadh came to an end when the Amir Ali left the Hijaz and the Wahhabs entered into undisputed possession of the lands of ex-King Husain. On a minor scale, however, it still continues, although rather between the partisans of the respective families than between the principals themselves. This is now to be seen in connexion with Syria. If Syria is to be blessed with a monarchy, who more suitable, say, certain supporters of the Hashimite family, than the Amir Zaid, the youngest son of ex-King Husain, a man, moreover, who is well liked in certain circles in Iraq? But another formidable

(Continued on page 14)

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THURSDAY, JULY 5, 1928.

RELIGIOUS REFORM IN TURKEY.

By a Law of March 3, 1924—the day that witnessed the abolition of the Ottoman Caliphate by the National Assembly—the Turkish Minister of Public Instruction was empowered to create a Faculty of Theology in the Stamboul University. While the Angora Government was carrying through its own scheme for the laicisation of Law and Justice, by the substitution of modern Codes for Muhammadan Law and the suppression of Courts exercising jurisdiction under that Law, it was left to the Stamboul Faculty to deal with the question of the introduction of reforms in the purely religious side of Islam. The Commission appointed by that body has now drawn up its report, which has been presented to the Government, and experience under the Republic suggests that its findings will in due course be endorsed by an obedient Assembly and become the law of the land. It is of interest, therefore, to examine the recommendations of the Commission and the line of argument by which it has reached them. The democratic evolution of Turkey, it is pointed out, has entailed the application of scientific direction to social institutions and their investment with a national character. Religion is a social institution and, therefore, has to conform to the exigencies of existence and the laws of progress. This "progressive perfection" must not go outside the rational limits of the religion, but Islam cannot remain immovably attached to primitive forms and superannuated usages, for ever deprived of the aid and all-powerful force of the law of progress. In the Turkish democracy religion, like everything else, must enter into the new era of vitality. Having thus established that religious life, like moral and economic life, must be reformed "by means of scientific procedure and by the aid of reason" in order that it may move forward in line with other social institutions, the Commission indicates the nature of the reforms that it recommends. Hygienic considerations came first, perhaps because they can be more easily introduced; shrines are to be kept clean and in good repair, mosques are to have seats; worshippers are to retain their footwear, but it is to be clean. For the modernisation of the services it is recommended that they should be conducted wholly in Turkish (both the prayers and the reading of the Quran); that prayers should be simple and clear "and such as to stir the souls of the Faithful"; that in the choice of muezzins and imams consideration should be given to their voices, and modern instrumental music should be introduced into mosques; that the standard of prayers and sermons—the latter at present being "purely religious and not inspired by scientific ideas"—should be improved by the training of preachers in philosophy and theology.

As in the case of other State departments in Republican Turkey, the Faculty of Theology in the Stamboul University takes itself seriously. Its report is not intended to be merely a series of pious recommendations launched upon the nation to take their own chance of winning through or falling by the wayside. It proposes to expound in detail the manner in which these suggestions are to be applied, with a view to making religious services conform with principles of hygiene, to Turkifying them, to imprinting on them a certain æsthetic character and to reconciling them with philosophy. Pamphlets on the subject will be issued, lectures and classes organised, the training of ministers of religion taken in hand, and specimen sermons delivered in the more important mosques. Whether this programme be carried out to the degree of thoroughness contemplated or not, there can be little doubt that the main features of it will be enforced. Successful prophets, according to Machiavelli, are mainly armed prophets. Those of to-day in Turkey are essentially of that category and have to deal with a disciplined people. The clerical forces in the country have allowed so many successive strongholds to be breached and overthrown, that they are unlikely to be able to join issue with any chance of success against the "progressive perfection" which is not "to go outside the rational limits of the religion."

In the struggle that has been in progress in the Republic during the last six years between Nationalism and Islam it seemed as if the only logical outcome could be the complete elimination of the latter. How, then, does the attempt to infuse "a new era of vitality" into the national religion conform with the views and intentions hitherto associated with Turkey's leaders? With the removal on April 10 by the Grand National Assembly of two Articles from the Turkish Constitution, one of which laid down that "the Muslim Religion is the religion of the Turkish State," the laicisation of the Republic was held to be complete, and Turkey appeared to have taken the last, and an irrevocable, step in sacrificing whatever advantages of prestige and support she stood to derive as the foremost State in the Islamic world. Yet according to the Stamboul Faculty of Theology the value of the modernising of Islam will not be restricted, as far as the Republic is concerned, to the spiritual domain, by the mere awakening of consciences. Turkey, it is argued, will at the same time constitute herself "the educator and guide of all Muslim peoples who remain backward and enslaved." In this way "the bases of reform closely concern the higher politics of Turkey, and will be likely to have a fruitful influence on all Muslim countries." Whether in this aspect of the proposed reforms the Faculty is travelling beyond its terms of reference there is at present no means of knowing. It may be that the rulers of the Republic are pursuing a carefully considered programme, which has been mapped out stage by stage of a far-seeing comprehensive policy. If the purpose were to free the Republic from the trammels that had encumbered the former Turkish State, it is certain that Nationalism, in the spirit that possessed it in the early days, would be deterred as little by consideration of foreign policy as by religious scruples. In several directions, however, it is now seen that there was method where none was suspected at first in Turkish dispositions. Possibly the new leaders of Turkey in their wisdom decided that, if Islam remained as it was, the hegemony of it was, under modern world conditions, hardly worth having, and they may have aimed from the outset at moulding it to their views, after having first prepared Turkey for the rôle that they had in store for her. If this should be the case, the world's estimate of Mustapha Kemal Pasha will have to be materially revised.

The Near and Middle East

From Our Own Correspondents.



Baghdad, June 12.

Parliament.

The final results of the secondary elections in Iraq divided the parties as follows:—

Progressives (Government Party)	...	70
Opposition	...	10
Independents	...	8
		88

Parliament, in extraordinary session, was opened at 9 a.m. on May 19 by King Faisal, with the usual pomp and ceremony. The High Commissioner and his staff, the Air Vice-Marshal and his staff, and all foreign Consuls were present. His Majesty, who was in Arab costume, drove through the streets in procession, attended by the royal bodyguard, mounted police, and troops. He was received at Parliament House by the Prime Minister and all the Ministers. After reading the Speech from the Throne, which was warmly applauded, the King returned in procession to the Palace.

The King's Speech referred to the newly-elected Majlis, and hoped that it would satisfy the aspirations of the nation. The political position of Iraq was enjoying continuous improvement, and her foreign relations were day by day being strengthened on a more permanent foundation. A new Treaty had been signed with Great Britain, and negotiations were still in progress for the revision of the Financial and Military Subsidiary Agreements. When these negotiations were ended, and when they bore a result likely to satisfy the interests of the country, they would be duly submitted to the Majlis for a decision.

The only new development in Iraq's relations with neighbouring States had been the regrettable incidents on the Najd frontier. Negotiations had now been opened with King Ibn Saoud, which it was hoped would remove all cause of further misunderstanding between the two countries.

The Government had spared no effort to expand the system of foreign diplomatic representation; a Diplomatic Agent had been sent to Angora following the appointment of a Turkish Consul-General in Baghdad, and it was hoped soon to establish diplomatic and commercial relations with Egypt.

The country's finances had made good progress. The question of the Ottoman Debt had been studied, and an effort made to reach a scheme for introducing an Iraq currency. Negotiations were also proceeding for the establishment of a national and an agricultural bank.

Steps had been taken to prepare a permanent cadre of State officials, with laws for the protection of their rights and regulation of their duties, and this task was almost completed; nor had the encouragement of trade and development schemes been neglected.

The internal situation of the country was improved, peace was well maintained, and social and economic improvement was noticeable. The Budget of the Ministry of Education had been increased by 14 per cent. in order

to meet the increasing demand for educational facilities. Expenditure on the task of combating the locust plague had been doubled.

Among important measures to be presented to Parliament during the coming session were the Budget, the Latifiyah Agreement, which was a substitute for the former Asfar Concession, and the Electricity Concession. The question of national defence had also to be considered.

After His Majesty's departure, the Chamber of Deputies elected as its President Abdul Aziz Beg Qassab.

Commenting upon the Speech.

At the third session of Parliament the reading of a short reply to the Speech from the Throne was followed by discussion, several members insisting that a detailed reply should be presented. The Opposition demanded from the Prime Minister a statement on the new Anglo-Iraq Treaty, and on Perso-Iraqi relations.

In reply Sir Abdul Muhsin Beg as Saadun said that the Iraq Government was still awaiting a reply to its demand for a revision of the Financial and Military Subsidiary Agreements of the new Treaty. If a conclusion "capable of satisfying our national desires" were reached, the Treaty and its Subsidiary Agreements would be submitted to Parliament, but in case of failure they would not be submitted.

With regard to Persian relations, the Prime Minister regretted that no advance had been made, because Persia persisted in making impossible demands which no Iraq Government could accept, e.g., she was still demanding the Capitulations. Nevertheless, every effort was being made to maintain the traditional friendly relations between the two States.

Yasin Pasha (Opposition) said in reply that he approved of the action of the committee in writing the reply to the Speech from the Throne as shortly as possible. It was of no avail to debate at length things of minor importance, but every effort of Parliament should be concentrated on the revision of the Subsidiary Agreements to the Treaty.

A motion calling for a detailed reply to the Speech was then rejected.

The "Mond" Demonstration.

In reply to questions on the anti-Mond demonstrations in March, the Minister of Education said that he was perfectly satisfied that his Ministry had taken proper action against those responsible. He regretted the permanent dismissal of a number of students, but for their own sakes the Government could not allow students to be tools in the hands of political agitators. Had any harm been done to a British ex-Minister, the consequences to Iraq would have been far more serious than the dismissal of a few students from Government schools. He promised to assist the dismissed boys, either by finding them employment or by allowing their admission into non-Government schools.

Supporting the Minister of Education, the Prime Minister (acting Minister of Interior) said that the exceptional measure for flogging demonstrators had now been cancelled.

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New Cabinet Appointments.

The three new Cabinet appointments are as follows: Ministry of Interior, Naji Beg as Shauqat Pasha (previously Mutasarrif of Baghdad); Ministry of Defence, General Nuri Pasha Said; Ministry of Justice, Daud Beg Haidari (son of the ex-Shah of Islam of the Ottoman Empire).

The Cotton Crop.

It is hoped that the cotton sown in 1928 will produce a minimum of 3,000 bales, an advance on the 1,800 bales of 1927, but less than the hopes at first entertained for this year. The drop from 3,500 bales on 1926 to 1,800 in 1927 was due to the slump in cotton prices, followed by the wet weather of November 1926, which further reduced the price of the Iraq crop; but satisfactory prices were obtained for the 1927 cotton, and it was hoped that this would give a fresh impetus to cotton-growing for the following year. Unfortunately the serious damage done by locusts in 1927, and the general fear of an even worse invasion in 1928, led many farmers to sow a great deal less cotton than they would otherwise have done. There has none the less been a considerable revival, particularly in the Euphrates area, where the railway authorities have given impetus to cotton cultivation by propaganda with a view to the development of their traffic. Farmers who employ mechanical pumps are getting better results than those who rely on flow irrigation, and the steady increase in the number of pumps installed gives promise of a proportionate increase in the area under cotton cultivation.

Oil.

The Turkish petroleum Company struck oil in a new well in the Baba Gurgur area, and have the well under control.

The Gertrude Bell Memorial.

King Faisal and the Government of Iraq have agreed

that a memorial tablet to the late Miss Bell shall be placed in the Iraq Museum at Baghdad in commemoration of her devoted work in inaugurating the Museum and supervising its early stages. The tablet is to take the form of a bronze plaque set in plain marble frame, surmounted by a portrait medallion, and bearing the following inscription in Arabic and English:—

GERTRUDE BELL,

*whose memory the Arabs will ever hold in reverence and affection,
erected this Museum in 1923,
being then Honorary Director of Antiquities for the Iraq.
With wonderful knowledge and devotion
she assembled the most precious objects in it
and through the heat of the summer
worked on them until the day of her death
on 12th July, 1926.
King Faisal and the Government of Iraq,
in gratitude for her great deeds in the country,
have ordered that the principal wing shall bear her name,
and with their permission
her friends have erected this tablet.*

A suitable site in the Museum has been chosen, with the approval of the King. The cost of the memorial will be about £600.

Electricity Concession.

An agreement was signed on June 2 revising the provisions of a concession granted in 1911 by the Imperial Ottoman Government to Mahmud Shabandar for the supply of electrical energy and the construction and operation of a tramway in Baghdad. The concession is now held by the Baghdad Electrical Lighting and Tramway Syndicate, Lt. This agreement is subject to the approval of Parliament, and is expected to come up for discussion during the present session.

The Spanish World Flight.

Two Spanish officers, Captain Simeniz and Captain Inglesas, who left Seville on May 29 on a world flight in an attempt to beat the long-distance non-stop record, were forced to descend after a twenty-four hours' flight at Dawiyah, some forty miles north-east of Nasriyah. The machine was not damaged, but the airmen have had to cable to Madrid for new valves, without which they are unable to go on to India. They are at present the guests of the Royal Air Force in Baghdad. The machine is a Blequet, built in Madrid, with a single 600 horse-power Hispano-Suiza engine.

The Air Marshal.

It is rumoured that on the return to England of Air Vice-Marshal Sir Edward Ellington, the Iraq Command will be given to Sir Robert Brooke-Popham. The Air Marshal is responsible not only for the Royal Air Force units and armoured cars in Iraq, but also for all British military forces serving in the country.

Visit of Lord Wester Wemyss.

Admiral of the Fleet Lord Wester Wemyss has been on a visit to Iraq, and was the guest of King Faisal during his stay in Baghdad.

GREECE.

Athens, June 14.

M. Venizelos.

Whether the return of M. Venizelos to politics will be justified or not remains to be seen. It is to be hoped, at any rate, that his well-known capacity for getting things done will be exercised in the direction of a speeding up of settlement of the Road and Drainage Contracts. One immediate result of his return has been a renewed bitterness in the Royalist papers and a revival of violent expressions of personal hatred, which had been for some time in abeyance. As long as M. Kaphandaris remains Minister of Finance, the continuity of a wise economic policy is assured. The same is true of the Ministry of

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PLACES OF ARCHÆOLOGICAL INTEREST.

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Foreign Affairs, which continues to be directed by M. Mikalakopoulos; and it is hard to see how the presence of M. Venizelos can be other than an embarrassment to both of them. Meanwhile, the interminable discussions about the composition and method of election of the Senate, and about General Pangalos continue, although the case of the latter has advanced a stage, since the report of the Committee is to come up before Parliament immediately.

Tourists' Difficulties.

The tourist season is now over, but the much discussed improvements have not been in evidence. It seems that the organised efforts of the last two years have exhausted themselves, and the tourists are once more at the mercy of private enterprise. In any case, it was only certain stereotyped places that benefited by the effort. Apart from these, the difficulties of travel remain as before, and the real Greece remains unknown and unexplored. It is likely to remain so, as long as the control of the principal means of communication—the sea—remains in the hands of the steamship owners. [The reference is, of course, to Greek coastal companies.—ED.] Though competition is keen, so that two steamers often start from and to the same place at the same time, the owners make good profits, but too often at the expense of the comfort of the passengers. The cargo being more profitable than the passengers, the latter come off second best, deck and even saloon space being sacrificed to the former. When the cargo consists of live stock—sheep, goats, cows, and so forth—the lot of the passengers is not a happy one, and, while, to do them justice, the owners appropriate for the cargo the third-class quarters first, this means that the third-class passengers, in spite of strict injunctions to the contrary, monopolize the first- and second-class accommodation. For this one can hardly blame them, as there is often nowhere else for them to go. In fact, the only advantage of having a first-class ticket is that you can have a berth—but, as in summer, at any rate, the cabins are unbearably hot, and it is preferable to sleep on deck, there is nothing gained by taking a first-class ticket, since the first-class deck is used by all alike.

Boats' Irregularities.

But it is not only the deck-space which is sacrificed to the cargo; time-table and itinerary are also. Though in the case of some lines, there is improvement in this respect, it still happens that a boat may start *before* its scheduled time (it usually starts *after*), may change its course in order to pick up a cargo, at a port not on the itinerary, and in compensation, may leave out a port that is. A particularly bad case was brought to the writer's notice a few days ago by a passenger on board the Mykali, belonging to the Mantafoini Line. This boat was scheduled to leave Brindisi at 6 p.m. on Monday and to reach the Piræus at 6 a.m. on Wednesday, calling at Santi Quaranta, Corfu, and Patras. It was advertised in the International Tourist Offices at Naples, Munich and other places. It actually left Brindisi at 2 p.m., i.e., four hours *before* the scheduled time, and, proceeded to Valona (not on the schedule), which it reached at 8 p.m. on the same day—too late to discharge or take up cargo.

It stayed at Valona twenty-five hours, taking on board a cargo of sheep among other things. Shortly after leaving Valona, the engines broke down, and, after drifting for some time, it continued its journey at half-speed for the rest of the way. It did *not* call at Patras, one of the scheduled ports, nor were the passengers for Patras given the opportunity of disembarking at Corfu, and of taking another boat from there. Only after it had left Corfu were they informed that it would not call at Patras. To add insult to injury, a Frenchman who had booked from Brindisi to Patras, was charged for his full ticket and all meals as far as the Piræus. The deck-space of all classes was almost entirely occupied by oil-barrels and the above mentioned sheep. The boat actually reached the Piræus on Friday at 7 p.m., i.e. sixty-one hours late.

Though an extreme case, it is yet typical. Incidentally, it is a tribute to Greek seamanship, that in spite of the haphazard methods and decrepit boats accidents are extremely rare. But it is high time that the State exercised its authority, as it does over railways, and imposed obligations upon the owners, so that the public, which is too-long suffering, might be spared the waste of time and discomforts entailed by the present happy-go-lucky absence of system.

CYPRUS.

Nicosia, June 14.

The King's Birthday.

His Majesty's Birthday was duly celebrated at Nicosia and the five other district towns. The Governor attended a service in St. Paul's Church, and services were held in the Roman Catholic and Armenian Cathedrals and Churches. The Greeks, however, took no part at all in observing the anniversary. It is not, they say, that they fail in respect to King George, but (according to the logic of the Greek Press and leaders) any observance on their part would, they hold, be inconsistent with their decision to dissociate themselves entirely from any participation in the Jubilee celebrations of the present year.

Sir Ronald Storrs.

During the Governor's absence Mr. Nicolson (Colonial Secretary), will carry out his duties. Before his departure Sir Ronald directed that on July 12, the 50th anniversary of British administration, a certain number of convicts, especially short sentence prisoners, should be released from prison.

More Locusts.

More locusts have appeared in the northern district of Kyrenia. Papers continue to blame the Government, for misplaced parsimony, stating that the price paid for those brought in is not sufficient to tempt villagers to collect and bring collections to a distant centre. A Nicosia paper also refers to delay caused by the "prevailing jocose red-tape system," citing the fact that the Assistant Commissioner of Kyrenia (the Commissionership has been recently abolished) on visiting an infested village promised to refer a complaint on the subject to the Government. This required that he should forward it to the Commis-

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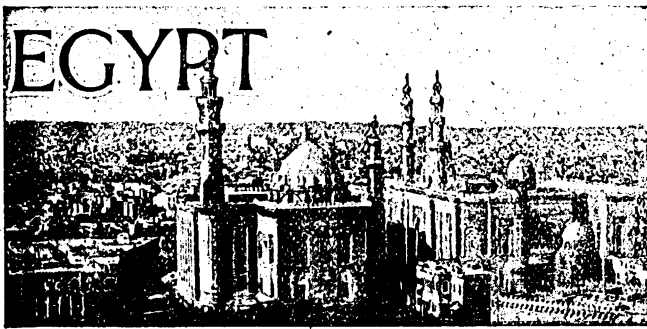
sioner of Nicosia, who passed it to the Colonial Secretary, who in turn referred it to the department for locust destruction. The outlook in some places is regarded as serious for next year.

The "Festival of Venus."

This annual fête, called locally the festival of *Kataclismos* (the Flood), was celebrated on June 3, and the following day at the coast towns. It is a very popular anniversary, which draws crowds of villagers to the seashore, where fairs, aquatic sports, and swimming races are carried out. Large numbers go for a sail in boats, which often carry musicians. There is much jollification. The attendance this year was not so large as usual, owing to general depression and a poor harvest.

Hotels in Cyprus.

As regards the lack of up-to-date hotels, as affecting the tourist trade, it is right to mention that the George Hotel at Nicosia deserves a good reputation, and has received a very flattering testimonial from Lady Bowes-Lyon and Mrs. F. Gunnis, who recently spent a considerable time there, and who express their great satisfaction as regards the comfort and general excellence of the hotel arrangements. Several similar letters have been received by the proprietor from late visitors.



Cairo, June 23.

The Political Situation.

At the moment of writing the political horizon is more obscure and the situation is graver than they have been for a very long time. The air is full of resignations. The Coalition is broken up, and the violent polemic that is going on between the party organs means that it cannot be restored for many a long day. To all this have been added the revelations made by the Opposition Press of the part alleged to have been played by the leader of the Wafd and the President of the Chamber in the Seif-ed-din case at present before the Court of the Crown. The result has been to swell the ranks of those within the Wafd who disliked the way in which things have been done of late. In many responsible circles it is considered that the latest developments will have done more to hasten a radical adjustment in the political situation than the disappearance of the Coalition.

An Outspoken Speech.

Sir John Percival had a fine send-off when he left the country on Sunday last, and the very outspoken speech which he made at the banquet given in his honour by Ahmed Khashaba Pasha, the Minister of Justice, seemed in no way to have affected the attitude of his numerous

Egyptian friends who realised that it was his desire for the welfare of Egypt that prompted his remarks.

After emphasizing that he had always been a partisan of an Anglo-Egyptian *entente cordiale* and of the welfare, progress and independence of Egypt, Sir John said he had never been able to understand whether Egypt wanted a real or an apparent independence. If the former, then in his opinion Egypt had lost a magnificent opportunity in 1922. It had been undoubtedly a *beau geste* on the part of England to abolish the Protectorate, and Egypt might well have replied by a similar gesture. If she had said: "We do not want the Protectorate, but we want to enter the British Empire as a free nation like Canada, Australia or Ireland," he believed that England could not possibly have refused and Egypt would then have acquired real independence. Many so-called independent nations, he pointed out, do not possess independence like the Great Dominions. Bulgaria, for example, cannot obtain a loan without the control of the League of Nations. The slightest move on the part of Yugoslavia, leaves it open to a reprimand from Signor Mussolini. Nicaragua cannot even choose its President without the approval of the United States. Nothing of the sort applies to the Dominions, who govern themselves as they like and are members of the League of Nations. Egypt could have had an equally brilliant future. The famous "Four Points" would no longer have existed. The Suez Canal would have become incorporated in the Empire. British and Egyptian interests would have become merged. There would no longer have been any conflict in the Sudan, and it would have been possible for the Capitulations not to be abolished.

The opportunity had passed. Sir John did not believe that it would be possible for Egypt to make or for England to accept such a proposition to-day. But the continuation of the *status quo* was undesirable much more from the Egyptian than from the British point of view. Since 1922 assassins had caused Egypt to lose the Sudan and every year that the present state of affairs continued increased the risk that some unfortunate incidents would cause her to lose what she had gained. Opinion was unanimous that the only solution to safeguard the future of Egypt was an alliance with England, and he urged them to make this alliance as soon as possible, but without discussing too much its details, for it was the principle, and not the details, that really mattered. Once this alliance had been made, the mutual confidence, which is so essential, would arise, and the country would be able to apply itself to internal development, to good administration and good legislation, which unfortunately had been only too much neglected during the preceding six years. Sir John added that he was not one of those who claimed that with the departure of British officials the Egyptian administration was no longer any good. But there were very few Egyptians who could say that any serious progress had been made since 1922. Even his beloved Native Court of Appeal had become more the subject of criticism than it was ten years ago. All of which was the result of the condition of political uncertainty in the country. And he concluded by saying that if he had spoken frankly he had done so because, as the Minister said, he had been a faithful servant to Egypt, and he would have failed in that faithful service if he had not told them what he, in his private capacity and not as Judicial Adviser, thought of the situation.

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AZERBAIJAN AND THE KURDS.

By A. S.

It will be remembered that a serious armed conflict occurred between the Turks and Kurds on the Turco-Persian frontier last autumn at the foot of Mount Ararat, and that Turkey sent a diplomatic protest to Persia demanding the surrender of the Turkish officers who had been taken prisoners by the Kurdish raiders. Her Note demanded also the surrender of the Kurdish offenders, claiming them to be Turkish nationals, or their suppression by Persia, because they had taken refuge on Persian territory in Azerbaijan.

The dispute was, however, settled peacefully in December, and, as the newspapers announced a few weeks ago, a special Persian delegate has arrived in Constantinople to discuss with the Turkish Government the perennial question of frontier conflicts, that is to say, the Kurdish problem.

There is no doubt whatever that since the Kurdish revolt of February 1925, there has been considerable turmoil in the eastern and south-eastern Vilayets of Turkey. The accession of Riza Khan Pahlavi to the throne of Persia seems to have indirectly poured fresh fuel on the smouldering fires of a new Iranian renaissance; not that the Pahlavi Shah or his Government take any particular interest in regard to the Kurdish tribes in Turkey. History has proved, however that perturbations among the Kurds of Turkey have had their repercussions across the frontiers, where from the foot of Mount Ararat down to Luristan and Khuzistan live some of the most powerful historic tribes in difficult mountain ranges coterminous with Turkey and Iraq. In the first days of his rule as Shah, it appears that Riza Pahlavi had grave suspicions in regard to the Kurdish movement; but since the Kurdish Nationalist leaders have announced that their only aim is to obtain the security of the Kurds in Turkey the Shah is understood to have changed his view.

The immediate cause of the recent Turko-Persian dispute seems to have been the following. Since the revolt of Shaikh Said of Guinj, in 1925, the Turkish Government has undertaken regular military expeditions against the Kurds with a view to breaking down their "feudal organisation" and the archaic system of tribal government. These military operations, spread over the last three years, were carried out from Bayazid near Ararat, down to Bohtan north of Mosul to Mardin and Dersim. The operations were accompanied with severe treatment of the "reactionary" Kurdish rebels, who were seized by hundreds with their families and deported from their cool mountain valleys to the unhealthy coasts of Western Anatolia. In the summer of 1926, it was the turn of the great tribes of the Shikakis, the Galalis, the Haidarans and their affiliated sub-tribes. Entrenched in the fortress of Bayazid and in the surrounding hills, the Kurdish warriors put up considerable fight against the Turkish army. After a fortnight's struggle the tribes drove their families and cattle towards Persian Azerbaijan, whither the fighters withdrew themselves later. Simko Agha, the famous chief of the Shikaki confederation, was associated at the time with this successful retreat; but the tribes complained of the severe treatment which the Turkish authorities dealt out to the Kurds who remained in their homes in the headwaters of the Euphrates.

The *Seda al Jamhur*, the Arabic paper of Mosul, in its issue of January 2, 1928, contained an article entitled, "The New Danger in the Middle East." According to the Arab writer, Shaikh-Abd-ur-Rahman, the brother of Shaikh Said, who was the leader of the Rebellion of 1925, followed by about 500 armed Kurds, had revolted last October in Southern Anatolia and had captured the heights overlooking the city of Seerd (60 miles south-east of Bitlis in the heart of Kurdistan). Simultaneously with this revolt of Shaikh Abd-ur-Rahman, the Shikakis and their allied tribes, with a view apparently to revenge-

ing the terrors of Bayazid, invaded Turkish territory in great force, massacred many Turkish troops, and captured officers and took them as prisoners back to Azerbaijan.

The Arabic paper of Mosul accuses Prince Salar ud Daulah as the instigator of the Kurdish raid, and advises Simko Agha not to make himself an instrument of intrigue in an international game, and a tool of inter-racial troubles which may not only strain Turko-Persian relations but also do much harm to the Kurds themselves.

It would be extremely difficult to say whether there is any basis of truth in the assumptions set out by the Arabic paper. It would be still more difficult to learn whether Persian authorities of Azerbaijan knew about the intended raid of Shikakis into Turkey; or supposing even that they had some cognisance of it, they had power to stop the tribes from a practice which the latter consider as a prescriptive right. Anyhow, Persia and Turkey are negotiating at present in Angora to effect a settlement of the dispute, which, although technically connected with the recent Kurdish raid, implies a far more important problem which has arisen between the two neighbouring Muslim States. It is the problem of Azerbaijan itself which seems to underlie the Kurdish raid and periodic troubles between the two States.

Considered from a strictly political standpoint, there is no such thing as a question of Azerbaijan as between Persia and Turkey. The former owns it as it had owned it from the days of Darius Hystaspes, as the birth place of Zarathustra, and, therefore, as the cradle of the ancient Iranian spiritual world, where once the greatest temples of fire-worship were kept by the noblest families of ancient Iran. It is true that the Seljuks, and later on, Ak-koyunlu Turkomans and, finally Mongols and Tatars left behind Turki-speaking elements at Tabriz and in the other important centres of the region. But some sort of religious purism always survived in the outlying parts of Azerbaijan, for instance, at Ardabil, whence arose the great Safi family towards the end of the 15th century. Shah Ismail, a distinguished representative of this Persian family resuscitated Iran after about nine centuries of division and subjection to foreign rule. Since the year 1514, some of the more vigorous Ottoman Sultans like Suleiman the Kanuni, Murad IV (1630 A.D.) and others, temporarily occupied parts of Azerbaijan. Even the Young Turks, availing themselves of the utter weakness of the moribund Qajar dynasty, occupied Tabriz and the surrounding regions during the World War, as a base for

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flanking the Russian armies in Trans-Caucasia and the British in Iraq. But the Treaty of Amassia signed in 1558 between Sultan Suleiman Kanuni and Shah Tahmasp after forty years' warfare, laid down frontiers between the two States, which have held good until to-day. Those are the frontiers still existing between Persia and Turkey in the north, and Iraq and Persia in the south—frontiers admittedly based on strategic lines, but cruelly breaking in two powerful Kurdish tribes like the Shikakis, Mikris, the Hamavendis and the Jaafs. This arbitrary division of kindred tribes possessing peculiar economic conditions has cost pools of blood and treasure to both States since the 16th century; yet a satisfactory settlement does not seem to be in sight.

From the official point of view of Turkey, there also appears to be no question of Azerbaijan. After the signing of the Armistice in October 1918, Turkey withdrew the remnants of her Army not only from Tabriz and Urumia, but also from the eastern vilayets. Turkey has lost all the Arab-speaking lands. It is to-day a more homogeneous country than it had ever been. During 1911-18, in the heyday of the Turkish *ojaks*, the centres of Nationalist culture and education, certain Pan-Turanian intellectuals fixed their eyes also on Turkish-speaking Persian Azerbaijan, as a more convenient line of least resistance to the heart of Central Asia. To-day the Turkish *ojaks* seem to be devoting themselves to a less ambitious scheme, although a very practical one for the time being, namely, to educate their own people and develop the great resources of their sparsely populated Anatolia.

The issue is not yet closed by any means, even temporarily. There are political refugees of every Middle Eastern nationality scattered from Constantinople to Cairo and Paris. There are the Transcaucasian Nationalist Governments which have settled down in various European capitals after they were driven out from their seats during 1920-21 by the Communist armies. Since then a distinctly Kurdish Nationalist movement at least among distinguished tribal leaders, has assumed a great expansion. Even the smallest national group, and politically backward peoples have learned a good deal by the experience of the War, and have made groping attempts to reconsider their positions and their real interests in relation to their ancient connexions and old conceptions. It cannot be denied that a new atmosphere of inter-racial intercourse is beginning to permeate the leaders. And in Eastern countries convictions of the leaders turn out to be the politics of the day, much more easily than in the West.

Under the guidance of the great Pahlavi Shah, Iran appears to be the axle of these fermentations; for the last year or two there have been talks about the unity of ancient Aryan races. Articles have appeared in the Press of Persia and of other countries advocating an intellectual reunion and co-operation between the Persians, the Kurds, the Armenians, the Georgians and the people of Trans-Caucasian Azerbaijan, claiming the basis of the last-named people as essentially Aryan.

Even the enthusiasts of the programme do not seem to have overlooked the insuperable difficulties which lie in the way of such a wild-cat scheme.

Speculations are rife upon the attitude of Soviet Russia regarding such a scheme. Large Russian garrisons are posted on the frontiers of Azerbaijan which exercise strict control over all possible movements. Nevertheless that does not prevent Tabriz from being a centre of great political activity where both the Pan-

Turanian Turk and the Aryan enthusiast meet each other in the local café round a cup of coffee.

As against the Pan-Aryan-rumblings, there have come out the Tatar Musavatist refugees at Constantinople. One of them recently wrote a book in Turkish attempting to refute the so-called historical truth about the Aryan peoples, and, without saying it in so many words, insists on the identical ethnical origin of the peoples of Persian Azerbaijan and of the Soviet Republic of Azerbaijan.

All these and similar efforts are naturally mere academic discussions without any practical importance, at least for the time being.

A few weeks ago the Turkish Government publicly announced that the Kurdish tribal families which had been deported to Western Anatolia could go back to their ancestral homes in the East if they chose to do so. This appears to be the reversal of the policy which the Turks had adopted towards the Kurdish tribes since 1925. On the eve of Perso-Turkish negotiations regarding the frontier and Kurdish questions, the Turkish leniency towards the invincible Kurd is certain to pacify the tribes.

Even more recently the Constantinople Press announced that Simko Agha had surrendered to the Vali of Hakkari on Turkey's giving an undertaking that all Kurdish chiefs who were refugees in Persia, Iraq or Syria would be amnestied if they returned and submitted to the Turkish authorities. Many others have also returned. Meanwhile a new Turko-Persian protocol was initialled in Angora.

It remains to be seen whether the negotiators will be able to effect an agreement satisfactory to all parties and particularly to Kurds, who, be it remembered, have baulked as much the ancient Roman military commanders, as the Mongols and the Turks.

THE NEW EGYPTIAN CABINET.

The new Egyptian Cabinet was constructed on June 27 as follows:—

*Mohamed Pasha Mahmud	... Prime Minister and Interior.
*Ahmed Pasha Khashaba	... Justice.
*Gaafar Pasha Wali	... War and Marine and <i>ad interim</i> Wakfs.
*Ibrahim Bey Fahmy	... Public Works.
Ali Pasha Maher	... Finance.
Dr. Hafez Bey Afifi	... Foreign Affairs.
Abdul Hamid Pasha Suleiman	... Communications.
Nakhala Pasha el Motei	... Agriculture.
Ahmed Lutfi Bey es Seyyid	... Education.

* Resigned membership of the late Cabinet.

M. Sreckkovitch, Governor of the Serbian National Bank, died on June 28 in Belgrade after a short illness.

Although the Greco-Turkish negotiations in Angora between M. Papas, Greek Minister, and Tewfik Rushdi Bey, have broken down for the time being, an attempt will be made to reopen them in September, provided that the Turkish Law of Reprisals has not been put into effect against the properties of Greeks in Constantinople in the meantime.

At the request of his new Prime Minister, Mohamed Pasha Mahmoud, whose Cabinet was approved on June 28 by Royal Rescript, the King of Egypt last week prorogued Parliament for a month in virtue of Article XXXIX. of the Constitution. The decree of prorogation was read in the Chamber by the President, Wissa Pasha Wassef.

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Book Reviews

GERTRUDE BELL'S HAFIZ.

"POEMS FROM THE DIVAN OF HAFIZ." Translated by Gertrude L. Bell. (London: Heinemann. 5s.)

It seems incredible now that the delightful translations by Gertrude Bell of Hafiz, which were first published in 1897, should ever have gone out of print. For though her translations are free, they preserve wholly the spirit of the original, and on the purely technical side they are beyond reproach. How great a Persian scholar, how subtle an interpreter of the poetical Persian mind might not Miss Bell have become! One almost grudges the fortunes of peace and war which turned her fine gifts to other ends. As Sir Denison Ross says in his very useful little Introduction to this new edition:—"One cannot refrain from expressing a regret that such a fine scholar should not have given more time to the field of Persian historical research in which so little has been done and where competent workers are so rare." Nor is the Director of the School of Oriental Studies in London backward in praising these translations of Miss Bell, for he quotes with manifest approbation E. G. Browne's estimate that these versifications are "true poetry of a very high order and, with perhaps the single exception of Fitzgerald's paraphrase of the Quatrains of Omar Khayyam, are probably the finest and most truly poetical renderings of any Persian poet ever produced in the English language." Yet it is nothing less than the truth to say that that verdict is now universally accepted.

It is typical of the times in which he lived—the fourteenth century A.D.—that of Shemsuddin Muhammad of Shiraz, who was Hafiz, neither the year of birth nor the year of death is known. The years of his life, as is remarked in Miss Bell's own admirable Introduction to the Translations, were surrounded by wars and turmoil. When Persia herself had different overlords, when Shiraz itself was subjected to even more numerous vicissitudes, it was necessary for Hafiz—indeed for anyone who was not a man of action—to become to some extent a Vicar of Bray, and to accept whatever powers that happened at any particular moment to be with philosophic resignation. His renowned Sufism was, therefore, as much determinable by actual events as by processes of reasoning or of intuition. But the Sufism of Hafiz is something very different, in its power of appeal, from the set system of later Oriental quietists, for it is replete with beauty, fragrance, rhythm, music. It is, one thinks, rather these externals than the essence of his verse which have preserved it for nearly seven centuries. His real philosophy is almost incomprehensible to the Western mind, which shrinks from being wafted out in remoter dreams far from this solid world and, like Dante, who was contemporary with Hafiz, sooner demands a personal faith. That fact, however, is supremely important to no one except the Oriental Sufi: it is sufficient that Hafiz is now among the immortals. As Miss Bell sang (and her best verse did really sing) in her Dedication to the author of the *Divan* (which, one need hardly add, means a collection of poems arranged in alphabetical order according to the rhyme):—

Thus said the Poet: "When Death comes to you,
All ye whose life-sand through the hour-glass slips,
He lays two fingers on your ears, and two
Upon your eyes he lays, one on your lips,
Whispering: Silence!" Although deaf thine ear,
Thine eye, my Hafiz, suffer Time's eclipse,
The songs thou sangest still all men may hear.

The publishers of this edition are indeed to be congratulated on making easily available these draughts of delicious poetry, coming from a pure and deep well at which Miss Bell herself had drunk deep. On re-reading these Translations one marvels anew at the skill with which a young Englishwoman could render the pathos, the tenderness, the quasi-abandon of the Persian poet. In all respects but that of his profundity—and who shall fitly explain that?—these Translations are indeed mirrors

in which Hafiz would surely have recognised his now wan, now wine-flushed face.

A HISTORY OF THE JEWS.

"A HISTORY OF THE JEWISH PEOPLE," By Max L. Margolis and Alexander Marx. (Philadelphia: The Jewish Publication Society of America.)

This history of Margolis and Marx is the third Jewish history in the course of the last few years to appear in English and be published in America. There seems to be a great demand for such works in the United States and in all other English-speaking countries. The growth and increase of interest in Jewish historical research can be accounted for by many reasons. To mention but one: this key for understanding Jews and Judaism is wanted by foe and friend, by progressive and conservative Jews alike. Each of them turns to history, to justify his own attitude, to prove his peculiar point of view.

What is hidden in the unknown future? Will the dreams, old and new, glowing and gloomy, come true? Will the great expectations of a Jewish National Home fail as so many before our time? We consult history. No wonder that the large masses, who emigrated from Tsarist and Bolshevist Russia, from Small and Greater Rumania, from the Betyar regime of White Hungary, and their children, who become more and more Americanised, have to be provided with a history of histories, of their race, their nation, their religion, their ancestors, their political failures, their literary achievements, their grave persecutions, and the contributions made by them to culture and civilisation.

The authors are fully aware of the great difficulties of their task. This history cannot supply Graetz's history, nor can it oust Dubnow's new work, in spite of the shortcomings of both of these two great writers. Our authors tell the history of the Jews from the dim beginnings to the present day. The Age of the Bible is described in a dry narrative of the Old Testament text—with notable omissions. What a writer of this period loses by ignoring or neglecting the rich archæological and literary discoveries made in Egypt and Babylonia cannot be even hinted at in a short notice like this. The account of Jewish activities and sufferings is divided according to the Jewish centres, e.g., Palestine, Babylon, Egypt, Spain, France, Germany, and so on until the Jews return to Palestine in 1918. The presentation is on the whole, dispassionate and detached. At the end the authors themselves display strong Nationalistic, Zionist proclivity. Some periods are treated too briefly. The Talmudic Age, for instance, so little understood, and of such great importance, needed a fuller account. But, on the whole, the work is to be welcomed as a manual of Jewish history and literature. The work is provided with chronological tables helpful for scholars and laymen alike.

A. M.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

"The Home of Fadeless Splendour." By George N. Whittingham (London: Messrs. Hutchinson and Co. 10s. 6d. net.)

"Indian Agriculture." By Albert Howard, C.I.E., M.A., and Gabrielle L. C. Howard, M.A. (London: Oxford University Press. 3s. 6d. net.)

"Teachers of India." By C. A. Kincaid. (London: Messrs. Humphrey Milford. 3s. net.)

"The Pre-War Mind in Britain." An Historical Review. By C. E. Playne. (London: Messrs. George Allen and Unwin, Ltd. 16s. net.)

BENGALI SELF-TAUGHT

By Suniti Kumar Chatterji, M.A. (Calcutta) D. Lit., London.

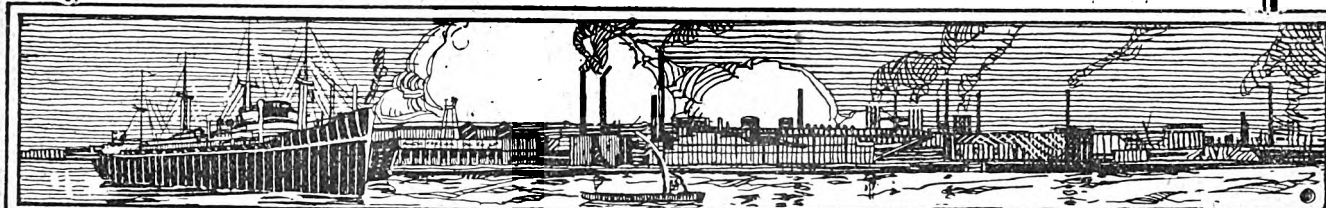
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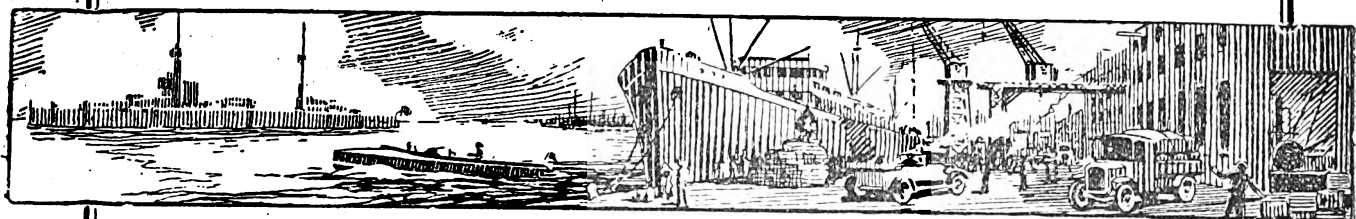
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THE WEEK AT HOME

London, Tuesday Morning.

By-Elections.

Those observers who put their faith in by-elections to show which way the political wind is blowing must have been puzzled last week, when at Holborn the Conservative candidate was over 4,000 votes ahead of his Labour and Liberal rivals, and at Carmarthen the Liberal just managed to scrape home against the Labour man, who in his turn was well ahead of the Conservative.

These two elections, however, seem to have impressed the dominant party with two things; first that the Conservatives now stand to lose, rather than to gain, in triangular contests—even at reactionary Holborn the Conservative majority was much less than in 1924; and secondly that the Liberal Party is now something really to be feared. Mr. Lloyd George is thought to some extent to be regaining prestige; or, as others might put it, his nonsense suits the public's nonsense.

Left and Right in Labour.

No very great move in the general ranks of Labour itself is yet discernible as a result of the Maxton-Cook manifesto which I mentioned last week, although there have been demonstrations of sympathy with the Maxton conception among people outside the Labour movement. Upon the Independent Labour Party itself the effect has been more marked, and at a Council meeting last week only a narrow majority was obtained to support the cry of Maxton and Cook.

It is now being claimed by the Left wing of the Labour Party that no intention is entertained of disrupting the Labour movement, but quite obviously the official leaders of the Parliamentary Labour Party are inclined to treat the manifesto as something which, if it gained any considerable popularity in the country, might seriously embarrass them. The Labour Party's Trade Unionist leaders are fairly committed to a full and sincere investigation of what are still known as the "Mond" proposals, and is precisely against such discussion with employers that the school to which Messrs. Maxton and Cook belong is inveighing so vehemently and passionately. This Left wing feels (what many outside the Labour Party more comfortably feel) that the present direction of the Labour Party is really rather towards Liberalism than towards pure and unalloyed Socialism, and it points to these "Mond" negotiations as irrefutable evidence that Labour is quite prepared to flirt with Capitalism. In effect, the Maxton-Cook manifesto is an appeal to the rank and file to repudiate the present action of the T.U.C. leaders and the present tendencies of the heads of the Labour Party.

But it is a little doubtful whether all this internecine stress will have much effect upon Labour's polls, except, possibly, in highly industrialist constituencies.

The Railway Disaster.

The English public was grievously shocked last week at the news of the railway disaster at Darlington, when an excursion train came into collision with a goods train. It was the final sort of tragedy—a similar one had not occurred since 1915—which arouses instinctive and immediate sympathy with the sufferers. All the more shocking, therefore, was the attempt on the part of certain newspapers to make capital out of the fact that their insurance policies had come to the aid of the bereaved. To take this tragic occasion as one for advertising newspaper insurances was, simply, abominable; and one was glad to see that the National Union of Journalists condemned the practice as "derogatory to the profession and repugnant to all sense of common decency."

The Primate.

One is by no means surprised to find the Prime Minister's name in the list of those who are proposing that a national tribute should be offered to the Archbishop

of Canterbury. In recent years the Primate has come to occupy a very prominent place—apart from his ecclesiastical interests and prestige—in the minds of Englishmen. The recent defeat of the re-*Revised Prayer Book* has, of course, emphasised the nature of the Archbishop's position in England, and there has been, even among those who opposed revision, sympathy with the Primate.

But one thinks rather of his protest against the policy of reprisals in Ireland after the War, of his plea for generosity and conciliation in the General Strike, and of other things which have stamped the Primate as a typical Englishman who naturally inclines to compromise and who is prepared to credit a side not his own with decent motives. Such a courteous and kind man as the Archbishop, now approaching retirement and the celebration of his golden wedding, would naturally touch a responsive chord in our warm-hearted Prime Minister.

Wimbledon.

The excitement at Wimbledon this year seems to be on quite the intense level which we have come to expect from the Lawn Tennis Champions who come from near and far. So far possibly the greatest thrill has been the running to five sets of Lacoste by Austin, the one Englishman who really upheld his country in wholly admirable way. At present there seems little reason why the Cambridge Blue should not come still nearer the Championship when strength and stamina are added.

Opinions are about equally divided upon the ultimate winner: Tilden or one of the accomplished Frenchmen. Among the ladies, Miss Helen Wills is of course unique, and the main interest centres upon how near Senorita de Alvarez or Miss Ryan gets near to her.

Cricket.

Despite the persistent protests to the effect that the rules of Cricket need changing in the direction of increasing the defensive batsman's liabilities this season we are having some really exciting cricket. For one thing, neither Lancashire nor Yorkshire is at the top of the Championship table; for another, the West Indians are among us to show us what fast bowling is really like; and for another the rain has quite often come to the help of the bowlers.

Immediate interest is centred on the University match, for which neither Oxford nor Cambridge are yet sound favourites. Cambridge have fallen away from their early batting promise, but they look at the moment to possess the better attack.



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NOTES OF THE WEEK

(Continued from page 3.)

candidate is preferred by those who claim to be looking to the real Arab ruler, that is King Ibn Saoud. In the opinion of these, no better King for Syria could be secured than the Amir Faisal, the second son of the Wahhabi King. Whether these two young men would accept the Throne of Syria, were it offered to them, we do not know, but it certainly is to be inferred that they would. From the French point of view, the advantages of having as King in Syria a member of the Saoudi family are very considerable; and such an appointment would redound much to their prestige. It is problematical, however, whether they have the elasticity of mind to see the wisdom, from their own point of self-interest, of such a step. For just as the British have imposed constitutional monarchies in countries unsuited to such essentially British institutions, so, it would seem, are the French unlikely, unless very heavy pressure is brought to bear on them to forgo their beloved republican form of Government for Syria. If a republic for Syria is persisted in, there may be disappointment in both Mecca and Baghdad.

NEWS IN BRIEF.

Cardinal Giovanni Tacci, Secretary-General of the Oriental Churches, who died in Rome after a very short illness, had been at one time Apostolic Nuncio in Constantinople.

The Turkish Minister at Berne represented his country at the third session of the Committee on Arbitration and Security which opened under the presidency of Dr. Benesh at Geneva on June 27.

A new Iraqi decoration has been instituted, called the Order of Al Rafidain, meaning the Order of the Two Rivers. Its first class will be reserved for those who have held important appointments under the Crown.

As a result of long drought the Vilayet of Konia, in Asia Minor, is suffering severely from famine. The Turkish Government is sending help to the affected area, and Shukry Kaya Bey, the Minister of the Interior, has gone to Konia.

The Greek Government last week intervened in the dispute between the employers and strikers, and has appointed a mixed committee, which met in Athens on June 26 under the presidency of the Minister of National Economy.

Mr. Charles Wilson, United States Minister to Bulgaria, has been appointed to succeed Mr. W. S. Culbertson, Minister to Roumania, who has been transferred to the post of Ambassador at Santiago, Chile.

As the result of an accident near Amman (Trans-Jordan) to a D.H. 9a machine of No. 14 Bombing Squadron, Amman, on June 26, Pilot Officers John Henry Lorraine Maund, the pilot of the aircraft, and 363,194 A.C.1 Jack James Heatherstone Middleton were killed.

After completing her tour of the Mediterranean *via* Paris and Bucharest the Greek aeroplane Hellas alighted at the Karaburnu Aerodrome, near Salonika, on July 1. Preparations had been made to welcome her pilots at Tatoi, near Athens.

Major-General Sir Charles Edward Callwell, Campden House Chambers, Campden Hill, who saw service in the Afghan War and in the Boer War, a well-known writer on military subjects, and who died in May, aged 69 years, left estate of the gross value of £8,884, with net personalty £8,709.

Viscountess Erleigh opened the garden fête on June 27 which the Federation of Women Zionists of Great Britain and Ireland held on that and the following day in aid of the Women and Children's Welfare Work in Palestine. The Hon. Mrs. Edward Lascelles performed the ceremony the second day.

The Greek military aeroplane, Bréguet 19, with Colonel Adamides and Captain Papadakos on board, arrived in Athens on July 1 from Bucharest, amid cheering of large crowds, including the Ministers and the foreign diplomatic representatives. The airmen had completed a tour of just over 10,000 miles round the Mediterranean, averaging a speed of 100 miles per hour. They left Athens three weeks earlier, making non-stop flights to Aleppo, Alexandria, Cairo, Tripoli, Casablanca, Paris, and Bucharest, some of which were under trying weather conditions. They had no accident of any kind. The distance between Paris and Bucharest was flown in record time.

During April 179 persons entered Palestine as immigrants, including 117 Jews. Of these, 105, including 63 Jews, had entered as tourists and were given permission to remain. Twenty-one prospective immigrants were refused admission, and 240 persons, including 181 Jews, of whom 125 had settled since June, 1920, left Palestine permanently.

Lord Allenby, presiding on June 29 at the annual meeting of the Palestine Exploration Fund at Burlington House, Piccadilly, said that excavations undertaken by Mr. J. W. Crowfoot, Director of the Jerusalem School of Archaeology, last year in the Tyropoeon Valley, Jerusalem, would be continued in the autumn. An ancient gateway was uncovered last year. Sir Charles Marston had promised £2,000 towards the work of excavation.

It is reported from Tirana that the trial of the five men accused of an attempt on the life of Ahmed Bey Zogu, President of Albania, was concluded on June 30. Four of the prisoners, Denkt Abadjefe, Theodore Vulkanoff, Ibrahim Arapi, and Hasan Prishtina, a political refugee, were condemned to death. The other prisoner, Turat Hadji, was acquitted and set free.

Mr. Stefanos Mavrogordato, of Boutza, Smyrna, and Mayfield Gardens, Sutton, left estate in England valued at £2,475 net. He directed that, on the sale of his property (eight shops) at Farsoula, Smyrna, one-tenth of the net proceeds should be handed to the Greek Government "as a contribution to the nation on my father's part, who built the shops on land he saved from the sea."

An agreement has been signed at Teheran which guarantees to Italian citizens and Italian business undertakings in Persia most-favoured nation treatment in regard to imports and exports and Customs duties. Similar agreements have already been signed between Persia and Great Britain, France, the United States, and other countries.

It is reported from Georgia that M. Parthen Ebralidzé, a 65-year-old militant Socialist, who under the Tsarist régime was an organiser of the Socialist Movement among the Georgian peasantry and was deported to Russia several times, has been arrested in Tiflis, by the Soviet authorities. He is now in the hands of the Cheka, which is said to be endeavouring to make him betray the secret organisation of the Peasants and the names and whereabouts of the Socialist leaders.

The Inter-Allied Commission in Sofia has notified the Government that the Reparations Commission in Paris has decided to defer, on account of the damage done by the recent earthquakes in Bulgaria, the payment of the Bulgarian reparation instalment falling due on October 1 next. As the half-yearly instalment next after that has to be paid the Commission reserves the right to investigate further the country's capacity to pay, and, if necessary, to propose another postponement.

The Postmaster-General announces that a through weekly air mail service has been established with Persia *via* Russia, and is available for all classes of correspondence, except parcels, under the usual conditions. The time of posting at the London chief office is 6 a.m. every Thursday, and the time of transit about five days to Teheran and eight days to Bushire. A special air fee (in addition to ordinary postage) is charged of 1s. 6d. per ounce.

The sixth Annual Dinner of the 4th and 5th Cavalry, Yeomanry, and 2nd Mounted Divisions, and Desert Mounted Corps, R.H.A., was held on June 27 in the King Edward VII. Rooms, Hotel Victoria, General Sir George Barrow presiding. The company included Gen. Sir Philip Chetwode, Maj.-Gen. Sir Edward Chaytor, Maj.-Gen. C. A. C. Godwin, Maj.-Gen. Sir Henry Hodgson, Brig.-Gen. G. V. Clarke, Brig.-Gen. W. G. K. Green, Brig.-Gen. F. F. Lance, Brig.-Gen. Sir Joseph Laycock, Brig.-Gen. C. S. Rome, Brig.-Gen. P. B. Sangster, Brig.-Gen. J. T. Wigan, Col.-Commandant the Earl of Denbigh, Col. Weston Jarvis, Col. G. Knowles, Col. A. J. Palmer, Col. T. C. Robinson, Col. the Hon. G. Wilson, Col. S. H. Charrington, Lieut.-Col. Viscount Cobham, Lieut.-Col. P. N. Craigie, Lieut.-Col. R. W. Eaton, Lieut.-Col. O. L. Eugster, Lieut.-Col. P. Forrester, Lieut.-Col. H. D. P. Francis, Lieut.-Col. W. D. Gunn, Lieut.-Col. H. F. Humphreys, Lieut.-Col. A. W. Moore, Lieut.-Col. Noel, Lieut.-Col. the Hon. R. M. Preston, Lieut.-Col. G. C. Taylor, Lieut.-Col. H. Whitehill, Lieut.-Col. Sir Charles Wiggan, Lieut.-Col. G. M. Wilder, Majors H. D. Ash, N. G. Ash, C. B. Broome, Sir Lionel Darell, S. C. Deed, A. C. Duncan, Elphinstone, Gordon B. Foster, A. W. Fosbrooke Hobbes, S. V. Hotchkiss, A. H. S. Howard, R. Hazel, L. K. Jarvis, T. K. Jeans, R. F. Johnson, A. Kirk, H. V. Landsberg, T. J. Longworth, W. D. Marcuse, E. G. Pemberton, G. A. Robinson, C. J. Rushbrooke, N. H. C. Russell, C. P. Stedall, G. St. J. G. Stedall, L. P. Stedall, O. Teichman, D. W. Turner, A. M. Turner, G. Wheler, W. H. Wiggan, A. G. Wykeham-Musgrave, W. D. Woelworth; Captains E. W. Patterson, F. Pelham Clinton, A. N. B. Stewart, C. B. Stewart, J. R. K. Thompson, G. Throckmorton, D. Tooth, D. Tuck, M. Waterhouse, H. Whitworth, R. Bazell, W. N. Brooks, E. P. Butler, D. A. Burgess, J. N. Cowley, A. B. Dale, F. S. Faber, H. R. Farnell Watson, R. C. Falconer, A. Findlater, Crawford Findlay, V. Gilpin, R. F. K. Gooch, K. Gossell, C. Joynson, L. B. Joynson, C. G. Lloyd, Mr. Clifton Brown, Mr. A. McFarquhar, Mr. A. P. Franklin, Mr. A. D. Hordern, and Mr. L. E. Montennis.

PERSONAL AND GENERAL

TO-DAY

July 5, 1928 (New Style).

June 22, 1928 (Old Style).

Muharram 16, 1347 A.H., of the Muslim Calendar.

Tammuz 17, 5689, of the Jewish Calendar.

Lord and Lady Sinha have arrived at Queen Anne's Mansions, St. James's Park, from Switzerland:

The Prince of Wales received Captain his Highness the Nawab of Palanpur, at St. James's Palace on June 26.

Lieutenant-General Sir Peter Strickland has arrived at the Old Hall, Snettisham, Norfolk, on leave from Egypt.

Viscount Inchcape left London for Paris on June 30 to attend the monthly meeting of the Suez Canal Company, returning on July 2.

Sir Grimwood and Lady Mears have arrived in London from India, and are staying at the Hotel Belgravia, Grosvenor Gardens.

Mrs. Anquetil was At Home at Beechwood, Reigate, on July 1 to meet Monsignor Dobretchitch, Archbishop of Antivari, Primate of Serbia.

Sir Murray Coutts-Trotter, Chief Justice of Madras, left Marseilles on June 30 in the P. and O. liner Kaiser-i-Hind for Bombay.

Prince and Princess Nicholas of Greece visited the King and Queen at Buckingham Palace on July 1, and remained to luncheon.

The Maharaja of Kapurthala has arrived at the May Fair Hotel from the Continent. He will remain in London for about three weeks.

Mr. Harold Armstrong will lecture to the Central Asian Society, on July 11, upon "Turkey of 1927." The lecture, which will be given at the Royal United Service Institution, will begin at 5 p.m.

Mr. Franklin Mott Gunther, the newly-appointed American Minister to Egypt in succession to Dr. Morton Howell, has arrived in Egypt, and has taken up his residence at the American Legation at Bulkeley, Ramleh, Alexandria.

Mr. S. Pinkney Tuck has been appointed First Secretary of the American Embassy at Constantinople. Mr. Tuck was connected with the American Consular Service in Egypt for a number of years, and since 1924 has been American Consul in Geneva.

H.M. King Fuad has graciously conferred the Order of the Nile (3rd Class), on Miralai B.H.C. Lea-Wilson Bey, Principal Medical Officer, Egyptian Army, and the Order of the Nile (4th Class) on Kaimakam V.C. Brind Bey, D.S.O., M.C., General Staff Officer (Instructor of Gunnery), Egyptian Army.

The Egyptian Government has appointed Dr. Hassan Sadek Bey, of the Mines and Quarries Department, and Mr. O. H. Little, of the Survey Department, as delegates to represent Egypt at the International Congress of Geology to be held at Pretoria, Transvaal.

A change which is taking place in commanders' commands affects the sloop Clematis, of the Red Sea Division of the Mediterranean Fleet. The Clematis, which was recently at Port Sudan, has been commanded for two years by Commander C. H. Godwin, D.S.O., who is to be succeeded by Commander Franklin Ratsey, who in 1925-27 was commander of the submarine depot-ship Titania on the China Station, and before that in command of the destroyer Shikari, attached to the target ship Agamemnon.

MRS. ALEC TWEEDIE AT HOME.

In view of Mrs. Alec Tweedie's far-flung travels, particularly in the East, there was naturally a large number of guests identified with the Near, Middle and Far East among those who accepted invitations to an "At Home (Moonlight)" held at her Flat, at Devonshire House, with its spacious balcony commanding a wide view of South-Western London. Among those invited were:—

The Ambassadors of Italy, Germany, and Brazil, the Japanese Chargé d'Affaires, the Ministers of Norway, China, Chile, Persia, Peru, Greece, Esthonia, Lithuania, Afghanistan, Finland and Latvia, the Egyptian Chargé d'Affaires, The Maharajahdiraja of Burdwan, High Commissioner of New Zealand and Lady Parr, Agent-General for Queensland and Lady Robinson, Sir John and Lady Tilley, Sir Ronald and Lady Maclean, Earl and Countess of Desborough, Home Secretary and Lady Joynson Hicks, Minister of War and Lady Worthington-Evans, Earl of Meath, Earl and Countess of Stradbroke, Sir Robert Horne, Earl and Countess of Lytton, Sir John and Lady Simon, Sir John and Lady Maffey, Mr. and Mrs. Reginald McKenna, Lord and Lady Carson, Lord and Lady Lamington, Lord and Lady Bertie of Thame, Sir Granville and Lady Ryrie, Mrs. Stanley Baldwin, Earl and Countess of Denbigh, Field-Marshal and Viscountess Allenby, Field-Marshal Sir Claude Jacob, Lord and Lady Dawson, Marquis of Reading, Lord and Lady Melchett, Sir George and Lady Younghusband, Sir William and Lady Beynon, Sir John Hanbury Williams, Lady Ludlow, Admiral Sir Mark Kerr, Admiral Sir Sydney Fremantle, Admiral Sir Ernle and Lady Chatfield, Admiral Sir Herbert and Lady Richmond, General Sir William and Dame Katherine Furse, General Sir Raleigh and Lady Egerton, Sir Beachcroft and Lady Towse, Sir Gilbert Parker, Air Vice-Marshal Sir Vyell and Lady Vyvyan, Sir Henry and Lady Penon, Sir Edward and Lady Crowe, Sir Arthur Sloggett, Sir George and Lady MacMunn, Sir Bernard and Lady Partridge, Sir Horace and Lady McMahon, Lord and Lady Arthur Browne, Mr. and Mrs. A. A. Milne, Mr. S. Melton Fisher, R.A., Sir Gordon Guggisberg, General Sir Niel and Lady Malcolm, Lord and Lady Clannmorris, Commander and Mrs. Greig, Sir Ian and Lady Hamilton, Lady Ratan Tata, Lord and Lady Charnwood, General Sir Percy and Lady Cox, Sir Edward Wallington, General Sir Leopold Swaine, Lord and Lady Forbes, Sir Ernest and Lady Wild, General Sir John and Lady Maxwell, General Sir Percy and Lady Sykes, Sir Martin Conway, Sir William and Lady Bragg, Professor Donnan, Dr. and Mrs. F. W. Goodbody, General Sir George and Lady Macdonogh, Sir Montague Barlow, Dr. Marie Stopes, Sir Bax and Lady Ironsides, Sir Cecil Armitage, Captain and Mrs. Frederick Guest, Mrs. Hylton Phillipson, M.P., Sir William and Lady Allardyce, Mr. and Mrs. Maurice Greiffenhagen, Sir Michael and Lady O'Dwyer, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Fleming, The Dowager Lady Swaythling, General Sir John and Lady Duncan, Dr. Douglas Gray, Commander and Mrs. Bellairs, Sir Herbert and Lady Hughes-Stanton, General Sir Louis and Lady Dane, General and Mrs. Spiers, Air Vice-Marshal and Lady Higgins, General Sir Charles Mellis, Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Thesiger, Miss Lilian Braithwaite, Mr. Ben Webster and Dame May Whitty, Mr. and Mrs. W. B. Maxwell, The Master of Sempill, General Sir Charles and Lady Delmé-Madcliffe, Sir Arthur and Lady Dick, Sir Francis Blake, Sir Denison Ross, Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Yates, Colonel and Mrs. Boyd-Cable, Mr. John Baird, Sir James and Lady Creighton-Brown, Sir John and Lady Bland-Sutton, Sir Stanley and Lady Reed, Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Baumer, Lady Cunynghame, Mrs. Fagan, Mr. Justice and Lady Salter, Mrs. Nesta Webster, Sir Harcourt and Lady Smith.

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JAFFA—Hotel Jerusalem.
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JERUSALEM—St John's Hotel,
H. & F. Fast, Managers

KYRENIA, Cyprus—
Sea-View Hotel.
NICOSIA, Cyprus—
George Hotel.
PORT SAID—
Casino Palace Hotel.
Grand Hotel de la Poste.

CYPRUS.

SAVOY HOTEL :
Port of Famagusta.

PALACE HOTEL :
Inland City of Nicosia.

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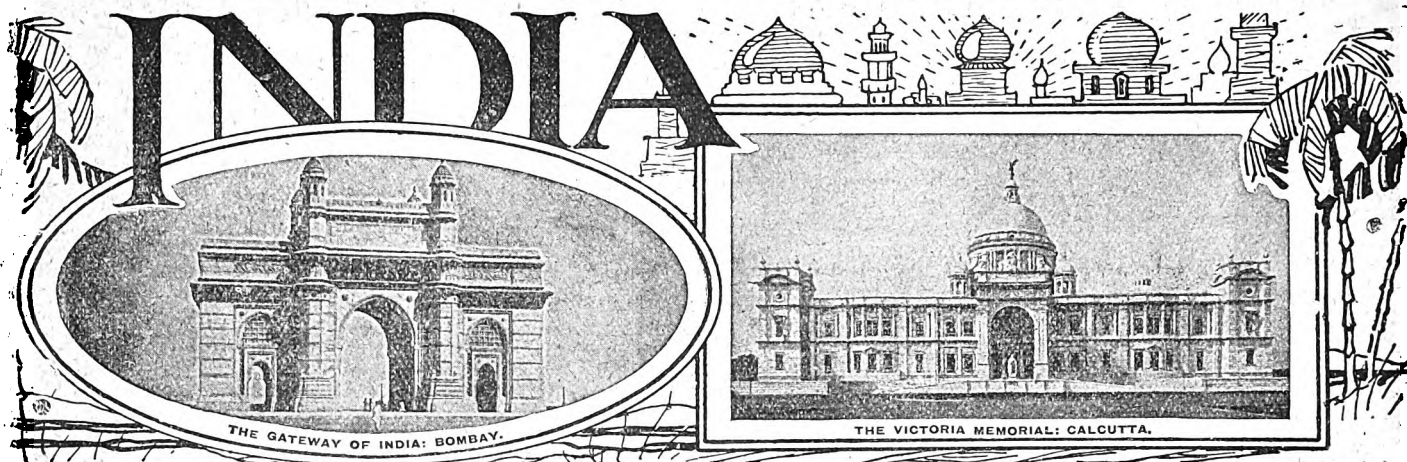
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AGRICULTURE IN INDIA.

In one respect at least the report of the Royal Commission on Agriculture in India has belied expectations. As was pointed out in the interesting and exceptionally well-informed forecast of the Commission's proposals reproduced in *THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA* of April 26, the question of the advancement of agriculture in a country like India may be approached from three angles. Stress may be laid on the technical improvement of cultivation, so that the land can be made to yield more per acre than it has hitherto done. Again, emphasis may be laid rather on the organisation of the land itself, of the supply of necessities, including finance, to the farmers, and of the disposal of produce so as to bring the greatest return to the producers of the crops. Thirdly, the greatest importance may be laid on the general well-being, comfort and independence of the rural population, even though this results in less exchangeable produce being grown. "All these points of view," proceeded "H.H.M.," "will inevitably present themselves to any member of such a Royal Commission as that now under consideration; it is only a question of the relative stress which is laid on each of them. On the whole, the Commission as constituted will probably be more concerned with the first two aspects than with the third." The volume issued last week conforms in almost every respect to the foregoing anticipations. The work, as we remarked in the previous issue, is divided into the three main divisions envisaged by our correspondent. The only difference—but it is one of some importance—is that the Commission has proved in the result to be more concerned with the need of the ryot "of a fuller and better life" than with what are after all primarily means to the same end. In other words, the Report—and this is probably its greatest merit—recognises that there is no royal road to rural betterment, that neither the Satanic British Government nor the most indefatigable exponents of the Swarajist creed, by legislation or otherwise, can cure all the ills that the peasant endures, and that he must be taught to help himself if he is to escape from his present embarrassments.

The perspective from which the Commission has approached its task is well stated in more than one part of the Report. At the outset, while stress is laid upon the vital importance of research and the need for greater efficiency, in every sense of that much-abused term, throughout the whole field of agricultural production, the Commissioners make it clear that these are only aspects of "the far wider problem of creating an environment in which the cultivator will be willing to receive and put to the best possible use the advice and help which the departments are in a position to place at his disposal." Again, in conclusion, the Commissioners state that throughout the Report they have endeavoured to make plain their conviction that "no substantial improvement in agriculture can be effected unless the cultivator has the will to achieve a better standard of living, and the capacity, in terms of mental equipment and of physical health,

to take advantage of the opportunities which science places at his disposal. Of all the factors making for prosperous agriculture by far the most important is the outlook of the peasant himself." But although to envisage a problem in true perspective is half the battle, Lord Linlithgow and his colleagues would be the last to contend that by so doing they have more than partially discharged their onerous and responsible duty. If, in the endeavour to lay down in broad outlines the future agricultural policy of India in the light of these considerations the Commissioners have not been quite so successful in breaking fresh ground, the reason is not far to seek. "In approaching the subject of our inquiry," the Chairman recalled at the opening session, "we are face to face with an indigenous system of agriculture which has been built up through long centuries, mainly by empirical means. It is a venerable system, whose worth has been proved through years of plenty and of adversity, and those who have studied it most closely are not those who criticise it lightly." From the beginning Lord Linlithgow, who, as we have previously observed, early acquired a remarkable degree of contact with Indian conditions, was impressed by the need not of revolutionary changes, but rather of grafting upon the present stock the new growth of progressive and scientific practice in the way of improved methods of cultivation, better co-operation throughout the long chain which links the primary producer to the consumer, and, above all, an extension of educational facilities hitherto reserved almost exclusively for the non-agrarian classes. In following the less spectacular method of assimilation and adaptation, the Commissioners have added greatly to the difficulty and complexity of their task, but they have incontestably enhanced the value of their Report.

And if this is true of the chapters concerned more specifically with the well-being of the individual cultivator, it is no less so of the recommendations designed to improve the efficiency of the whole organisation catering for his needs, and to extend the sphere of its influence. For, as the Commissioners rightly state, the initial responsibility rests with the Government, and "if the inertia of centuries is to be overcome, it is essential that all the resources at the disposal of the State should be brought to bear on the problem of rural uplift." Of all the varied means proposed to that end the most outstanding, and the one most likely to arouse the greatest criticism, is the proposal to secure the requisite degree of co-operation and co-ordination in the research activities of the Imperial and provincial organisations by the constitution of an Imperial Council of Agricultural Research. This is a difficult subject, and it has been made more difficult by the constitutional changes which were introduced under the Reforms scheme. As a result of these changes agriculture became what is termed a "transferred" subject. This means, stated shortly, that the Government of India divested themselves, except to a very limited extent, of all powers of superintendence, direction, and control over it. They maintained a link with the Provincial Governments by making the administration of cen-

tral research institutions a "central" subject. But they made no special provision for co-ordinating the work of these institutions with the work of similar institutions in the Provinces. The Commission is convinced that there is a lack of a sufficiently close touch between the Central Research Institute at Pusa and the provincial departments themselves. To be effective the research organisation must be such, the Commissioners hold, as to make research workers realise that they are working to an end which cannot be reached unless they all regard themselves as partners in the same enterprise. "Of all the problems with which we have been confronted," the Commissioners say, "there is none which we regard as more important than this, and to none have we devoted more anxious thought." They do not suggest that the Central Government should re-assume the powers of superintendence, direction, and control, which it relinquished in 1919. But they maintain that, even as matters stand, there is a wide field for co-operation between the Central and the Provincial Governments; and their proposal is that this co-operation should be brought about by the creation of a new organisation to which the central and the provincial research institutions would stand in exactly the same relation. The primary function of the Council would be to promote, to guide, and to co-ordinate agricultural research throughout India. It would not exercise administrative control, but it would be a body to which both the central and provincial agricultural departments would look for guidance in all matters connected with research.

In conclusion, we may remark that it is very greatly to the credit of the Commissioners that they should have been able, in less than two years, to complete satisfactorily a task at once so laborious and of such altogether exceptional importance and interest. A rough idea of its magnitude may be gathered from the fact that no fewer than thirteen bulky volumes of the evidence recorded have been published in advance of the report itself. With a subject so vast, and with such an abundance of material, a long report was unavoidable. But no reasonable complaint can be made on this score, for the arrangement of the report is excellent, and the style direct and simple. It is not, as we have observed, a startling or a revolutionary document. It makes no attempt to solve at one stroke the many complex problems with which Indian agriculture is beset. It offers no sovereign remedy for all the evils which afflict the rural population. But it is a serious and statesmanlike attempt to put forward such suggestions and recommendations as will tend to bring about greater efficiency throughout the whole area of agricultural production, and to make farming a more profitable business to the cultivator than it is at present.

CURRENT TOPICS.

"Made in India."

Unlike the present position in this country, there is no provision in the existing law in India which can compel the application of a trade description to imported goods. The result is that articles made in foreign countries, without any indication as to their local origin, are sometimes palmed off as Indian manufactures. It is a well-known fact that a kind of piece-goods especially manufactured abroad is sometimes sold in India as hand-woven khaddar. Again, cheap hosiery, particularly cotton undershirts, have been imported from Japan without any trade description and sold in the country as local manufacture. In such cases it is manifest that the local origin of goods should be indicated so as to prevent fraud on the consumers, and protect some of the struggling industries of India from the unfair competition. Accordingly in a Bill further to amend the Indian Merchandise Marks Act, 1899, which was introduced at the last session of the Central Legislature, it is proposed to arm the Governor-General in Council with power to specify any imported goods in respect of which the importer, or the wholesale

retail dealer, can be called upon to affix a trade description giving the place of origin. The provisions of the Bill follow closely the recommendations of the Board of Trade Advisory Committee regarding similar legislative action in the United Kingdom in the interest of certain British or Empire goods.

Although the theoretical arguments in favour of the proposed legislation are strong, the practical consequences of such a policy have obviously to be carefully considered. That commercial opinion itself is by no means unanimous in its support of the measure is evident from the attitude of the Committee of the Bombay Chamber of Commerce to whom, in accordance with the established practice, the Bill has been referred by the local Government. In their reply the Committee state that they have reached the conclusion that the measure is not one to which the Chamber is able to accord its support. The Committee are aware that the Bill is merely a permissive measure, in virtue of which the Governor-General in Council may prescribe in respect of certain foods that the country of origin should be stated, but they feel that it would be difficult in practice to set a limit to the kinds or classes of goods which might be prescribed as requiring the place of origin to be shown. In their opinion legislation on such a subject is and should be confined to the prevention of misrepresentation. A plain unmarked article, the Committee point out, misrepresents nothing. Moreover, the Commerce Member, during the debate in the Legislative Assembly, clearly indicated the impracticability of clause 2 (2) (c) which proposes to empower the Government of India to make regulations for applying trade descriptions to goods, not only at the time of importation but also at the time of sale.

It has been suggested that a more practical remedy for the existing admittedly unsatisfactory state of affairs would be for the Indian manufacturer to mark his goods "made in India." On the other hand goods so marked might conceivably be handicapped in the export trade, as Indian manufactures, with a few exceptions, do not at present enjoy a particularly high reputation in foreign markets, though an improvement in that respect may be anticipated as a result of the activities of the Indian Trade Mission. The Bombay Chamber is not, therefore, prepared to endorse the view that it should be made obligatory either that certain classes of imported goods should show the country of origin or that Indian manufacturers should stamp their goods "made in India." The Committee of the Chamber contend that the country of origin will be shown on goods as soon as merchants think the sales are likely to be promoted thereby. And meanwhile they think that it is undesirable to go beyond the present statute for the prevention of false description.

Sericulture in India.

Some interesting particulars were given last week in this column regarding the progress of the Kashmir silk industry. But sericulture in India, we are reminded, is not restricted to Kashmir. Based on the mulberry tree, it is carried on in certain districts of Bengal and in the State of Mysore in South India. Other forms of the industry are widespread in Assam, Chota Nagpur, and in parts of the Central Provinces. Disease among the silkworms seems to be the silk-grower's chief difficulty; and the provincial Agricultural Departments are trying to help him to overcome this trouble. The Bengal Agricultural Department maintains about a dozen nurseries for the production and distribution of disease-free seed. The village seeds are said to be mostly cent per cent. infected with disease, with the result that the success of the crop cannot be relied upon. The Bengal industry is not so flourishing as is desirable; and the object of the Department is to resuscitate it. The production of silkworms' eggs—technically known as the "seed"—is a very important factor, the seed being a raw material for the production of cocoons. The Department is, therefore, well-advised in its efforts to place comparatively disease-free seed at the disposal of the rearers.

BOMBAY LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Bombay, June 16.

The Muslim Memorandum to the Simon Commission.

On behalf of the All-India Muslim League, Sir Mahomed Shafi and Sir Mahomed Iqbal have prepared a scheme of constitutional reforms to be submitted to the Statutory Commission. The League considers that the existing franchise for the legislative bodies, central as well as provincial, is far too high, with the result that only a very small proportion of the population exercise the right to vote. The Muslims further state that as all Indians who are neither Muslims nor Christians are included under the term "Hindu," caste Hindus are elected to represent even the depressed classes. The lowering of the franchise, it is contended, will result not only in making the councils more representative of the people, but will also make the existence of an oligarchy difficult. They, therefore, propose that (1) all persons who have now a right to vote at elections for the Legislative Assembly, should possess the vote for the Council of State; (2) those who now vote at the Provincial Council elections should have the vote in future in the Assembly elections; and (3), all those on the electoral rolls at present for the Municipal and District Boards should vote in the Provincial Council elections. The League does not believe that separate electorates can be dispensed with. The Council of State, the Legislative Assembly, and the Provincial Councils, in the opinion of the League, should also be considerably enlarged.

The proposal to extend the franchise is not a sound one, and the reasons advanced by the League are not at all convincing. The sponsors say: "Education has made considerable progress in the country, and a large section of the Indian population has already been exercising the right of vote," a statement which leads the casual observer to think that the section exercising the vote is the educated class. By giving the vote to the uneducated masses the forces of communalism will be strengthened, and the solution to the present problem lies not in an indiscriminate extension of the franchise, but in the education of those, who, under the 1919 Reforms, got their vote somewhat prematurely. The Muslim fear of an oligarchy is not easy to understand, seeing that most democracies have been preceded by oligarchies.

Asking for the Moon.

So much for the question of franchise. The Muslims, feeling that they have not enough share in the Government of the country, think that the most moderate demand they can now make is for a 33 per cent. representation in the Central Legislature. The question is: Are they prepared to make similar concessions to the Parsis, the Christians, etc.? A method of securing the interests of minorities, and at the same time keeping out the communal tendencies, is to regard the Hindus and the Muslims as the two large communities and to reserve 20 per cent. of the seats in the Lower House for each of them; the remaining seats may be distributed thus: 20 per cent. assigned to the other communities and the other 20 per cent. contested in general elections. Thus, in the Lower House, communal interests will be safeguarded, but not at the expense of the national interests. The Upper House may be organised on a territorial basis. It is absurd to expect one-third of the seats in both Houses to be reserved for any community, however important it may happen to be. Is not a Muslim oligarchy as dangerous to democracy as any other? The other demands of the League are the separation of Sind, purely to provide a majority for the Muslims in the newly-constituted province, and the introduction of reforms in the North-West Frontier Province. The second of these has been agreed to by all parties and presents no difficulty. But the Hindu Mahasabha will oppose the separation of Sind, as they have done all along.

The Punjab Committee.

The Punjab was the only province which appointed a committee to co-operate with the Simon Commission. The Committee, however, has turned the tables on the Council by passing a resolution at its first meeting to the effect that they cannot work with the Commission unless they have equality of status. A controversy has arisen between the Punjab and the *Pioneer* of Allahabad. In a leading article, the *Pioneer* wrote that, in spite of Sir Malcolm Hailey's communication to the Committee asking the members to record their opinion in favour of Dominion status for India at a distant date, the Committee has expressed its disapproval of the constitution of the Statutory Commission. The Punjab Government has stated in a communique that there was no interference on their part with the Committee, and that the remarks of the *Pioneer* were utterly unfounded. The Allahabad paper, however, still maintains that its remarks are true, and claims that it can substantiate its statements. It proposes to do so at a later date.

THE LORETO ORPHANAGE.

In response to an appeal from Sir Charles Tegart, the Bengal Chamber of Commerce has circularised an appeal on behalf of the Loreto Orphanage, which affords shelter, food, clothing, and education to 538 children comprising 16 Europeans, 338 Anglo-Indians, 4 Chinese, 3 Jews, and 127 Indians. In his appeal to the Chamber "on behalf of those who cannot speak for themselves," Sir Charles Tegart, who is President of the Committee of Management of the Orphanage, declares that:—

"The funds of the Institution are in a critical stage, firstly owing to the large sum of money which has had to be expended in re-constructing and repairing the buildings; secondly, owing to the complete failure of the Raffle this year (the Raffle in previous years has brought in about Rs.20,000). It has now been decided to give up the Raffle, a decision that I am glad of personally, as the legality of the Raffle was certainly doubtful; and thirdly, it is impossible for Government, in view of the present state of its finances, to contribute further to the funds of this Institution.

The Committee of Management believe that a considerable sum of money is distributed in charity by various firms in Calcutta. What the Committee would like to secure would be a promise from various firms of an annual contribution which could be definitely relied on and budgeted for. It will be seen that the Institute is run on the most economical lines possible. Rs.240 will keep a child for a whole year, paying all expenses in connexion with her education, board and lodging. The Committee think that it would be difficult to find better use for Rs.240 per annum, available for charitable purposes, than keeping a destitute child in this Orphanage."

It should be added that, according to accounts audited free of charge by Messrs. Price, Waterhouse, Peat and Co., the annual expenditure of the Orphanage totals approximately Rs.1½ lakhs; and, in addition to these charges, there remains the building debt. The children's diet is barely sufficient to keep them in health and the institution is hampered for lack of funds at every turn. The chief aim of the Orphanage training, it is emphasised, is to turn out self-reliant, upright and useful members of Society.

NEW CHIEF OF STAFF IN INDIA.

General Sir P. W. Chetwode, Bt. K.C.B., K.C.M.G., D.S.O., Aide-de-Camp General, has been appointed Chief of the General Staff in India, in succession to Lieutenant-General Sir A. Skeen, K.C.B., K.C.I.E., C.M.G., Indian Army, Aide-de-Camp General (October 26, 1928).

General Sir Philip Chetwode is an old Hussar. Before the Great War he had seen service in Burma and in South Africa, where he won the D.S.O. He went out to France in August, 1914, in command of a Cavalry Brigade, serving under General Allenby. Later he went to Egypt to command the Desert Mounted Corps in the summer of 1917. He was still in command of this corps during the last great advance in Palestine and Syria.

"BOMBAY TO-DAY AND TO-MORROW."

In the absence of H.H. the Aga Khan, detained in France by convalescence from his recent serious illness, Major-General Sir Frederick Sykes, Governor-Designate of Bombay, presided at a meeting of the East Indian Association on June 18, when Sir Stanley Reed spoke on "Bombay To-day and To-morrow."

After passing in brief review some of the outstanding changes which had been brought about since he first landed in Bombay thirty-one years ago the lecturer proceeded:—

"And whilst I am on the subject of topography, and the reconstruction of the city which is proceeding at such a furious pace, may I glimpse the morrow? In some respects Bombay is passing through the most uncomfortable stage of transition. When the Development Scheme was launched I ventured to remind Lord Lloyd that there were three stages in all great improvement works of this character—the enthusiasm of launching, the cold fit of construction when everyone was uncomfortable and toes were being trodden on, and the final stage of completion when everyone had forgotten the creators. We are now in the intermediary stage, and the mere mention of the Development Scheme is sufficient to raise sardonic laughter or furious protest. . . . But if we are going to talk about the Development Scheme, let us cast our minds back for nine years.

"It is easy to be wise after the event, but consider for a moment what were the conditions when this scheme was launched. For as long as I can remember the Back Bay Reclamation hung over the growth of Bombay like a nightmare. Whenever any scheme of public utility was proposed, the answer was always the same—'Wait for the Reclamation.' I believe it is correct to say that this work, which was in the doldrums of reaction after the Share mania, was first revived by a committee which sat in 1898. Certainly throughout the governorships of Lord Lamington and Lord Sydenham it was constantly in men's thoughts.

"Then came the War, and with it the greatest boom in land values the city has ever known. I believe it is correct to say that a small plot of land in Esplanade Road was sold for nearly Rs.3,000 a yard, and I know from painful experience that the question of those in business was not where they could get office accommodation, but whether any was to be had at all. The city was so desperately crowded that the Municipal Commissioner, who ought to know, estimated that 60,000 tenements were imperatively required. I was chairman of two committees appointed to inquire into the settlement of industrial disputes, and every witness who spoke with authority declared that housing was at the root of all industrial ills. Plans were being matured for the electrification of the railways, but there was no single authority responsible for the development of the land to the north; indeed, some parts of Salsette (I am thinking particularly of the malodorous village Khar) were really slums in the country. The Improvement Trust had dealt resolutely with the lands to the north-east, but in an evil moment Walter Hughes, then the chairman, was debarred from scheduling Mahim and confusion worse confounded was being created there.

"Certainly, the business men of Bombay were under no illusions on the subject. Two separate syndicates, comprising the best brains in the city, were anxious to reclaim Back Bay as private ventures; when they coalesced and sent in a joint application, the Government of the day, on the advice of the shrewdest judge of land I have known, came to the conclusion that the scheme was likely to be so profitable that Government should keep it in their own hands. If Lord Lloyd erred, it was in uncommonly good company. . . .

"Although the re-housing plans have been arrested, and scores of the new chawls lie empty, I believe that this is only a passing phase. It is not only in England that the slum mentality exists and a considerable section of the

community which would rather herd in a hovel than pay a little more for a decent room. But times are changing, the community will not indefinitely tolerate the slums which remain, and as they are razed—and may it not be long—shall find these new tenements none too many.

"In Bombay everyone is interested in the mill industry; it is part and parcel of our lives. That industry is passing through very hard times. It shares in the stagnation of the textile trade in every part of the world; it suffers in an acute degree from competition from the Far East and in India itself. We older folk can recall the days when Bombay ground out vast quantities of low-grade yarn and shipped it to China and Japan. That trade has gone; there are few merely spinning mills left. But it is not easy to switch mills constructed for yarn-spinning over to the production of cloth, and though it is being done, it is not easily done in competition with mills in the up-country centres which were laid out for cloth production from the first.

"We have to meet high rates and other charges, and electricity has not brought the cheap power anticipated. We have to deal with a very fluid labour force of limited efficiency. And I think we have something to complain of in the stepmotherly attitude of Government. The scandal of the cotton excise duties lingered until it was partly bought off, and finally disappeared because a bitter strike promised the Government neither excise revenue nor income tax. We criticize—I think reasonably—the attitude of the Government towards the competition of a country which evades the obligations of the Washington Convention to which it set its seal and thereby obtains a preference in our market, estimated at 4 per cent. on the lowest computation, and at 10 to 12 per cent. if a reasonable allowance is made for profit. No easy task or lies will bring us to our goal, but a good deal of iron sacrifice.

"Unless wages are to be reduced—and no one wants to see wages brought down—labour must, especially now it is so much better housed, give a better return for the wages it draws. The industry must be treated as a national enterprise, demanding the constant support of the Government, the local authorities, and the public. Shareholders must take to heart the advice which Mr. Baldwin gave to Lancashire. Capital which is lost cannot be regained by regarding the figures printed on share certificates as sacrosanct, though shareholders betray an invincible reluctance to recognize it, and some of the practices associated with the system of managing agents must go. Given these premises, I am no pessimist in regard to the Bombay industry; nothing was more heartening on my recent visit than to remark the energy and courage with which some of our millowners were adapting themselves and their industry to the changed conditions.

"No; when I look abroad my thoughts of Bombay are not greatly concerned with its material future; that is assured. We seem to have lost something of the spacious political days of Pherozeshah Mehta and Gokhale and Ranade; there is a note of acrimony in our politics somewhat foreign to the days when Bombay was the political lighthouse of India, towards which all turned in time of difficulty. How far this is induced by experiments in currency I will not this afternoon attempt to determine. But let me make one matter clear. Behind this political veil the heart of Bombay beats as warmly and generously, and it is as rich in friendship between all communities as ever, as none has more reason to know than myself.

"What does rather depress me is a note of materialism in our daily life. We miss the intellectual stimulus of men like Campbell, Enthoven, and Edwardes, of Ranade, Bhandarkar, Jackson, and Chandavarkar, and the robust Victorianism of Pherozeshah Mehta. We are in a little danger, I sometimes think, of the stage visioned by the cynic who said that no seaport can have a soul. Although times are hard, it is difficult to find signs of real economy, and the scale of expenditure on the racecourse and in the clubs is not a good thing. Looking on these things, it seems to me that the greatest service the leaders of

opinion can render to Bombay is to set the ginger-beer standard from the highest to the lowest, and to illuminate the materialism of the hour by a revival of the culture which was vivid in my early days. As I say this, I can almost hear our young folk saying, in the words of the Slav in Kipling's story—"Get away, you old people." The times have changed; new men are wanted to deal with them; but I often think regretfully of the simple, happy days we had.

"Mr. Chairman, I have no fears of the future of Bombay. It is a magnivcent city. . . . Nothing can impair the security of its geographical position. Nothing seems to weaken the currents which course through its generous heart, and we have a new generation of business men growing up to carry on the tradition of Jamsetji Tata, Dinsha Petit, and Nusserwanji Wadia."

In a letter expressing his regret at his inability to be present, "and to have presided at this lecture by one of the most distinguished of the citizens of Bombay on the past, present and future of a city to which my family and I have had the honour to belong during the last 75 years," the Aga Khan said that Sir Stanley Reed would have given a brilliant description of the Bombay of to-day and a prospect of the great future that lies before it. He had no doubt that, as a beautiful city built on the sea, it would hold its own for all time with Naples, Rio de Janeiro, Sydney and Melbourne, the only other cities he knew which could claim comparison with what Kipling has so rightly described as "the queen of all."

"I have had the advantage," the letter continued, "of perusing a proof of the paper, and I regret that I am not able to agree entirely with the optimistic expressions of my friend Sir Stanley Reed regarding the economic future of Bombay. I see little or no hope for the mill industry unless the Imperial Government, with the support of public opinion throughout India, recognises the necessity to adopt definitely protective measures for a few years, so that the industry may be readjusted to the changing conditions of the time. No doubt the further opening up of the agricultural resources of the great hinterland served by the port will go far to maintain the business of the city. The immense docks and maritime works to which Sir Stanley has referred will ensure its continued and increasing importance as a great port. But when all is said, the cotton mills cannot be replaced as the staple industry of the 'Town and Island.'"

"Many valuable subsidiary measures can be taken. Much can be done, especially during the winter months, to develop luxury trades, and to draw to Bombay fairly well-to-do people from the interior. We have in India only the cities of Bombay and Calcutta to play, on a more limited scale, the rôle that London, Paris and Rome play in Europe. The provision of furnished flats, of a satisfactory taxicab system, good theatres and cinemas, new clubs of the Willingdon Club type, racing, polo and sports generally, also fêtes such as those which were so successfully organised by Lord Willingdon and Lord Lloyd, and only last year by our deservedly popular Governor, Sir Leslie Wilson, will go a long way to encourage development. The tourists who visit India in increasing numbers in the cold weather will do much to develop the luxury trades beyond anything that has so far been realised—but here again we depend on our agricultural hinterland and the surrounding country for a steady and constant demand from visitors. While the foreign tourist trade must inevitably increase in importance, it can never play so large a part in a city with the climatic drawbacks of Bombay during the greater part of the year as in such centres as Cairo or Rome.

"At every point, however, the consideration I mentioned at the outset of this letter crops up. If the capital, energy and enterprise sunk in the mill industry is crippled, I see no great future for the developments, whether seawards or landwards, which are taking place; nor do I see anything to replace the mills as the backbone of Bombay prosperity. I can advocate their cause with detachment, for I have never put a penny into the mill industry and

I own no mill shares. I sold the four or five small holdings of these shares I inherited when I came of age. The question is not to be regarded only as one of local importance. It is not for Bombay alone but for the whole of India to see to it that what has been for two generations at least the prime industry of the second city of the British Empire should not be maimed by a blow from which it can and should be protected."

OBITUARY.

MAJOR-GENERAL SIR ALFRED BAYLY.

THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA regrets to record the death, which occurred at Amsterdam on June 27, of Major-General Sir Alfred Bayly, K.C.B., K.C.M.G., C.S.I., D.S.O. After long and distinguished service on the frontier in Egypt, Burma and South Africa Colonel Bayley was appointed A.Q.M.G. at Army Headquarters in India and afterwards D.A.G. of the Northern Command by Lord Kitchener, who early formed a high opinion of his keenness and capacity. Following the establishment of the first Indian Staff College at Quetta, as part of the Commander-in-Chief's reorganisation scheme, Bayly was selected to be the first Commandant. His success in that office was no less marked than in the even more difficult post of Secretary of the reconstituted Army Department to which he was shortly afterwards transferred. Created C.S.I. in 1919 and K.C.B. two years later, Major-General Bayly retired from the Indian Army early in 1912 but on the outbreak of war returned to special duty at the War Office under his old chief, being appointed Inspector of Temporary Non-Effectives, a post which he held until the end of the War.

MR. O. LLOYD EVANS.

His many friends, both in official circles and in the ranks of journalism, have learnt with great regret of the sudden death of Mr. Owen Lloyd Evans, Information Officer at the India Office since 1921. Called to the Bar by the Middle Temple in 1903, Lloyd Evans joined the staff of a London morning contemporary in 1905, which made particular use of his marked aptitude in the handling of maps during the War period. After the War the system of maintaining publicity officers at Government Departments was widely criticised, mainly on the score of economy, but the selection of Lloyd Evans as Information Officer at the India Office was so well justified by results that no demand for the abolition of the post arose. Although without personal knowledge of the country, Lloyd Evans proved a very genial and unconventional, but nevertheless efficient, liaison officer between the Press and the higher permanent officials or the Secretary of State and his place will not be an easy one to fill.

NEWS IN BRIEF.

The Calcutta Improvement Trust has decided to spend over five lakhs (£37,500) in acquiring land near the approaches to the new Beliaghata bridge.

It is understood that Sir John Simon and his colleagues of the Statutory Commission will leave London on September 27 on their second visit to India.

Mr. R. D. Blandy, who has been appointed Chief of the Tangerine Municipal Police, has had a good deal of experience in India, where he has been in charge of police in various large districts.

The Secretary of State has appointed Lieutenant-Colonel S. B. A. Patterson, C.S.I., C.I.E., Indian Army (retired) to be his Political A.D.C. in succession to Lieutenant-Colonel Sir A. D'A. G. Bannerman, K.C.V.O., C.I.E., with effect from September 12, 1928.

An India Office *communiqué*, dated June 27, states that the Secretary of State for India proposes shortly to make a certain number of appointments to permanent commission in His Majesty's Indian Medical Service. Those who desire to be considered for appointment should apply to the Military Department of the India Office.

According to a Reuter message the Indian Tariff Board's report on the question of the protection of the oil industry was signed last week. The Board was authorised to inquire into the question of the protection of Indian petroleum against the kerosene price "war."

A telegram from the Viceroy, Education, Health and Lands Department, to Secretary of State for India, dated June 27, 1928, states:—Rainfall, week ending June 27.—Excess: Upper Burma, Central India (East), Konkan, Hyderabad (North), Mysore and Madras (South-East). Fair: Bay Islands, Bihar, United Provinces, (?Kashmir), and Central India (West). Scanty: Chota Nagpur, Punjab, North-West Frontier Province, Baluchistan, Sind, Rajputana, Gujarat and Malabar. Normal elsewhere. Monsoon been fairly active, except North-West India.

Commercial and Financial Section.

NOTES AND NEWS

170, Strand, London, W.C.2,
Tuesday Morning.

Trade Barriers.

It is impossible to feel very hopeful that the efforts being made to remove the handicap to commerce arising from trade barriers of one description or another will be productive, at present at any rate, of any great results. The fact is, and it must be recognised, that conditions in many of the countries most directly concerned in the question are such that it is not only not easy to take steps in the desired direction but that the pressure of circumstances is influencing action in the contrary direction. Broadly speaking, however, this is not the case in the Near East where the obstacles to trade since the War have been particularly pronounced. There the influence of conditions is favouring the removal of trade barriers, because it is beginning to be appreciated that heavy duties on exports and heavy transport rates, etc., simply reduce the volume of commerce, and so month by month we learn from one country or another of reductions in taxes or rates. But the position of these countries which are simply endeavouring to export their produce—wheat, oil, maize, tobacco or whatever it may be—is very different from those whose commerce is in the main in manufactures, and it is here that the chief obstacle to the wholesale removal of trade barriers now arises. In Great Britain, for instance, world conditions—in which phase is summed up the entrance into the field of manufacturing countries of new nations, unequal competition and the like—have been responsible for a considerable extension in the last few years of the safeguarding of industries, and it is extremely probable that there will be further developments in this direction. It is unavoidable so long as the world situation remains as it is.

The Situation in Turkey.

In common with other Near Eastern regions conditions in Turkey last year were unfavourable. The country's staple industry is, of course, agriculture, and as a result of the Government's action in making new remissions of taxes there was an extension of the area under cultivation. Unfortunately climatic conditions were unfavourable, and the yield of cereals was 30 per cent. below that of 1926. Referring to this at the meeting of the Ottoman Bank Sir Herbert Lawrence said that it was a question whether the accumulated stocks would meet the country's needs this year without recourse to importation. Not only cereals but also other crops suffered such as tobacco, figs, and raisins, and the only satisfactory crops were olives and nuts. Industrial development was also checked, the causes in this case being the shortage of skilled labour and available capital. It is significant in the circumstances that the Turkish exchange should have shown greater stability in 1927. A factor which has helped this development, Sir Herbert Lawrence pointed out, has been the reduction in the adverse balance of trade. The Turkish authorities are anxious to stabilise the exchange, and Sir Herbert Lawrence lays stress on the point that stabilisation alone can give the money market the elasticity which it lacks.

Progress in Persia.

An interesting review of conditions in Persia was given by Sir Hugh Barnes at the general meeting of the Imperial Bank of Persia, a report of which will be found elsewhere in these columns. As is well known, Persia's

lack of railways has been a potent factor in preventing the development of the country, and as I have pointed out plans are on foot to remedy this to some extent by the construction of a trans-Persian railway. Sir Hugh Barnes touched briefly on this project, which he justly termed ambitious, and stated that as far as was known no estimate of the cost of the line has yet been prepared. Owing to the accumulation by the Persian Government of a large sum during the past 2½ years from the proceeds of the surtax on tea and sugar, he does not, however, anticipate that there will be difficulty in financing the initial stages of construction. Other matters on which he touched were the new British-Persian Treaty and the decision to establish a National Bank. As regards Persia's trade for the year ended March last, he pointed out that imports were up by 2,000,000 tomans at 81,000,000 tomans, but exports had declined by 3,000,000 tomans to 106,500,000 tomans. It appears that trade has been hampered by the scarcity of silver coin, and the Persian Government is now having minted equally in Great Britain and Russia a certain quantity of krans with a new design, the British share of the contract being done at the Birmingham Mint. Sir Hugh Barnes paid a tribute to the influence of the Shah in the furtherance of the development of Persia, evidence of which has been forthcoming in various schemes for the advancement of the country's industrial progress.

Sudan Cotton Growing.

The vicissitudes of cotton growing in the Gash Delta were plainly shown by the results of the Kassala Cotton Company for its last year in that region, the profits amounting to £111,143 as against £48,686 for the previous year. The crop actually totalled 54,128 kantars as against 22,547, and was of excellent quality while better prices were realised. The following crop, which belongs to the Government and the tenants, and which was harvested by the staff of the company, was actually a record, the total being 65,568 kantars. As we know by experience, however, the continuation of such results cannot be relied on in the Gash Delta. At the annual meeting particulars were given regarding developments on the company's new concession in the Gezira. It is planned to have a considerable area under cotton by July of next year, so that the company will have its first return from the crop in 1930.

COMMENTATOR.

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British Consular Reports

II.—ROUMANIA.

The following extracts are taken from the report on economic conditions in Roumania to March last of Mr. R. J. E. Humphreys, Commercial Secretary, H.M. Legation, Bucharest:—

The year 1927 may be said to have been divided into two distinct half-yearly periods, the first ending approximately with the death of King Ferdinand. When in April last year the report on economic conditions in Roumania was written and the noticeable improvement since the preceding year was commented upon, the Averescu Government had been in power for a year. It had just brought into force a new, completely revised customs tariff which had been drawn up with the frank object of protecting the young Roumanian industries. This customs tariff was to be a prelude to the denouncement of old commercial agreements and the conclusion of new special treaties with each separate country, commencing with Italy.

Semi-official negotiations had been in progress for some time with Germany and other countries for a Railway and Stabilisation Loan, on which the public based optimistic hopes. A short term loan for 200 million lire from Italy had indeed been successfully arranged at the end of 1926. Anticipations of a second good harvest in succession were not unfounded, as the winter had been singularly mild and spring rains abundant. Trade returns showed an active balance, export taxes had been greatly reduced, and the usual complaints of tightness of money were conspicuous by their absence. Such was the state of affairs ruling at the end of May. In the beginning of June the King suddenly decided to call upon General Averescu and then Prince Stirbey to form a coalition Government, which, after a short lease of life, was succeeded by a Liberal Government under M. Ionel Bratianu on the very eve of the King's death, which took place in July, when Prince Mihai, a boy of six, the grandson of the late King, was proclaimed King under a Regency.

In some respects the new Government decided on a reversal of the policy of its predecessors, as it felt the necessity of taking stock of the financial situation before committing itself. For this reason the semi-official negotiations for a loan, above referred to, were suspended or abandoned; a call for tenders for passenger and cargo boats for the Service Maritime Roumain issued in April was also cancelled for the time being. Moreover, one of the first acts of the new Government was to repeal the modified railway law introduced in the beginning of the year by the Averescu Government—in spite of strenuous opposition—and to re-enact in its entirety the preceding law of 1925.

Another measure of considerable importance was the appointment of a commission to revise once more the customs tariff, which had but lately been decreed, in order, it was stated, to adopt a system more in harmony with the present requirements of the country and on which commercial treaty negotiations could be based. It was proposed also to give Parliament more voice in the matter of the customs tariff, which at present is fixed by royal decree. The labours of the Tariff Commission are still in progress at the time of writing and the relative Bill is unlikely to come before Parliament before November.

In October Mr. Ionel Bratianu suddenly died, and an internal crisis seemed imminent which, however, never materialised in spite of greatly exaggerated reports abroad. The harvest, on which great hopes had been built, proved a comparative failure, and taxation and high interest rates pressed heavily on the economic life of the country, so that towards the end of the year, a falling off in consumption was noticeable, due to the lowered purchasing power of the population. With all these difficulties, economic, political and financial, there would have been no cause for surprise, had the currency fluctuated

or depreciated, especially in the latter half of the year. The leu, however, had showed an upward tendency during the first quarter of 1927, and later assumed a remarkable steadiness, while during the first quarter of 1928 it may be said to have been practically stable at about 785-795 to the £.

There is little doubt that the excellent harvest of 1926 and the resulting increase of exports over imports in 1927 was the main cause of the *de facto* stabilisation. Official provisional statistics show that the export of cereals in 1927 was greater by 1,183,740 metric tons than in 1926, owing principally to the excellent maize crop of that year. The export of timber, however, was less by 120 million lei, and though oil production showed an increase of 28 per cent. over 1926 the drop in the value of exports owing to low prices amounted to nearly 2 milliard lei. However, taking the total combined exports of cereals, timber, cattle and petrol an increase was registered in 1927 as compared with 1926 of 1,210,869 metric tons, amounting in value to nearly one milliard lei.

The outlook for the present year (1928), is not at the present moment encouraging, on account of last year's poor harvest. Nearly all the five great cereals—wheat, barley, rye, oats and maize—showed a falling off, and the exportable surplus for this year is estimated at only 1,312,000 metric tons as against 4,230,000 metric tons in 1927. As agriculture plays the dominant part in the export possibilities of Roumania this reduction of the exportable surplus cannot but affect the purchasing power of the population and consequently the value of imports.

Again, the condition of the railways, of the postal, telegraph and telephone services hinders the development of trade—a fact that the Government, as well as public opinion, realises, and there is no doubt that intense efforts will be made to improve the condition of these services as soon as money can be found for this purpose.

Roumania, however, is on the whole much better off than many of her neighbours, as she possesses enormous latent reserves, and her agricultural production, if properly systematised, could be greatly increased. In this connection a law for the standardisation of cereals has just been passed by the Legislative Bodies (March, 1928). Large areas of inundated lands have still to be drained and exploited, while the timber, oil and other indigenous industries are only awaiting better transport and other economic conditions for their proper development to enable them to produce larger surplus quantities for export to compensate for the increased shipments of manufactured goods which have to be imported. To these imports British industry contributes largely and should have its full proportion of any increase of Roumania's import trade which might result from the further development of the country's internal resources, more especially as recent statistics show that British exports to Roumania are nearly balanced by Roumanian exports to Great Britain. Thus the two countries would benefit mutually by an extension of trade. Should the official negotiations for a stabilisation loan be successful there is little doubt that the economic situation of Roumania would begin to improve and stimulate trade.

Commerce.

Generally speaking the prices of goods remained fairly steady during the year in consequence of the comparative steadiness of the leu, but slight increases were registered owing to increased import duties on some commodities. Merchants complain that the fiscal taxes are too high and that the import duties have been increased to such a degree that a large proportion of their capital is required for the payment of customs duties, so that they are forced to borrow money, to carry on their business, at the high rates of interest still prevailing.

The number of merchants trading in Roumania is believed to be greatly in excess of the actual requirements

of the country, although a great many have been forced to liquidate during the last three years. This fact is a sign of a tendency towards normal conditions, but these frequent liquidations have also contributed to the feeling of general crisis on the market. Thus the smaller number of new firms registered during the last two years is not attributable only to the very restricted credits obtainable from the banks. The total capital of the limited commercial companies trading in Roumania has not increased during the last three years, although the number of companies has been slightly higher each year.

Tradesmen state that the volume of business in 1927 was relatively the same as that of the previous year. A great many merchants, more especially those dealing in textiles, have reduced their stocks by selling their goods at cost price, or even at a loss, in order to be able to pay their debts and free themselves from the burden of the high rates of interest charged, which were ruinous.

Over one-third of the total imports of the country are still textiles, although the Roumanian textile industry has greatly developed lately under the high customs tariff. Foreign goods are still preferred, however, being generally of a better quality. Roumanian merchants generally, and textile merchants in particular, prefer to make their purchases abroad, as they obtain longer credits (four to twelve months) and cheaper rates of interest (maximum 8 per cent. per annum), for the Roumanian industrialists, owing to lack of capital, are unable to compete with foreign firms in this respect.

During the first eleven months of 1927 the value of exports amounted to Lei 34,927,595,474, as against Lei 35,011,053,755 for the same period in 1926, while the value of imports during the eleven months was respectively Lei 31,145,026,795 in 1927 and Lei 31,686,407,599 in 1926. For the whole of the year 1926 the value of imports is recorded at Lei 34,101,578,859 and of exports Lei 38,012,069,388. These are the values actually declared by traders and recorded at the Customs Houses, but they are given as provisional figures. Converted into sterling at the average rates of exchange for each period they give the following equivalents:—

	Imports.		Exports.		Balance.
	£		£		£
1926	29,312,125	...	32,387,654	...	3,075,529
1927	38,028,115	...	42,646,636	...	4,618,521

In June, 1927, a committee was appointed to revise the import tariff which had come into force in April, as it was considered too highly protective of the home industries, and as it appeared to demand from consumers and from merchants too great a sacrifice, aiming, as it did, mainly at obtaining a favourable trade balance and increasing the revenues of the State. At the time of writing this revision has not yet been completed. It is, stated, however, that all the duties are being reduced, and that when ready it will be submitted to Parliament for approval and not passed by Royal Decree, as has been the case since 1920. The attention of the Roumanian Government has been drawn to the views of certain British firms and Chambers of Commerce in regard to the high customs duty on various commodities imported from Great Britain.

The export taxes on livestock and cereals were considerably reduced in January, 1927, and again in November, and the general policy of the present Government, as shown by the budget estimates for 1928, is in favour of a further reduction of all export taxes.

The only articles of which the import is prohibited are those included in the list of State monopolies, i.e., tobacco, matches, salt, playing cards, explosives, cigarette paper and also second-hand machinery for the textile, timber, leather and boot and shoe trades.

British Trade.

British manufacturers and exporters have shown increasing interest in the Roumanian market during the

past year. This has been particularly noticeable in the number of inquiries received as to trade openings and the number of representative members of certain industries who have visited Roumania.

Several long outstanding claims were finally settled last year. The Manchester and London scheme for the payment by instalments of both pre-War and post-War debts contracted by Roumanian merchants was carried out smoothly, with the occasional intervention of this Legation. A large proportion of the claims have been privately settled and therefore withdrawn from the scheme. Such settlements by compromise may generally be considered advisable.

The effects of the British coal stoppage were still traceable in the early part of the year, and the introduction of the new protective tariff in Roumania in April was possibly a handicap to trade and prevented large business being done. The imports of coloured cottons from Great Britain remained steady, and the total imports of piece-goods of all kinds, while larger in quantity than in the preceding year, were slightly less in value, but both in quantity and value they were about 50 per cent. less than in 1925. This falling off in imports was principally due to the high customs tariffs which enabled the home industries to increase their output.

Among the increased sales British gramophones and gramophone records probably take the first place. British motor cars, both passenger and commercial, began to be imported cautiously and in small quantities, but American cars, which have hitherto been better adapted to the bad Roumanian roads, still hold the market almost exclusively. The Roumanian statistics for the first six months of the year show that British internal combustion engines, especially of the smaller types, have been in great and growing demand, as these engines are well able to compete in price, quality and credit conditions with those offered by other countries. British colonial wares, and teas especially, are well represented on this market. Since the import prohibition was removed in April the sale of whisky and gin has recommenced and satisfactory business has been recorded. British motor tyres, india rubber goloshes and sports goods are said to be overcoming competition successfully.

It is to be expected that the foreign trade of Roumania will greatly expand after the country has become economically consolidated. For this reason it is advisable that British firms should not neglect this market, but should begin now to introduce their goods so as to be ready for an extension of sales when the opportunity occurs. It is true, that a certain amount of caution is necessary, and careful inquiries should be made, when credit is granted, as to the reputation and financial standing of prospective customers. It is not advisable to give open credits, but only against acceptances.

It is essential for British firms wishing to do business in this country, and who have not their own branch or local representative, to appoint a reliable agent to look after their interests, but here again careful inquiries should be made before such an agent is appointed and the Commercial Secretary holds himself at the disposal of British firms to assist them in this respect. Advertising propaganda is recommended more especially for articles not yet known on the Roumanian market. The most commonly used method is newspaper advertising.

Agriculture.

Up to the present the State has been unable, owing to lack of funds, to contribute much to the development of agricultural activities or the intensification of agricultural production. The Union of Agricultural Chambers of Commerce, however, created about a year ago, has shown great activity, and under its auspices the following exhibitions have been held:—One for fruit, one for poultry, 16 departmental exhibitions of a general character and 92 exhibitions of cattle and agricultural products. The

Union has also established 30 small nurseries for trees and two silkworm farms.

As the standard of education of the peasant is still very low scientific agriculture is yet in its infancy in Roumania, though modern methods are used by the gentlemen owners of larger estates who continue to attend themselves to the farming of the greatly reduced lands remaining to them after the agrarian reform had come into operation. Fertilisers and machinery for cleaning seed and grain are almost unknown to the Roumanian agriculturist. But great hopes are based on the activities of the Chambers of Agriculture and the Institute of Agricultural Research for the improvement of the present agricultural system with a view to the increase of production.

Comparatively few agriculturists, the majority of whom are peasants, possess any capital, and cheap credit facilities are not available to enable them to acquire modern machinery and implements, nor has the State the necessary funds to assist them in this respect. A promising feature, however, is the fact that the area sown has now reached the pre-war standard, which proves that the new peasant landowners are working hard and cultivating their land, though owing to the difficulties above cited, they are not yet able to produce crops equal to those of pre-war days under the old system of vast estates belonging to wealthy landlords.

The export duties, though recently considerably reduced, are still high enough to handicap the agriculturist. Maize is the favourite crop of the Roumanian peasant, as may be judged from the greatly increased area sown in this cereal since the agrarian reform came into force.

Roumania has over one million hectares of inundated lands which could easily be drained and made fertile, but the requisite funds have hitherto not been available.

At the end of March, 1928, a law for the standardisation of cereals was passed by Parliament. It is stated that the object of this law is to classify Roumanian grain so as to enable it to compete on the world market with that of other countries, to stimulate, improve and intensify production and to assist the agriculturists to increase their credit. This law is considered by the Government to afford great advantages to agriculturists, and it is hoped that it will enable them to sell their products at more advantageous prices. The standardisation will be obligatory for wheat, rye, barley, oats and probably maize, destined for export. Regulations are introduced by the law for the cleaning and grading of these cereals and for the provision of storage premises for them. It is intended later to extend the standardisation regulations to other grains for export and even to those sold on the home market.

As things stand at present there are not more than three points in the whole country where the cleaning and grading of grain could be effected, namely at the docks of Braila, Galatz and Constantza, where there are ade-

quate sorting stations, and storing silos. The lack of grain silos and grading stations in the grain centres and at the northern and western frontiers of the country is bound to prove a grave impediment to the effective carrying out of this law, until measures have been taken to supply the present wants. To this end it is intended to form several companies with State participation, under the Law for the Commercialisation of State Enterprises, to erect the necessary silos and cleaning and grading plant. The standardisation and control of grain will be made by the organs of the State, at the head of which will be a special Council nominated by the Government. The law governing the exploitation of forests has been enforced with much greater strictness than formerly; a rational exploitation was maintained during 1927 and replanting work was carried out on a large scale. The forest area of Roumania is 7,207,118 hectares (less 723,442 hectares of glades), which represents about 24 per cent. of the total area of the country. All the timber and firewood requirements of the country are supplied from home sources and there is a considerable surplus for export, which could be greatly increased if transport conditions were improved and new lines constructed to serve the forest districts.

(To be continued.)

FORTHCOMING SAILINGS.

The following are the sailings for the Near East and India, the ports of departure and closing dates for cargo being given in parentheses:—

Anchor Line.—S.s. Massilia for Bombay (Birkenhead, July 7). (For passenger sailings and dates see advertisement.)

Anchor Brocklebank Line.—S.s. Magdapur for Calcutta (Birkenhead, July 12).

Bibby Line.—S.s. Leicestershire for Port Said, Port Sudan, Colombo, and Rangoon (Birkenhead, July 11).

British India Line.—S.s. Margha for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, July 14); s.s. Mundra for Bombay and Karachi (London, July 21).

Cunard Line.—S.s. Brescia for Gibraltar, Genoa, Leghorn, Naples, Palermo, Messina, Catania, Bari, Venice, Trieste, and Fiume (Liverpool July 21, and in Swansea July 24); s.s. Bactria for Malta, Patras, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, and Constantza (Glasgow July 20, Liverpool and Swansea July 21).

Johnston Line.—S.s. Aviemore for Smyrna and Constantinople (Liverpool, July 28); s.s. Aviemore for Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, August 4); s.s. Dromore for Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, September 1).

P. and O. Line.—S.s. Malwa for Bombay (London, July 20).

Prince Line.—S.s. Sicilian Prince for Malta, Alexandria, Jaffa, Haifa, Beyrout, Tripoli, Alexandretta, Mersina, and Cyprus (London, July 11); s.s. Soldier Prince for Tunis, Malta, Alexandria, Jaffa, Haifa, Beyrout, and Cyprus (Manchester, July 21).

Ellerman and Papayanni Lines.—S.s. Roumelian for Genoa, Leghorn, Naples, Palermo, Messina, Catania, Bari, Gruz, Ancona*, Venice, Trieste, and Fiume (Liverpool July 7, Swansea July 12); s.s. Malatian for Gibraltar, Malta, Alexandria, Jaffa*, and Haifa (Liverpool, July 11); A steamer for Gibraltar, Malta, Alexandria, Jaffa*, and Haifa* (Glasgow, July 11); s.s. Andalusian for Oran*, Algiers*, Malta, Piræus, Volo*, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, and Constantza (Liverpool July 14, Swansea July 14); s.s. Fabian for Malta, Alexandria, Jaffa, and Haifa (Liverpool, July 28); s.s. Polo for Gibraltar, Algiers*, Patras, Smyrna, and Constantinople (Liverpool, August 4). *Subject to sufficient inducement. Cargo taken on through Bill of Lading to:—Algerian ports via Algiers; Moroccan ports via Gibraltar; Tripoli (Barbary) via Malta; Syria and Cyprus via Alexandria; Greek out-ports via Piræus or other convenient port.

Messrs. John Hetheringham and Sons, textile machinists, etc., have secured an order for a complete cotton mill in Egypt.

The Sudan Plantations Syndicate has declared an interim dividend of 10 per cent. (2s. per share), less tax, payable to shareholders registered at the close of July 17. The dividend will be payable on July 25 and warrants will be posted on July 24.

ANCHOR LINE

LIVERPOOL TO BOMBAY.

KARACHI via Bombay calling at Gibraltar and Egypt.

LARGE STEAMSHIPS UPPER DECK CABINS.

MODERATE FARES

RECOGNISED BY INDIAN GOVERNMENT.

Indian Government Vouchers accepted.

Passenger sailing dates:—

*MASSILIA ... July 10	*CASTALIA ... Aug. 28
*ELYSIA ... Aug. 10	*CIRCASSIA ... Sept. 14

*First class passengers only. Specially low fares. †Calls Port Sudan

SPECIAL NOTICE.

NEW T.S.S. CALIFORNIA, 17,000 TONS, carrying 1st, 2nd and 3rd class passengers, sails from LIVERPOOL, October 24; MARSEILLES, October 30. All 1st and 2nd class state rooms are fitted with Punka Louvers and with Fans.

This vessel has exceptionally fine 3rd class accommodation.

ANCHOR LINE,

48, FENCHURCH STREET, LONDON, E.C.3.

THE WEEK'S FINANCE.

(By Our Financial Expert.)

London, July 3.

The financial event of the week has been, of course, the definite stabilisation of the French franc on a gold basis. With this event the chapter of European post-War currency stabilisation is, happily, almost completed. M. Poincaré has been freely criticised for waiting so long to take this step; but he is justified by the fact that, thanks to his waiting, France has now been able to resume sound currency without any external assistance of credits whatever.

As far as the investment markets are concerned the franc stabilisation had practically no effect, for it merely regularised a position which had in fact existed for more than eighteen months. Markets have rallied this week on the cessation of American and Continental liquidation, and for the moment the set-back has been checked. Gilt-edged stocks have been quietly steady, and even the long-continued fall in Home Rails was checked. In the industrial sections the recovery was fairly general, recent favourites, such as artificial silk, newspaper, and gramophone shares, participating. One of the most active sections was that for cable and wireless shares in view of the approaching announcement regarding a merger scheme. This subject is referred to in a later paragraph.

Wireless-Cable Merger.

One of the outstanding features of the week has been the activity and strength of the wireless and cable companies' shares. The Marconi Company's 10s. shares have advanced to 67s. 6d. Eastern Telegraph stock rose to 240 and the stocks of the other telegraph companies were also buoyant. These upward movements were due to rumours that the negotiations for the merging of the cable and wireless companies are proceeding satisfactorily. These rumours so far lack official confirmation, but there is every reason to believe that a hopeful view is not unjustified. At the meeting of the Globe Telegraph and Trust Company, held this week, Sir John Denison-Pender referred to the negotiations, and the tone of his observations was distinctly encouraging. Negotiations for the merger, Sir John pointed out, have been conducted with

the Imperial Cable and Wireless Conference, which has been examining the matter with great care for nearly six months, and is still continuing its deliberations. Sir John expressed the opinion, which is shared by all well-informed observers, that it is not only desirable, but of the utmost importance on national grounds, that the merger should be carried through, and a British combination formed capable of holding its own with the great communication combines already made and contemplated elsewhere. He also declared that the Eastern associated companies continued to carry a much larger volume of traffic than the Government "beam" wireless services between the respective countries where they are in competition, in spite of the materially lower wireless rate.

The Heavy Industries.

During the week the meetings of a number of important companies engaged in the heavy industries—mainly coal, iron and steel—have been held and the industries' problems and prospects have been authoritatively discussed. None of the speeches gave ground for unqualified satisfaction, for they deal with a past that was difficult and a future that was hardly more encouraging. Several chairmen bestowed a word of praise upon the Government's new rating scheme. Dealing with coal, the chairman of the Ebbw Vale Company said that "the outlook is by no means promising," but there has been "a considerable improvement" in the iron and steel section. This experience seems to be more or less common to all the companies. Lord Aberconway, speaking at the meeting of John Brown and Company, declared that shipbuilding orders are falling off and "prices were cut to a very low point all round." The meeting of Baldwins, held to sanction the capital reduction scheme, was of exceptional interest. Sir Robert Horne, who presided, said that the "prospects of the company are stated to be improving." His point that the "necessary prelude to all amalgamations is such careful reconstruction of existing organisations such as is now being projected for this company" needs to be borne in mind. Incidentally, the revised terms offered the $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. debenture holders is an improvement upon the original scheme and is expected to ensure the adoption of the proposals. The chairman of Guest, Keen and Nettlefolds was obviously cautious in forecasting the future, but the company's excellent past justifies a continuance of the investor's confidence.

Oil Industry Developments.

The oil share market has derived considerable encouragement from the events of the last few days. There have been persistent rumours that an agreement to end the oil war in the East has been concluded, and though these at present lack confirmation, there are several factors which are read as suggesting that they are not entirely without substance. One of the most noteworthy is the issue of new capital on bonus terms by the "Shell" Company and the tone of the chairman's speech in announcing the issue. New ordinary shares in the proportion of one in five will be issued in January next at par. The present price of the shares is £5 $\frac{1}{2}$, the terms of issue thus representing a substantial bonus. The chairman of the Shell Company said that the present moment was opportune for increasing the capital, "because it is only recently that prices in the principal markets of the East have become re-established." On the other hand, he frankly acknowledged disquieting influences, including the continuance of over-production and unsettled conditions in the East. On balance, however, he was able "to face the future with the fullest confidence." But it is necessary to remember the diversified character of the Shell Company interests and its extremely strong financial position: the immediate outlook for the less well-established undertakings is not equally satisfactory. Speaking at the Lobitos meeting, Lord Forres declared that, though an improvement in the oil situation would undoubtedly come, he would not venture to predict the date.

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Engineering Topics.

By G. B. B.

British Roads.

The recent annual conference of the Institution of Municipal and County Engineers is the fifty-fifth of its kind, and, judging by the papers which were read, is one of the most important that has yet been held. Mr. Dryland, engineer and surveyor, County of Middlesex, has been elected president for the year, and his presidential remarks made pleasant hearing for those who have of late had it constantly dinned into their ears that our roads are not safe, are inadequate for the traffic that they are asked to carry, and are not good value for the money spent upon them.

Mr. Dryland claimed, on the other hand, that our roads are better, so far as adequacy and conditions are concerned, than those of any other country, not excluding the United States of America. I gave a little private applause at that, as I know quite well the mixture of gravel mud, broken branches and chunks of stone that passes as a road in many parts of the States. We can truthfully say that we have nothing like them in this country!

The president added that it is equally true to say that the demands which are being made on our roads are not only heavy, but they are steadily increasing. We have a small and thickly populated country to serve, and the powers that be, wisely enough, have not placed any serious limits on the weight and actual speeds of the vehicles we use on our roads, it being considered that it was the duty of the road engineer to keep abreast of the times. The natural result of this has been better and still better roads, and everyone concerned in their construction has risen to the occasion. But the position, once easy, is now not only more difficult, but the engineers are asking themselves whether we shall, as roadmakers, be able to keep pace with the demands. Mr. Dryland said: "There may be political reasons of a very sound nature for restricting expenditure on roads temporarily, but so far as I can see no good purpose can be served by holding back, as all experience goes to show that the longer a desirable work is put off, the greater the cost." Everyone knows that from a commercial point of view money sunk in road construction is a sound and remunerative investment, a truth which people in the Near East are beginning to learn. But to return to this country: The improved road surfaces that have been provided during the past ten years or so, and, in fact, even since the State began to render tangible assistance, have shown that the better the construction the smaller the

amount that has to be spent in maintenance costs, in addition to the better and greater service they have afforded.

The Singapore Floating Dock.

One of the branches of engineering in which this country has always held the foremost position is that of floating dock building, and the work just completed by Swan, Hunter and Wigham Richardson shows that we are in no danger of losing the lead. To build the 50,000-ton floating dock for the new Singapore Naval base, to the order of the British Admiralty, in ten months, is a fine achievement, and one of which the firm may well feel proud. Ten months from the laying of the first plate to the launching of the last of the seven sections! The best piece of work carried out by the firm previously to this was, I suppose, the building of the 11,000-ton Stetin floating dock in 7½ months, which was closely followed by the building of a 12,000-ton floating dock for the Spanish Government. That was completed and towed to Habana within eleven months, and one of the other important contracts of the company was the construction of the 33,000-ton floating dock for use in the mouth of the Medway for the Admiralty.

A Record High Building.

If you cannot extend outwards, you must build upwards. New York engineers know no exception to this rule and so the city of skyscrapers is to beat its own record and put up a 52-story office building. This will be known as the Lincoln Building, and it will occupy an acre of ground, and have a total height of an eighth of a mile. The account reminds me that South America is experimenting in the direction of high buildings, the new Hotel Palacio Salvo at Montevideo being 28 stories in height and rising 338 feet above street level. New York has just been busy with the new Master Printers' building which is 20 stories high. I see that altogether 647 big buildings have been constructed in reinforced concrete in the United States recently of over 10 stories in height. The rapid increase in the use of the tall steel frame building, with concrete case is attributed, in engineering circles, to the cheapness of steel and concrete, to its great durability and fire proof character, and to the speed with which its erection can be carried out.

M. Michalakopoulos, the Greek Foreign Minister, denies the report that the Franco-Greek Commercial Treaty has been annulled.

A contract for eighteen locomotives for the Indian railways has been given to Nasmyth, Wilson, and Co., Manchester.

Roumania's Customs receipts from January 1 to April 30 were as follows:—Export taxes, 233,564,702 lei; import taxes, 2,116,886,127 lei; sundries, 109,291,567 lei; total, 2,459,742,395 lei.

Roumania's output of petroleum during the first quarter of 1928 was as follows (in Departments):—Prahova, 667,611 tons; Dambovitza, 251,155 tons; Buzan, 28,374 tons; Bacau, 15,761 tons; total, 962,901 tons.

It is anticipated that this year's plum crop in Yugoslavia will produce 3,500 and 4,000 tons of prunes, which will mean that a smaller quantity will be available for export than was the case last year.

A number of further alterations have been made in the regulations governing Roumania's exports. Some exports, which were prohibited, are now permitted, subject to a tax. The export tax on sugar is now 500 lei per wagon, and on wheaten flour 1,000 lei per wagon.

The output of minerals in Yugoslavia in 1927 was as follows:—Pyrites, 57,003 tons; copper ore, 288,040 tons; iron ore, 336,099 tons; zinc, 1,066 tons; chrome, 8,756 tons; manganese, 1,971 tons; antimony, 1,162 tons; marble, 3,070 tons; bauxite, 100,327 tons; magnesite, 1,030 tons; and gypsum, 1,063 tons.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

Country.	Method of Quoting.	Parity of Exchange.	Latest Quotations.
Alexandria.....	Piastre to £	97½	97½
Amsterdam	Florins to £	12.107	12.10
Athens	Drachmæ to £ ..	25.22½	375
Belgrade.....	Dinars to £	25.22½	277
Berlin	Marks to £	20.43	20.41½
Berne	Francs to £	25.22½	25.30
Bombay	Sterling to Rupee	18d.	17½—29.32
Brussels	Belga to £	35	34.92
Bucharest	Lei to £	25.22½	796
Budapest	Peu to £	27.82	27.96½
Calcutta	Sterling to Rupee	18d.	17½—29.32
Constantinople	Piastres to £	110	957½
New York	Dollars to £	4.86 2-3	4.87½—11/16
Paris	Francs to £	25.22½	124.20
Prague	Kronen to £	24.02	164½
Rome	Lire to £	25.22½	92.77½
Sofia	Leva to £	25.22½	674
Teheran	Krans to £	47½	47½
Vienna	Sch to £	34.58	34.63
Warsaw	Zlotv to £	25.22½	434

Company Meetings.

IMPERIAL BANK OF PERSIA.

Projected Trans-Persian Railway.

Sir Hugh Barnes' Speech.

The thirty-ninth ordinary general meeting of the Imperial Bank of Persia was held on July 2 at the Cannon Street Hotel, Cannon Street, E.C., Sir Hugh S. Barnes, K.C.S.I., K.C.V.O. (Chairman), presiding.

The Manager (Mr. Sydney Rogers) having read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors,

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said: Gentlemen,—I feel my first duty to-day is to remind you of the loss the bank has sustained by the sudden death, on January 19, of our friend and colleague, Mr. David Gubbay, of Messrs. David Sassoon and Co. Many of you will remember that Mr. Gubbay was elected to the Board after the death of Mr. Frederick Sassoon in May, 1917. He had been with us, therefore, for 10½ years, a long and very pleasant association now sadly brought to a close. His knowledge of trade in the East was of great value in our discussions, and we have all felt his death very keenly both from the personal and the business point of view.

At one time it was supposed that Dr. Millspaugh's contract, which terminated last December, would be renewed, though with some diminution of his powers, as administrator-general, but this expectation was not realised, and only one of his financial staff, Major Davis, who has been acting as treasurer-general, now remains in Teheran. In the last few days we have learnt that he also is on the eve of departure, and that a Mr. Walder, a Swiss banker, has been appointed in his place.

Another very interesting move on the part of the Persian Government has been the decision to commence the construction of what is intended ultimately to be a Trans-Persian Railway, from the Persian Gulf to the Caspian Sea. Apparently it is not yet decided whether in the south the railway will start from Mohammerah or Khor Musa. It is, therefore, proposed to commence construction of the southern section from Ahwaz, on the Karun River, whence it is expected the line will run via Kermanshah, Hamadan, and Kazvin to Teheran, and thence through an eastern gap in the Elburz range to Bandar-i-gaz, on the south-east shore of the Caspian.

At first the Persian Government proposed to construct the line themselves, and tenders for material were invited, many of which passed through our London office. But the wiser course has now been adopted of constructing the line by contract, and I understand a syndicate has been formed for the purpose, composed of American, British, German, and French firms, to whom the contract will be given. It is proposed to begin construction simultaneously from both ends, the northern section being entrusted to the American, German, and French firms, and the southern to the American and British.

The project is certainly an ambitious one, and so far as we know no complete estimate of cost has yet been prepared. The total length of the line as planned can hardly be less than 800 miles, and if, as is reported, it is to be made on a gauge of 4 ft. 8½ in., it will certainly be very expensive, for much of the country through which it will pass is very difficult. But the Persian Government have accumulated a large sum from the proceeds during the past 2½ years of the surtax on tea and sugar, so there will probably be little difficulty in financing the initial stages of construction.

New Commercial Treaty.

I mentioned last year that in order to get rid of the capitulations conferring on foreigners resident in Persia the privilege of extra-territorial jurisdiction the Persian Government had denounced all its commercial treaties with the various European Powers and the United States. These treaties came to an end on May 10 last. With effect from that date the British Government have concluded a fresh treaty with Persia dealing with commercial matters only. The treaty recognises Persia's full autonomy in regard to Customs duties and provides that British goods entering Persia shall enjoy the benefit of the minimum rates of the Persian tariff in force, and shall not be subject to any import taxes higher than those imposed on similar goods imported from other foreign countries. As regards the exercise of their novel jurisdiction over foreigners, the Persian Government, in order to allay anxiety, have communicated to the British Minister a Note laying down in considerable detail the rules of procedure their Courts will be expected to observe in cases both civil and criminal in which British nationals may be concerned. These rules and the safeguards they provide are unexceptional so far as they go, and they are evidence of a sincere desire and determination on the part of the Persian Government to establish Courts and methods of procedure in which the foreigners may have confidence.

In all these matters it is possible to trace the influence of the commanding personality of His Majesty the Shah, and it is due to his zeal and determination that the railway project has at last taken a definite shape. There are indications also of a desire on his part to encourage the industrial development of the country, and schemes are said to be on foot for the erection of smelting works in the north to enable rails to be manufactured locally, and also for the establishment of a tannery and a paper manufactory near Teheran.

All these matters are, of course, of much interest to the bank as our business is closely bound up with the prosperity of the country and the increase of its trade.

Another matter which deserves mention is the decision to establish a Persian national bank. In May, 1927, the Persian Maglis passed a law providing for the establishment of a Government bank, to be called the National Bank of Persia, with a capital not exceeding 20,000,000 tomans, which, at the present rate of exchange, is about £4,500,000. The capital as required was to be provided by the Government at first out of any funds available, and ultimately out of the proceeds of the sale of the Crown jewels and Crown lands, and the bank was authorised to accept deposits and to lend money for the purpose of assisting trade, industry, and agriculture.

By the bank's statutes subsequently drawn up, the issued capital was limited for the time being to 2,000,000 tomans (£450,000), divided into 20,000 shares of 100 tomans each, of which 40 tomans were to be paid up. All the shares were to be held by Government and Dr. Lindenblatt, the Financial Adviser, was nominated the director of the bank. So far as we are aware, there is no immediate intention to sell the Crown jewels, and up to date only a small sum has been paid up as a first subscription towards the capital.

The Accounts.

As regards the accounts, gentlemen, I do not think you will expect me to say very much, as they are in the usual form. From the balance-sheet you will notice that our operations during the year show steady progress, which is a matter for congratulation, seeing that trade has not been as active as we hoped. But you will see that on the assets side of the account we possess no less than £5,753,685 in cash and money at call, and we also hold securities easily realisable to the amount of £3,003,719, so that we are in a position to deal with any demands that may be made on us if trade revives.

These two items show a marked increase on last year's figures, owing chiefly to the increased deposits lodged with us temporarily by the Persian Government, mainly out of the proceeds of the surtax on tea and sugar. These deposits will, no doubt, be gradually withdrawn when expenditure on the railway begins in earnest, and the circulation of the money should tend to improve trade.

On the liabilities side you will observe that notes in circulation show the considerable increase of £373,031. This is partly owing to the dearth of silver coin to which I have alluded, and I have already explained the reason for the increase in deposits, which have risen from £6,483,000 to £7,804,000. The profit and loss account needs no explanation. Our disposable balance is £169,646 5s. 4d., almost the same as last year, and we dealt with it in the same way, with the difference that in place of a dividend of 6s. and a bonus of 1s. per share, we propose to pay a final dividend of 7s.

You will see that, with the proposed transfer of £50,000 to the reserve account, our reserve will now stand at £570,000, or only £80,000 less than our issued capital. With ordinary good fortune we may hope that in two years at most it will equal our capital, an aim which, with your approval, we have always had in view. (Hear, hear.)

I must not conclude without a word of commendation of the excellent work done by our staff both here and in Persia, during the past year. They have well maintained their reputation for cheerful and willing service, and, with your approval, we propose to grant them the usual annual bonus.

I have now to move: "That the report presented be adopted, that the accounts to March 20 as rendered be accepted, and that a final dividend of 7s. per share, payable free of income tax, be and is hereby confirmed."

Colonel Sir A. Henry McMahon, G.C.M.G., G.C.V.O., K.C.I.E., seconded the resolution and, no questions being asked, it was at once put to the meeting and carried unanimously.

On the motion of Mr. V. A. Caesar Hawkins, seconded by Mr. E. A. Chettle, the retiring directors, Sir Hugh S. Barnes, K.C.S.I., K.C.V.O., and Mr. W. A. Buchanan, were re-elected.

The auditors, Messrs. Kemp Chatteris Nichols Sendell and Co., were reappointed on the proposition of Colonel Haig, seconded by Mr. McMurray.

Tribute to Directors.

Mr. Vere Herbert Smith said that he would like to propose a vote of thanks to the Chairman for his interesting speech, to the Board of Directors, and to the management and staff in London and abroad. He wished particularly to thank the members of the staff in Persia. That brought him to the interesting question of the remuneration of the directors. If any apology on his part was necessary for taking that business in hand, he would remind the proprietors that the charter of the bank was obtained in 1889 and he had become a shareholder in that year. He did not think it likely that any shareholder present at the meeting had been a shareholder for a longer period. Their valued manager, who was also now a director, Mr. Sydney Rogers, had joined the company in the year 1892.

At the meeting last year Mr. Wilson, a shareholder, had brought forward the proposal which he (the speaker) was about to bring forward on the present occasion, but, owing to the necessary notice not having been given, it could not be proceeded with on that occasion. Mr. Wilson had so thoroughly explained the reasons why it was desirable to increase the remuneration of the Board that

it was not necessary to say anything further on the present occasion, and he would therefore propose that the remuneration of the Board should be increased from £5,000 a year to £7,500 a year, and that they should be voted a bonus of £2,500, less income tax, for the year under review.

The motion was seconded by Colonel G. R. C. Westropp, C.B., and carried unanimously, and after a brief acknowledgment by the Chairman the proceedings terminated.

KASSALA COTTON COMPANY.

Prospects Under the New Concession.

The Hon. Arthur Asquith's Speech.

The fifth ordinary general meeting of the Kassala Cotton Company, Limited, was held on June 28 at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, E.C. The Hon. Arthur M. Asquith, D.S.O. (the Chairman), presided.

The Secretary (Mr. W. O. Simms) having read the notice convening the meeting and the auditors' report,

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said:—Gentlemen,—I presume you will agree to take the balance-sheet and accounts as read.

I take this opportunity of referring to the loss which the Sudan Government are suffering by the departure of Sir George Schuster, their late Financial Secretary, to take up his appointment as Financial Secretary to the Government of India.

If you will turn to the balance-sheet you will see on the liabilities side that another and final call of 10s. has been made on the preference shares, so that our whole share capital is now issued and fully paid up.

Creditors and credit balances stand at £62,022 14s. 10d. The main items which go to compose this figure are approximately £18,000 for taxation and £32,000 due to our tenants and since paid.

On the assets side, balance of expenditure in respect of the concession in the Gash Delta, surrendered as from June 30, 1927, stands at the figure of £545,184 15s. 4d., a figure arrived at by adding together our contribution to the cost of the Kassala Railway (which last year came under the heading of "concession account") and the company's other capital expenditure at Kassala up to the date of the surrender of its Kassala concession, less amounts recovered from the

Government in cash. As stated in the report, of this £545,184 15s. 4d., £329,969 10s. is to be refunded to us by the Government by forty-six half-yearly instalments, and of these one instalment has been received. For recovery of the balance—namely, £215,215 5s. 4d.—we depend upon our share of the proceeds of the cotton crops to be grown on our new concession area. Account has been taken of our having to recover this sum in calculating what our share of such proceeds should be, and our share is accordingly to be larger than would otherwise have been the case.

The arrangement for calculating it may appear to you to be rather complicated, but its effect is, briefly, that we receive 30 per cent. of the net proceeds of the crop up to a certain figure or datum line. If the net proceeds exceed that figure our share is calculated on a reduced scale.

To give concrete examples of how this would work—supposing the total net proceeds of the crop were £200,000, the tenants' share would be £80,000, and as the balance, i.e., £120,000, is below the £159,514 datum line, the company's share would be one-half of this £120,000, i.e., £60,000. If, on the other hand, the total net proceeds of the crop were £300,000, the tenants' 40 per cent. would take £120,000, and the 60 per cent. to be shared by the Government and the company would be £180,000. As this exceeds the £159,514 datum line the reduced scale would operate, and, instead of receiving half of £180,000—namely, £90,000—we should receive £57,953 plus one-quarter of the amount by which £180,000 exceeds £72,300, i.e., £26,925, or a total of £84,878.

To return to the balance-sheet, the balance payable by the Sudan Government (since paid), £53,217 6s. 11d., includes capital and running expenses incurred by the company on the Government's behalf after the date of the surrender of the concession. The Sudan Government, having taken over our position in Kassala, have now refunded us this sum.

Liquid Resources.

Cash at bankers and in hand is £358,993 7s. 1d. You will be glad to see that we are well provided with liquid resources. The increase here is, of course, due partly to our having called up during the year £125,000 on our preference shares, partly to our cotton profits, and partly to our expenses in the Gash Delta having ceased.

Turning to the profit and loss account, you will see that general expenses are down, in round figures, from £23,603 to £12,471. This is due to the fact that, under the terms of our settlement with the Sudan Government, they became responsible for all our expenses at Kassala and for certain other items of expenses as from July 1 last.

Mr. Fleming, our manager, and the other members of our local staff supervised the planting of the cotton last autumn. Mr. Fleming finished handing over to the representative of the Sudan Government early this year, and he and Mr. Telford, our chief engineer, proceeded to the Gezira to put in hand development work on our new area.

The rest of our local staff have remained at Kassala working under the Government's representative upon the harvesting of what has proved to be a record crop; 65,568 kantars have been picked, and this cotton will belong to the Government and the tenants. I am very glad that in this the last year of our work in the Gash Delta our staff should have been able to produce for the Government so fine a crop. In passing I may mention that the Government have asked us to market for them the 1928 and 1929 Kassala cotton crops, and we have agreed to do this work on the basis of a modest commission.

To return to the profit and loss account, you will see that we have provided £5,000 for taxation and £1,800 as a bonus to our Sudan staff. Our Sudan staff have done excellent work under trying conditions in producing the good crop, of which we see the results in the present accounts, and Mr. MacIntyre, to whom we are chiefly indebted for the smooth handing over to the Government of our affairs in Kassala, will, I think, bear me out when I say that the loyal co-operation of our local staff greatly helped him in his task. I feel sure that you will back the directors in this recognition of their good work. You will realise that the negotiations of last year threw an extra load of work also upon our secretary and other members of our London staff, and I should like to express our appreciation of the services they have rendered. (Hear, hear.)

Turning to the creditor side, you will observe that our cotton account and other receipts amounted last year to £111,143, as against £48,686 in the previous year. Our crop was much larger, 54,128 kantars as against 22,547 in the previous year; it was of excellent quality, and the prices realised were better than those realised in 1926. Our profit for the year was £91,269, and, after adding our balance brought forwards, £15,992, and deducting debenture interest, £30,000, we go out of the year 1927 with a carry-forward of £77,262. We can have no revenues from cotton in the year 1928, nor in the year 1929, and we must therefore carry forward this sum to meet our debenture interest and other expenses. We hope that cotton revenues will begin to accrue to us from our new concession area in the Gezira in 1930. I am afraid that shareholders have had to wait a long time for dividends, but, bearing in mind all the circumstances, I do not regret our exchange of concessions, as I am convinced that we have better prospects with the new concession than with the old, and I believe that, granted reasonable yields and prices, better times are ahead of us.

I now beg to move: "That the report of the directors and statement of accounts to December 31, 1927, now laid before the meeting, be and they are hereby received and adopted."



The Postal Account

It is often supposed that to live a long way from the nearest branch of a bank, or to be constantly unable to go to the bank in person, is a handicap to the enjoyment of the full advantages which, it is admitted, a banking account offers. Perhaps it is assumed that to conduct an account by post involves 'more letter-writing', or is costly, or is not welcomed by the Bank. It is the aim of the Westminster Bank to dispel such misconceptions by a leaflet entitled *The Postal Account*, which explains the convenience of the method, and offers some clear suggestions.

*A copy will be gladly sent
on application to
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WESTMINSTER BANK
LIMITED

Head Office: 41 Lothbury, London, E.C.2

Managing Director's Statement.

Mr. Alexander MacIntyre (managing director).—Gentlemen,—Our chairman has asked me to say a few words about our new concession and the work done there so far.

The area comprises 45,000 acres of land, and is situated alongside the western boundary of the land already being cultivated by the Sudan Plantations Syndicate on the Gezira Plain. A soil survey was made jointly with the Sudan Government Agricultural Department for the selection of the most suitable land within the defined limits of the concession area, and it was agreed to eliminate certain plots of unsuitable land. The quality of the soil is good and is up to the standard of the average land cultivated by the Sudan Plantations Syndicate. Afterwards, in conjunction with the Sudan Government Irrigation Department, the layout of the major and minor canalisation systems was designed and agreed. The supply of water for the irrigation of our cotton and other crops will be from the Sennar Dam.

After settling all accounts and on handing over to the Sudan Government's representative the old Kassala concession, Mr. Fleming, our manager, arrived in the Gezira and took up his duties there in February last. At the moment the Sudan Government Irrigation Service are pushing ahead with the construction of the major canalisation to serve the new area, and we on our part are carrying out the development of the land, minor canalisation, erection of buildings, and providing the necessary light railways and ginning factories to serve our area, and I am pleased to be able to tell you that the work is proceeding smoothly and rapidly. This could only be achieved by our having an experienced staff accustomed to the country. The greater part of the minor canalisation has been completed on a block of 15,000 acres, and, in co-operation with the Sudan Plantations Syndicate, about 40 kilometres of light railway have been laid to link up with the existing system of light railway in order to transport materials required for our building programme and development.

During August and September—the rainy season in the Sudan—development work will have to be closed down, but in October we propose to canalise and develop a further block of 15,000 feddans and to have the greater part of this completed before July, 1929.

Now, with regard to our first cotton crop, we hope to get 5,000 acres—that is, one-third of the first 15,000-acre block—planted in cotton in July, 1929, and if all goes well we hope also to get a part of the second block of 15,000 acres of cotton planted at the same date. This means that we shall have to have our ploughing tackle ready and working in October of this year. I must, however, point out that the area which we shall get planted in July, 1929, must entirely depend on how far the Sudan Government Irrigation Department will have completed their works before that date. I thoroughly endorse our chairman's remarks regarding the loyal co-operation of our Sudan staff during the difficult period when handing over our original concession to the Sudan Government.

Gentlemen, I have much pleasure in seconding the motion put by our chairman. (Cheers.)

The Chairman having replied to questions, the resolution was carried unanimously.

The retiring directors (Lt.-Col. S. H. Pollen, C.M.G., and Mr. Alexander MacIntyre) were re-elected, and Messrs. Cooper Brothers and Co. were reappointed auditors.

A vote of thanks to the chairman and directors, as well as to the managing director and staff, concluded the proceedings.

EGYPTIAN HOTELS.

Prosperity Continued.

Sir William Peat's Speech.

The thirty-first annual general meeting of the Egyptian Hotels, Ltd., was held on June 29 at the registered offices of the company, 11, Ironmonger Lane, E.C., Sir William B. Peat, C.V.O. (the Chairman), presiding.

The notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors having been read,

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said: Gentlemen,—I am pleased to be able to inform you that the company has again experienced a very successful year, and a small increase of profit is shown when compared with the highly satisfactory results of the preceding year. The dividend recommended by the directors is at the same rate as that for the previous year—that is, 35 per cent., with a bonus of 4s. per share.

The company has now absorbed the whole of the business of the Societe Suisse Egyptienne des Hotels, and has acquired the whole of the assets of that undertaking. The assets so taken over comprise the hotel building known as the Semiramis Hotel, and plant and fixtures and furniture therein. The building and furniture have been maintained in an excellent state of repair, and sections thereof have been completely redecorated and furnished in modern fashion. Land adjoining the hotel has been acquired for the purpose of extending the existing hotel building, and it has been decided to settle plans and estimates in connexion with this extension during the ensuing year. It is hoped that the extension will be ready for the season 1929-30.

A new floor has been added to that part of Shepheards Hotel called the Annexe, giving additional accommodation of 21 rooms. The Annexe has been furnished in a most comfortable and luxurious

manner, and is a great improvement to the hotel. Some 30 rooms in the old section of the building have been entirely renovated and hot and cold-water fittings installed in a number of the rooms.

The Balance-sheet.

I have the following observations to make in regard to the balance-sheet of the company as at April 30, 1928.

It will be observed that additions of considerable amount have been made to the items of freehold and leasehold land and buildings, and plant and fixtures. These additions mainly comprise the Semiramis Hotel and plant and furniture therein, which, as already mentioned, has been acquired from the Societe Suisse Egyptienne des Hotels. The investments and advance to the Societe Suisse Egyptienne des Hotels, as shown in previous balance-sheets, have disappeared as the result of this transaction.

The loan from bankers, which at April 30, 1927, amounted to £32,281 9s. 10d., has been repaid during the year, and the liability to Les Grands Hotels d'Egypte has been reduced from £41,025 to £30,760. Apart from these items there is no material change to record in any of the other assets and liabilities appearing in the balance-sheet.

There is a balance of cash at bank and in hand of £94,175, which will be considerably reduced by the payment of the dividends and bonuses which the directors recommend for the year.

An amount of £6,936 has been written off for depreciation in respect of plant, fixtures, and fittings for the year to April 30, 1928; this sum is £600 in excess of the amount provided for the previous year, and in the opinion of the local Board is an adequate provision.

It will be observed from the balance-sheet that the fixed assets of the company, i.e., the freehold and leasehold land, buildings, plant, fixtures and furniture, including additions during the past year of £112,847, now total £363,000, which is £123,000 in excess of the subscribed capital of the company.

I cannot conclude without expressing to the local Board in Egypt and the managerial and other staff associated with them, our appreciation of their services. It is also my duty to convey to the managing director, Mr. Baehler, who is present to-day, our indebtedness to him for the unsparing efforts he has made in administering and developing the company's business, and to whose ability is so largely due the success which the company has attained.

Mr. Charles Baehler, in seconding the resolution, pointed out that before the War the company had about 500 beds, whereas to-day in their two hotels—Shepheards and Semiramis—they had 900, besides 1,300 which they had on lease from the Grand Hotel Company. The local Board entered into this lease—for the four hotels of the company—after very careful consideration. They had, of course, a very difficult problem to deal with in taking over a lease involving a rental of £40,000 per annum, but he was glad to say—as would, in fact, have been seen in the last three reports—that it had been very successful and had added greatly to the revenues of the company. They had thus now under control about 2,200 beds in the organisation of the Egyptian Hotels, and adding those of the Upper Egypt Company, which was in very intimate relationship with this company, they had altogether nearly 4,000 beds in Egypt.

This meant that they had practically all the first-class accommodation in Egypt, and, as was shown by the accounts presented, the results had been successful in every way. He wished also to point out to the shareholders that the company had absorbed the Semiramis Hotel, which was a magnificent building on the banks of the Nile. In 1910 they took over two-thirds of the shares, and since then they had absorbed the whole interest; that was to say, they had bought, out of their own resources, not only the freehold, but the furniture and everything, including the land adjoining, without any increase of capital.

Increasing Demand for Accommodation.

The local Board had done all in its power to cope with the increasing demand for accommodation, thus adding to the comfort of visitors to the hotels, especially by adding a number of rooms at Shepheards as well as in the hotels of the Grand Hotel Company. This had been absolutely necessary in view of the enormous demand at certain times of the year.

Shareholders would notice that an extraordinary general meeting had been called for the purpose of altering the articles of association with a view to enabling the shareholders in Egypt, who held about 97 per cent. of the shares, which were all Bearer shares, to vote by proxy at the meetings of the company. So far they had not been able to do this, but the demand on the part of the Egyptian shareholders was quite reasonable, seeing that they could not attend the meetings personally.

He would not like to conclude his remarks without pointing out that the management of the company's business now necessitated a large personnel, which, however, dealt with the work in a masterly way. He was sure they would be glad to know that the shareholders appreciated the efforts they were making towards the good conduct of affairs. Their task was by no means easy, because every autumn they had to begin their organisation over again. In an ordinary hotel business which went on from January to December the organisation was an easy matter to deal with, but in their own case they had to begin again every year, and in that respect he wished to say that the personnel merited the congratulations of the shareholders.

The resolution was then put to the meeting and carried unanimously, and the dividends recommended were declared.

Mr. Baehler, in proposing the re-election of Sir William B. Peat as a director of the company, spoke in appreciative terms of the

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services he had been able to render in the interests of the shareholders since the foundation of the company.

Mr. H. M. Snow, M.V.O., seconded the motion, which was unanimously agreed to, and the Chairman expressed his thanks in suitable terms.

The auditors (Messrs. Turquand Youngs and Co.) were reappointed.

An extra-ordinary general meeting was afterwards held for the purpose of submitting a resolution altering the articles of association.

OTTOMAN BANK.

Conditions in Turkey.

The sixty-first annual general meeting of shareholders of the Ottoman Bank was held on June 27 at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, London, E.C. General the Hon. Sir Herbert A. Lawrence, G.C.B., presided.

The Secretary (Mr. Charles E. L. Corthorn) having read the notice convening the meeting,

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, reviewed the conditions in the various regions with which the bank is concerned. He said that Turkey, during 1927, continued to pursue its efforts for developing its natural resources, but circumstances arose which hampered the efforts for economic progress. Those circumstances were in the main due to climatic conditions unfavourable to agriculture. The new remissions of taxes in favour of agriculture encouraged an extension of the areas under cultivation. Unfortunately an intense and prolonged drought delayed sowings. The cereal yield, inferior by 30 per cent. to that of 1926, and hardly better than that of 1924, had been undeniably bad in the producing centres. It was a question whether the accumulated stocks of the previous campaigns would this year meet the country's needs without recourse to imports of foreign grain. The shortage of skilled labour and available capital was the cause of a lack of development in industry, and the installations during the year of a sawmill at Boz-Euyuk, a cement factory at Angora, and a few carpet looms could only be regarded as minor indications of development.

The execution of the extensive railway programme, which he mentioned on a former occasion, had been continued in spite of some difficulty. Up to December 31, 1927, 519 kilometres of new lines from Angora to Cesarea and from Samsoun to Amassia had been opened to traffic, and 2,000 kilometres were in course of construction. To carry out works of such importance the Government was obliged to enter into contracts which might affect future Budgets.

The policy of budgetary equilibrium upon which the Grand National Assembly showed itself firmly resolved in the recent vote of the Finance Law 1928-29 was praiseworthy. However, it had to be borne in mind that an expenditure of some 200 million Turkish pounds, or even 270 million Turkish pounds if account is taken of municipal taxes, demanded, from a population of about 13,500,000 inhabitants, one-third of the national revenue, estimated by experts at 800 million Turkish pounds. Such a charge could not fail to influence commercial transactions, especially in a period of depression such as that prevailing during the past year.

The only Customs statistics available for 1927 related to the month of January, and it was therefore not yet possible to appreciate the influence of the crisis on foreign trade, which must have been, on the other hand, favoured by the conclusion of several commercial agreements. Compared with those of 1925 the round figures of exports in 1926 showed, on the one hand, a slight expansion in quantities (771,410,000 kilogrammes against 668,851,000), and, on the other hand, a falling off in values (187 million Turkish pounds against 193 million Turkish pounds), mainly due to the fall in prices. Imports, thanks to the abundant harvests of 1925 and 1926, showed a reduction in foodstuffs, totalling in weight and value 628,017,000 kilogrammes, against 732,234,000 kilogrammes, and 234 million Turkish pounds, against 242 million Turkish pounds. Other purchases and sales, comparing 1925 and 1926, remained about stationary from the one year to the next, and the adverse commercial balance has been reduced by some three million Turkish pounds—i.e., from 50 millions to 47 millions. This reduction, though small, had been a factor in creating greater stability of exchange during 1927.

To take one example only: the pound sterling had varied only for short periods, and then to a small extent, from the mean of 950 piastres, having been at the highest 970 and at the lowest 808. This tendency towards greater stability in the rates of the Turkish pound had inspired the authorities for some months past with a legitimate desire to secure for the exchange a durable and eventually a legal basis. Stabilisation alone could give the money market the elasticity which it now lacked. Under present conditions the market suffered from periodical tightness, which assumed last autumn, for some two to three weeks, a disturbing aspect.

In view of the economic depression, their head office at Constantinople and their branches in Turkish territory had had to exercise during the year particular vigilance with regard to the credits accorded by them, without departing from the principles of liquidity and division of risks. Their results had been thereby affected. In accordance with the engagements taken at the time of the renewal of their privileges, they had pursued their programme of extension by installing themselves at Kirklar-Ili, Tchoum, Bairbourt, and Milas, and reopening the branches closed during the War at Aidin and Bolou.

The influx into Greece of a population from Asia Minor, which

had already formed part of their *clientèle*, had decided them to establish at Athens an affiliated bank under the title of the British-French Discount Bank, Ltd., which was registered in London on March 12, 1928, and which had just started operations. In Greek Macedonia their Salonika and Cavalla branches had felt the effects of the stagnation which was persistent in the market for Oriental tobaccos.

The Chairman went on to deal with conditions in Egypt, Cyprus, Iraq, Persia, Roumania, the Levant, and Yugoslavia, and then referred briefly to the accounts. He said that the assets and liabilities in foreign currencies had, in all cases, been converted into sterling at the rates in force at December 31, 1927. Provision for doubtful debts had been constituted from the profits of the year, as well as from reserves previously made.

The accounts thus made up showed an available balance of £274,244, taking into account the amount of £27,653 4s. brought forward from the preceding year. This balance they proposed to apply as follows:—Payment of a dividend at 5s. per share, absorbing £125,000; carrying to provision for contingencies a sum of £125,000, thus leaving £24,244 to be carried forward for the current year. This policy of prudence, which the committee recommended as the most advisable in the existing circumstances, he hoped would meet with their approval.

The motion was carried unanimously.

CYPRUS CROP PROSPECTS.

The following report has been issued on Cyprus crops in May:—

Wheat.—Harvesting continues; production is estimated to be about 40 per cent. less than that of last year. Rust has appeared in several localities and the quality is poor. Price between 8s. and 9s. a bushel.

Barley.—Threshing has begun. Production is up to the average in quality, but in certain places the crop has suffered from rust and hot winds. Price: 2s. 8d. to 3s. 6d. per bushel.

Oats.—The harvest is in progress. A small crop. Price about 3s. per bushel.

Vetch, Chickling Vetch, Ochrus Vetch, Lentils, and Chick Peas.—Production poor on account of lack of rain during the last few months. The crop is estimated to be about 30 per cent. less than that of last year.

Broad Beans.—Production average.

Onions.—Great demand and high prices have combined to encourage extended planting. A heavy crop is expected.

White Cumin and Aniseed.—Crop below average in quantity owing to shortage of rain.

Potatoes.—The growth is normal, but the plants have shown a tendency to send out strong shoots instead of producing tubers. This phenomenon has been noticed before in plants grown from local seed, but to a very small extent in plants from imported seed. This year, however, it has been generally observed, and the cause is under investigation.

Carobs.—Production is estimated to be between 30 and 40 per cent. less than that of last year.

Oranges and Lemons.—Florescence has been affected by slight frost and later by hot winds. No opinion can be expressed yet on the probable production of the coming season. The price of lemons has been high.

Vines.—Vines are growing normally and the crop is estimated to be very good. Weather at present very favourable.

Cotton.—The area under this crop, for lack of adequate rains, especially under "dry" cotton, is considerably less than that of last year. It is also feared that the production of "wet" cotton will be affected by shortage of irrigation water.

Sericulture.—The production of cocoons is very good in both quantity and quality. Price of fresh cocoons ranges from 13s. 6d. to 16s. 8d. per stone.

TENDERS INVITED.

Tenders are invited for the following contracts, and must be made by the dates mentioned.

(Particulars of tenders marked D.O.T. are to be obtained from the Department of Overseas Trade, 55, Old Queen Street, S.W.1.)

EGYPT.

Paper, Binding Cloth, and Stitching Wire, Etc.—The Egyptian Ministry of Finance invites tenders for the supply of paper, boards, binding cloth, stitching wire, ink, etc., required during the year 1928-29. July 21. (D.O.T.)

Rails.—Tenders are invited by the Ministry of Finance, Survey of Egypt, for the supply of any quantity of rails up to 14,050 tons (8,300 tons light, 5,750 tons heavy). Offers for any portion will be taken into consideration. Offers may be for either new or second-hand rails. July 25. (D.O.T.)

Steel Plates.—The Stores, Egyptian State Railways, Telegraphs, and Telephones, Saptieh, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of 58 steel plates for renewals of four swing bridges. August 23.

Water Filters.—The Director-General, Tanzim Department, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply and erection of four mechanical water filters at Gira and Gezira Water Works at Giza. August 2.

Cotton and Cotton Goods.

THE LIVERPOOL COTTON MARKET.

Messrs. Reynolds and Gibson report as follows for the week ended June 27:—

Egyptian Futures.—Sakel Contract.—Whilst values in this option show a fair appreciation on the week the undertone has throughout inclined to the heavy side. Probably the most apt description of what has taken place is to state that we have somewhat reluctantly followed in the wake of the American markets. At the present juncture outside speculative interest in Sakel is restricted by the following factors, the heavy premium at which we stand over other cottons, continued poor trade reports from the local fine spinning section, and satisfactory new crop reports. In addition to the above, some pressure has latterly been experienced owing to pre-July liquidation; this has forced the month in question to 70 points under November and is an accurate reflection on the poor character of spinners' business recently transacted. Certainly the trade outlook, as far as Lancashire is concerned, is rather depressing at the moment, and all we can say is that although spinners have little cotton on hand, rising values will probably ultimately be for the benefit of consumers both from the view of rendering the carrying of yarn stocks easier and perhaps also of stimulating activity in the overseas markets for the finished product. It rather appears to us that the majority of the "bearish" points have been made too much of by the market during the past two or three weeks; certainly, under their influence, a good proportion of the speculative "long" account has been liquidated, and in addition it would appear that certain interests have latterly started to work on the "short" side. The statistical position increases in strength from week to week, but in spite of this, the Alexandria market has given the same luke-warm reception to the strong American advices as has been experienced at this side.

Upper Contract.—The strongly advancing tendency of the American market since the commencement of the week has reacted materially on the outlook in this contract and prices have advanced 63 to 81 points since our last report. The appreciation has been in face of very moderate trade support, but there are signs that the higher levels obtaining to-day are having the effect of bringing in more trade inquiry. Should this develop, the market will probably respond materially, as, in our opinion, there is a fairly important "short" straddle interest outstanding which will probably be forced to cover, especially should American crop reports continue to give cause for alarm. Cable advices from Egypt report a good demand for the medium grades and also state that the crop continues to make satisfactory progress.

Egyptian Spot.—Both Sakel and Uppers have only been in moderate demand for the greater part of the past week, but to-day there are signs of a considerable broadening in the inquiry, and it appears probable, should the recent advance be maintained, that spinners will start to operate with greater freedom. The turnover transacted during the week has been fairly evenly balanced between Sakel and Uppers. In the former variety, cotton grading from Fair to Good Fair has been in request, but only isolated sales have been recorded in the higher qualities. In Uppers, cotton ranging in value from 30 off to 30 on contracts continues to monopolise the majority of buyers' attention, the top grades attracting very little business from spinners. The lower and inferior qualities of all varieties have been well combed out during recent weeks, and the selection in these now leaves a good deal to be desired. Pilon has been rather neglected and only very occasional transactions in the top grades of this variety have been recorded. Both Sudan and Tokar Sakels have been rather slow of sale, but the basis remains firm, and it appears probable that on any signs of a resumption of activity in the fine sections these qualities will be amongst the first to attract business.

Forwardings to the trade for the week ending the 22nd inst. were returned as 3,803 bales Egyptian and 1,865 bales Sudan. Estimated sales for the week, 1,300 bales Egyptian and 600 bales Sudan. Quotations have been advanced 55 points for Sakel, 60 points for Upper and Pilon. F.G.F. Sakel to-day, 21.05d. F.G.F. Upper to-day, 15.00d. F.G.F. Pilon to-day, 15.60d.

At a meeting of the directors of the P. and O. Banking Corporation, Ltd., it was resolved to recommend at the annual general meeting to be held at 122, Leadenhall Street, London, E.C.3, on July 6, that a dividend of 5 per cent., less tax at 3s. 6d., be paid for the twelve months ended March 31, 1928, leaving £20,494 18s. 10d. to be carried forward.

THE EGYPTIAN MARKET.

The Alexandria Commercial Company, in their report for the week ended June 21, state:—

Since our last report the futures market has been fairly active, but the tone is somewhat uncertain. The week's summary of price movements is as follows:—Sakellaridis: July, 41 dollars, 0.60 dollars up; November, 42.16 dollars, 0.66 dollars up; January, 41.95 dollars, 0.65 dollars up. Ashmouni: June, 27.20 dollars, 0.85 dollars up; August, 27.35 dollars, 0.65 dollars up; October, 27.78 dollars, 0.71 dollars up; December, 28.25 dollars, 0.95 dollars up.

Sakellaridis.—Prices have fluctuated rather wildly, and to-day's close shows an advance of about $\frac{3}{4}$ of a dollar from yesterday. The market is purely a speculative one and the rise is nothing more than the result of fresh purchases by small speculators, some of them being those who sold out last week. The speculative interests are divided and it is almost impossible to anticipate from one day to another which way the market will move. The commercial houses have done very little in the futures market this week.

The demand from abroad shows little change on the week. Apart from France, reports from the consuming countries are very poor reading and all agree that Sakellaridis at present prices leaves no margin of profit. On the other hand, mill stocks are apparently very small and it is on the assumption that spinners must sooner or later come in and buy that the speculators base their hopes. To what extent spinners can cut consumption may prove to be a surprise.

The Sakel/Ashmouni straddle stands to-day at 14.38 dollars, against 14.43 dollars a week ago; the July-November straddle is quoted at 1.16 dollars. The position of Sakellaridis has, in our opinion, not changed from last week; prices are slightly up, but the position remains the same.

Uppers.—This market has been rather better than that of Sakellaridis. There has been less selling this week and there has been some commercial buying. The demand from abroad for this variety has been small but regular, and spinners do not, apparently, consider present prices unreasonable. The June/October straddle stands at 0.58 dollars, against 0.72 dollars last week.

Exports show a drop this week compared with recent weeks, but they must, nevertheless, be considered good in the face of the unsatisfactory state of trade generally.

Spot: The market was closed on Tuesday last for the Muhammadan New Year's Day. Total sales amount to about 7,900 bales, of which we estimate 4,000 bales Sakellaridis, 3,500 bales Ashmouni and Zagora, 300 bales Pilon, and 100 bales other varieties.

Sakellaridis: At the beginning of the week very little interest was shown in this variety; during the last two days, however, the demand has revived and a fair business has been done in all grades up to Fully Good Fair to Good, without much change in spot differences.

Ashmouni and Zagora: Have been in very good demand during the whole week for all grades. Spot differences have stiffened up all round, sellers insisting on the same differences on August as they were previously accepting on June.

Pilon: Is in good demand, but of the better grades there is practically nothing in the market for sale.

Other Varieties: A small business has been done in Nahda and Maarad at about last week's differences.

Crop, 1928.—Crop news is about the same as last week and is satisfactory. The plants are strong and flowering and fruiting well. The leaf worm menace is practically over, but wilt has had a larger toll than usual this year. Water is plentiful, but the requirements are increasing now and isolated complaints are heard; these complaints do not, however, reflect the real position, which is that water is sufficient. Temperature has been favourable.

H.E. Ahmed Ziwar Pasha, Mr. Nicholas G. Cambas and Mr. Robert Rolo have been appointed directors of the New Egyptian Company.

The directors of the Bank of Roumania recommend a final dividend for 1927 of 3s., less tax, per share, again making 6s., less tax, for the year on the fully-paid shares of £6 each.

During the first quarter of 1928 the value of Yugoslavia's imports was 1,915 million dinars; that of the exports being 1,372.5 million dinars, leaving an adverse trade balance of 542.5 millions.

The traffic receipts of the South Indian Railway Company for the week ended June 2 amounted to Rs.13,09,447, making the total from April 1 Rs.1,13,75,309. So far the traffic returns show an increase of Rs.4,65,050 on the figures for the corresponding period of the previous year.

The Eastern Telegraph Company, Ltd., announce the payment of July 14 next of a dividend at the rate of 3½ per cent. per annum, less income tax, on the preference stock of the company for the quarter ending June 30, 1928, and a first quarterly interim dividend of 2½ per cent. on the ordinary stock, free of income tax, in respect of profits for the year ending December 31, 1928. The transfer books of the ordinary stock will be closed from July 2 to July 9, both days inclusive.

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dCity of Trafford Hall	5,321	Aug. 15	Bombay & Karachi
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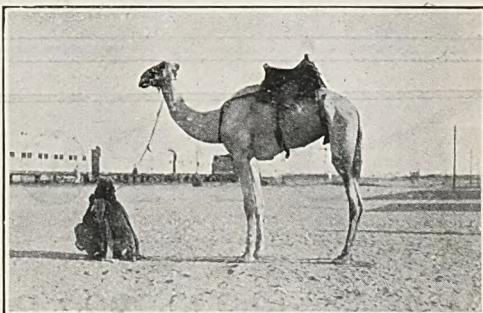
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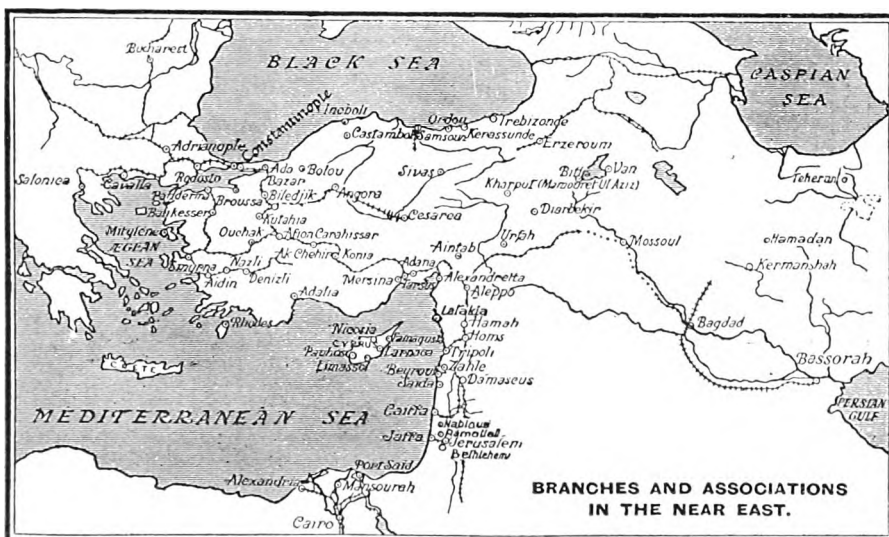
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The NEAR EAST AND INDIA

No. 895.—VOL. XXXIV.

THURSDAY, JULY 12, 1928.

Editorial Offices: "THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA," 170, Strand, London, W.C.2.

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Notes of the Week.

The Political Crisis in Yugoslavia.

The political crisis which has been latent in Yugoslavia since the murders in the Skupshtina on June 20 has come to a head with the resignation of M. Voukitchevitch's Government. By delaying this step the Radical leader has done a grave disservice to his own Party and to the cause of unity in the country. If he had resigned at once and identified himself with the Opposition leaders in a joint denunciation of the tragic *dénouement* given to party quarrels, common ground for co-operation might have been discovered under the shadow of a national catastrophe. M. Voukitchevitch has given the Croats an opportunity to regard the murders as involving at most the Skupshtina—if not the Radical Party exclusively—instead of constituting a humiliation for the whole kingdom. In the view, therefore, of the Peasant-Democrat group there can be no further contact between them and this particular Parliament, nor can the Opposition co-operate with the Government even for the sole purpose of dissolving the Skupshtina and holding new elections. There can be little doubt that M. Raditch will have the support of the great mass of the non-Serb section of the Yugoslav people in his refusal to co-operate with M. Voukitchevitch and the present Parliament. This attitude will not make King Alexander's task any easier. The Radical Party remains the strongest in the Skupshtina, and, if its advice is asked, it will be opposed to any Government that has not a Radical at its head. There is also the desirability, if not the actual necessity, of rati-

fying the Nettuno Conventions without further delay. The only alternative to a new Radical Government would be a Cabinet of Affairs under a Prime Minister not attached to any Party, who would be charged with the task of carrying on the administration until new elections could be held. This was the scheme suggested by M. Raditch several months ago, but it has required a tragic experience on Yugoslavia's part to win general support for it.

The Nettuno Conventions.

The question of the ratification of the Nettuno Conventions is likely to play a large part in the settlement of the Yugoslav crisis. For the late Government, and in particular for the Foreign Minister, it had become a *sine qua non*, and the Radical majority in the Skupshtina was to be used to force ratification through Parliament. Yet Dr. Marinkovitch was careful to state explicitly that no pressure was being brought to bear upon the Yugoslav Government to ratify the Conventions. M. Voukitchevitch's Cabinet, however, remained until the end insistent that Yugoslav interests required their immediate ratification. In the circumstances it is not a matter for surprise that the Croat Opposition refuses to be impressed by the alleged urgency; it accuses the Radical Party of using the Conventions as a means for the retention of, and possibly a return to, office. In view of the fact that the Croats have withdrawn from the Skupshtina, it is obvious that the value of ratification in such circum-

stances would be problematical. Although the text of the Conventions has not been published, enough is known of their terms to suggest that they concern in their actual application Croats, especially Dalmatians, more than Serbs. The agreements are understood to cover a wide field in the economic and social relations of Italians and Yugoslavs; to embody conditions exceptionally favourable for Italians resident on the Dalmatian coast, who in certain circumstances are exempted from compulsory expropriation of real property, and to make provision for the importation of Italian labour. If these concessions were to be accorded by Yugoslavia without Croat acquiescence, the chances of their successful application in the face of local hostility would be remote. From Italy's point of view, therefore, it would seem better to postpone ratification until some attempt had been made to meet Croat susceptibilities. A difficulty in the way is the Italo-Yugoslav Pact of Friendship, which ought to have been renewed last January; an extension of the time limit to the end of July was agreed upon by both parties in the hope that the ratification of the Nettuno Conventions would remove the main obstacle to the renewal of the Pact. Italy would not seem to have much to lose by allowing Yugoslavia longer time to settle her internal differences.

M. Venizelos in Power.

The Ministerial crisis in Greece, which had been brought about by M. Venizelos's challenge of the Government's financial policy, ended, as was anticipated, in the formation of a new Ministry by M. Venizelos himself. He enters upon his fifth premiership at a time when Greece's main need, after more than a decade of internal dissension, is stable government. His name is still one to conjure with for one half of the Greek nation, and even the other half, to which he is anathema, is wearied of political strife, of the indeterminate struggle over the form of government, and it can put up no serious rival to M. Venizelos as a leader of people. The new Prime Minister starts with the great advantage of representing the rule of one mind instead of perpetuating the administrative stagnation that resulted from the attempt to reconcile various conflicting views and personal rivalries before any Cabinet decision could be recorded. It would seem, therefore, to require only a tactful gesture on M. Venizelos's part, if not to win the great majority of the people to his side, at least to secure their acquiescence in his régime, as a means of escape from the barren contests of rival political leaders. Whether he is capable of such a gesture remains to be seen. Between him and the people stand the numerous

party leaders, who find themselves dwarfed by the Colossus and will be at pains to keep him embroiled in political squabbles.

The First Tug-of-War.

The first item on the political leaders' programme for stultifying as far as possible M. Venizelos's tenure of office turns on the merits of the two electoral systems, proportional representation and the majority system with small constituencies. The former was introduced in the Republican Constitution, and, being found to be favourable to the multiplicity of political parties, is strongly established in the favour of the leaders, of both Monarchist and Republican leanings. M. Venizelos, who has always been conspicuous for the independence of his opinions, is opposed to the manifest shortcomings of proportional representation in Greece, and would have the country return at the next elections to the majority system. Parliament, however, has now been dissolved, and elections are to take place on August 19. If a change in the electoral system is to be made, it can be done only by Presidential decree. On the legality of this step the political leaders join issue at once with the Prime Minister, and are thereby saved from having to defend proportional representation in their own interests. They are able to transfer the dispute to the vantage ground that support of constitutionalism affords them. If M. Venizelos yields, he will have lost ground in the first encounter, and will probably have helped to prolong the existence of numerous parties of no political merit in the Greek Chamber. If he stands firm and insists on the majority system, his breach of a Constitution of dubious constitutionalism, will be a useful handle to other party leaders.

The Murder of General Protogueroff.

The murder in Sofia of General Alexander Protogueroff, head of the Macedonian Internal Revolutionary Organisation, removes the last of the three chiefs who in recent years have made that body a substantial thorn in the side of Europe, or at least of its south-eastern portion. Todor Alexandroff was assassinated in August, 1924; Peter Chauleff, who had seceded, as it was supposed, in response to Communist blandishments, was killed in Italy in the following December, and now on July 7 Protogueroff himself dies a violent death. It is unnecessary to attempt to follow the course of the vendetta which has successively removed the most prominent members of a blood-stained organisation. Patriots at heart, they were the victims of an environment which they tried unsuccessfully to mould to their own views. The only methods known to them, or at least that commended themselves to them, entailed resort to arms, at first open guerilla warfare and finally cowardly assassination. Whether in the end their power rested solely on intimidation or was helped by personal devotion on the part of the followers cannot be accurately gauged. Hitherto, Macedonian sufferings and Macedonian outrages have formed a vicious circle. It is conceivable that, if before other chiefs step into the position of General Protogueroff, a conscientious effort were made to remove the grievance, the record of outrages might be terminated. All Macedonians are not committed to the methods of the Internal Revolutionary Organisation; but so long as they can point to deeds of violence, torture and oppression by uniformed officials, it is not surprising that assassins can be found to avenge the wrongs of their fellow-countrymen. It is alleged, with what truth we do not know, that since February last eighty-three Macedonians have been placed on trial by the Serbian authorities, and nine death sentences passed. Revelations in the Skupshtina suggest that the fate of even Serb prisoners in Serbian prisons is enough to make potential assassins of all their relatives, and it is certain that Macedonian suspects will not be more favourably treated. A political amnesty for all Macedonians at this particular moment would raise the reputation of Serbia in Europe and might well lead to a marked improvement in

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the state of Southern Serbia. If it were followed by long-overdue concessions to minorities in that province, Europe would be well on the way to hearing the last of the Macedonian movement.

Suspense in Syria.

In the interregnum between the gathering of the Constituent Assembly at Damascus and the actual promulgation of the Constitution for Syria, rumour is succeeding rumour upon the nature of that Constitution, and particularly, if Syria is to be a monarchy, upon the occupant of the Throne at Damascus. It is stated, for instance, by one of the local Arab papers that the French have been considering seriously the possibility of Faisal as Saoud's becoming King; it is asserted elsewhere, on the other hand, that they are all in favour of a Republic for their mandated territory. Prognostication is impossible amid this welter of reports. There are some Royalists who hold that a monarchy would be best for Syria but for the impossibility of obtaining a King who, being almost of necessity, a non-Syrian, would not command universal assent; and there are other Royalists who, although supporting a monarchy for a country like Iraq, are actually advocating a republic in Syria for fear that some rival of the Hashimite family might obtain the coveted honour. All that can be said at the present moment, therefore, is that the probabilities, so far as opinion in Syria has disclosed itself, are in favour of the form of government which the French Mandatory Power finds to work best in France. But what a weapon of influence the French would have in Arabia were they to have King Ibn Saoud's son as King of Syria!

Trans-Jordan's Electoral Law.

The system of communal representation which is so bitterly assailed by certain critics of the Palestine Administration is being adopted in Trans-Jordan also, where the Electoral Law has just been published. In this Arab Amirate there is to be a Christian returned in all the four electoral districts except that of Maan, while Al Balqah is to return four Muslims, Ajlun, three, and Kerak, two Muslims. The Badawin in the north and south of Trans-Jordan are also to have two members in the Legislative Assembly. This Electoral Law will no doubt permit of a good deal of centralisation, but that is more or less inevitable in so primitive and artificial a State as is Trans-Jordan. It is interesting, by the way, to note that Maan is to be represented in the Majlis at Amman, and since, not long ago, a fishing concession at Aqaba was granted to subjects of the Trans-Jordan Government, it certainly looks as if there existed no intention north of the Gulf of Aqaba to treat Maan and Aqaba as possible future parts of the Kingdom of the Hijaz. Incidentally, one is prompted to wonder what the brothers of the subjects of the Amir Abdullah across the Jordan are thinking of this grant to their less civilised relations, for Palestinian Arabs now enjoy the unique distinction of inhabiting the only Mandated State in the Middle East to lack a popular franchise and a democratic Parliament.

A Middle Eastern Conference?

The report of the North African Conference which the French held last week at Rabat is apt to make one speculate whether the British might not usefully imitate this example in the Middle East. Admittedly, the problems affecting Egypt and the Arab countries of Asia are not so closely linked together as those relating to Morocco, Algeria, and Tunis, but there is certainly a case for all British Middle Eastern commitments to be viewed comprehensively. The fact that some of the problems affect the Foreign Office and others the Colonial Office can impress none but the mind bound with red-tape; infinite gain might accrue from an attempt to break down the watertight departments into which certain Eastern countries are apt occasionally to be placed by officials. The Cairo Conference of 1921 was not a perfect conference, but its conception was brilliant. Could not it be revived, on the lines of the French North African Conference?

NEWS IN BRIEF.

An earthquake was reported early last week from Tiflis (Transcaucasia). No damage has been done.

A new direct telephone service between Belgrade and Paris was inaugurated on July 5 in the presence of the local postal and telegraph authorities.

More than 270 square miles of forest were destroyed by fire on July 4 on the continental shore of the Gulf of Eubœa between Raphina and Marathon, in Attica.

It has been stated in Sofia that M. Liaptcheff, Bulgarian Prime Minister, has submitted proposals to the Yugoslav Government for the conclusion of a pact of arbitration.

General Protogeroff, head of the Macedonian Revolutionary Committee, was shot at and killed in Sofia on July 7 by unknown persons, who succeeded in escaping. A reward was recently offered across the frontier for the death of General Protogeroff.

Tewfik Rushdi Bey, Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs, left Angora at the end of last week for a holiday in Central Europe. During his absence Sarajoglou Shukry Bey, Minister of Finance, will be in charge of the Foreign Office.

During the discussion of the Budget of the Bulgarian Ministry of Justice in Sofia on July 5 there was a scene in the Chamber which led to the expulsion from the House of an Independent Labour deputy, M. Abram Stoyanoff, who was to be excluded from three sittings of the Chamber.

A Turk, Mehmet-Mi Mulla-Zade, has been appointed by the Pope as head of the Papal Delegation to the 17th Orientalist Congress which opens at Oxford on August 27. Dr. Mulla, who has just been created a domestic prelate, is a leading authority on Islamic history and doctrine, and is Professor at the Oriental Institute in Rome.

The Air Ministry announces that as the result of an accident at Mosul to a Bristol fighter machine of No. 6 (Army Co-operation) Squadron, Mosul, on July 5, Flying Officer Alexander Bruce Kay, the pilot of the aircraft, died from his injuries. The passenger, 357013 Leading Aircraftman Alfred Harry Bolton, was slightly injured.

The Yugoslav Cabinet met on July 4 and considered resolutions adopted the previous day by the Radical and Democratic parties in favour of the formation of a "broad-based" Cabinet, and then decided to resign. The third Voukitchevitch Ministry came to power on February 23, 1928.

When the engine of the Princess Xenia—the aeroplane in which the Duchess of Bedford recently attempted a record flight to India, but which was forced down at Bishire with engine trouble—is returned from Cairo, where it is being overhauled, Captain Barnard, the pilot, intends to fly to Karachi, whence he will attempt a record flight home.

The Reparations Commission has officially notified the Bulgarian Government that the latter is accorded a six months' moratorium, under the head of Reparation payments, in consideration of the grave damage caused to Bulgaria by the recent earthquake disasters. Accordingly, the payment of an instalment of £200,000 on account of Reparations by Bulgaria, which would normally have been due on October 1, has been postponed to April 1, 1929.

The *Morning Post* correspondent in Athens reports that the Greek Government has ordered the Public Prosecutor to inquire into the circumstances attending five fatal accidents alleged to be due to the supply of high-power current to private houses. The matter is attracting general public attention, and the Press is calling upon all citizens to protest. Insurance companies also are protesting against the great danger of fires.

Promotions in the Royal Marine Corps which are officially announced include that of Captain and Brevet Major G. H. Seath, D.S.O., to the rank of major. In the War he was commended for service in action at the Dardanelles, where he acted as naval observation officer at Helles. He was appointed D.S.O. and promoted temporary major in 1916, and during 1917 was twice mentioned in dispatches for service at Salonika. In 1922-23 he studied at the R.N. Staff College, and graduated p.s.c. (n), and in 1923-26 was on the staff of the Commander-in-Chief, Mediterranean, for duty as S.O. (1), Gibraltar.

NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST ASSOCIATION.

A meeting of the Near and Middle East Association will be held on July 10, at 8.30 p.m., to discuss "The Problem of the Two Indias." The Rt. Hon. Sir Leslie Scott, K.C., M.P., will be the principal speaker, and Captain E. N. Bennett, J.P., will preside at the meeting, which will be held, by kind permission of Mrs. Beauchamp Tufnell, at 14, Queensberry Place, S.W.7.

THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA.

170, STRAND, LONDON, W.C.2.

Telephone : CENTRAL 4108.

Telegrams : "EASTAPROX, ESTRAND, LONDON."

THURSDAY, JULY 12, 1928.

POLITICS AND ECONOMICS IN PALESTINE.

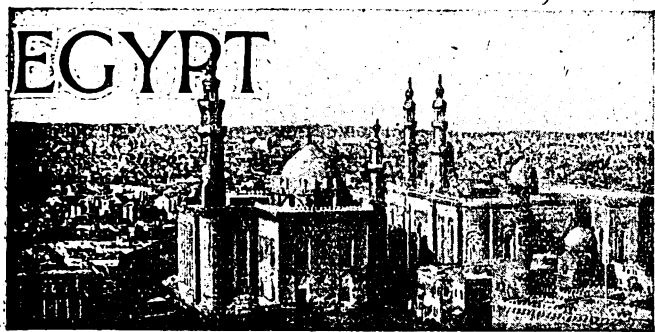
No two things could more completely demonstrate the fact that, in the official British view, the acute problems of Palestine have become sufficiently blunted to permit the instalment of a system of non-political routine, than the appointment of a trained Colonial Office official, Sir Robert Chancellor, to the High Commissionership, and the contents of the last Report (for 1927) made by the British Government to the League of Nations. The High Commissioner Designate will succeed two men, Sir Herbert Samuel and Lord Plumer, who were deliberately chosen for the possession of virtues other than that of Civil Service experience and efficiency. These two last virtues were not in the first years of the great Palestine experiment so much required as the larger virtues of impartiality and inflexibility. The exercise of these two British characteristics has now had its effect; neither Arab nor Jew now hopes to sway the mind of the Administration by unconstitutional action. For the next few years, in other words, Palestine (and Trans-Jordan with it) must proceed "according to plan," and it is in recognition of this fact, which implies that the capital necessity now is a tightening up of the administrative machinery in the Holy Land rather than any new "gesture" towards old or new inhabitant, that the former Governor of Rhodesia has been appointed to the task for which he is eminently fitted. This interpretation of the appointment is confirmed by a reading of the Report for 1927 (Colonial No. 31), which contains no political news of much account, but concentrates upon the economic aspect of the country. Politics, after all, are of little importance compared with earthquakes, droughts, and unemployment, the first two of which afflicted so distressingly the Arabs, and the third the Jewish settlers. To the impartial mind, therefore, the Government is well advised to concentrate upon the economic issues of Palestine, to wait for prosperity to follow peace and security, and then for politics to follow prosperity. Of no country in the East than in Palestine is the axiom more true that economic power precedes political power, and particularly is the statement (contained in the Report) welcome that "the difficulties through which Zionist enterprise in the country is now passing will serve a useful purpose if they compel realisation that the Jewish National Home cannot be well and truly built on any other than a sound economic foundation." This is the doctrine which THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA has adopted from the beginning of the Zionist experiment in Palestine, and, although we have from time to time been reproved for it by the more impatient and idealistic Zionists, the present position, attained after some seven or eight years of intense Jewish endeavour, appears to afford ample justification of our point of view.

In these circumstances, it is regrettable to note that such publicity is being given to the treatment by the Palestine Administration of certain Jewish Communists who refused to conform with the discipline of prison life. It is precisely upon this sort of thing that the Jewish Nationalist is apt to lose his sense of values, with results that are pleasing neither to himself nor to the Arabs of Palestine with whom the Zionist immigrant has to live. Our Jerusalem Correspondent has in past letters called attention to the multiplicity of the organs of Jewish opinion in Palestine, and the ease, consequently, with which the wood is occasionally lost for the trees. Why should there be all this pother, in Jewish circles both within and outside Palestine, on behalf of a handful of men who happen to be Communists? Are these Jews who flare up passionately at the "barbarous" action of the Mandatory Power really convinced that leniency towards these Communists—a few men guilty of prison rioting—would advance the "Jewish National Home"? Or are they in ignorance of the report that certain Jewish Communists have, so to speak, offered their services to the Arab extremists, and have harmonised in the refrain, scarcely pleasing to Zionist ears, of: "Down with the Balfour Declaration! Down with the Mandate! Long live free Palestine"? *Non tali auxilio*, it would seem, will the Jewish Nationalists realise their dreams in Palestine. If there is any principle of the "right" of a Jew to stay in his "National Home," obviously it must apply to the Jew who opposes the Zionists and the Mandatory Power as well as to the Jew who supports them. But in truth the Jewish Nationalists would do well to drop this over advertised affair of the floggings and the deportations, and to concentrate upon the task of facilitating the entry into Palestine of more desirables, instead of uselessly maintaining their "right" to conserve a few undesirables within the confines of the "National Home." There is more virtue in adding one tree to the Balfour Forest than in flourishing shrill trumpets in honour of Jewish Communists whose heroism consisted of throwing stones at their warders. For the first is of benefit to the whole country, the second is an asset to no one.

Fortunately, however, the number of Zionists is increasing who realise that, while continual and larger efforts must be made to buttress up the position of the immigrants, this process can endure only on the basis of Arab-Jewish co-operation. Such men see clearly that any undue insistence upon, any over-proud claim to, special privileges in Palestine, can result only in a stiffening of the resistance of the Arabs, and also in a probable growth of aloofness on the part of the British Administration in Palestine. The Palestine Arabs are not, as the Zionists well know, a united body; there is a considerable section, which increases slowly but surely, that fain would take the advantages which the Zionists have to offer and trust the Administration to see that their own Arab interests are not neglected. It is the wisest policy of both the British and the Zionists to cultivate this section, for if to the Arab majority neither economic nor political benefit be extended, its opposition must become automatic and unanimous. Patiently, modestly, and fraternally, therefore, the Jews should now set to work in Palestine along the lines just laid down by the Survey Commission, and in two or three generations there may—who knows?—be realised in fact that Palestinian nation, consisting of awakened Arab and home-loving Jew, which has been the goal of all statesmen and officials in Palestine who acknowledged and were determined that the promises, however vague, extended to both Arab and Jew, should be realised under the aegis of Great Britain.

*The Near and Middle East

From Our Own Correspondents.



Cairo, June 30.

The Political Situation.

The dismissal of the Prime Minister, Nahas Pasha, entailing the fall of his Cabinet, the formation of a new Cabinet under Mohamed Pasha Mahmoud, and the adjournment of the Chamber for a month, took place without any untoward incidents, and the country still maintains a calm attitude. The dismissal of the Prime Minister was the logical outcome of the situation. On the one hand, the Coalition had come to an end, and the resignation of two other Ministers, which would certainly have been followed in time by at least one, if not two, of the more prominent Wafdist members of the Cabinet, had revealed, if not a split, at any rate serious discord in the higher ranks of the Wafd. On the other hand, there were the revelations made by the local Press in the Seif-ed-din case which, whether eventually he might prove to have transgressed the law and professional etiquette or not, made it extremely delicate for the Prime Minister to remain in office so long as the accusations rested upon him. In view of what for all practical purposes was an order to Nahas Pasha from the Wafd to remain in office the King used his own judgment of what was in the public interest when he decided to dismiss him and to entrust the formation of a Cabinet to other than Wafdist hands.

The adjournment of Parliament was likewise essential, since the new Cabinet could not possibly expect the Chamber forthwith to give to it the confidence which it had extended to Nahas Pasha, and because the only hope of securing a *modus vivendi* resides in having a truce to political debates for a time. The hope that the coming month, the maximum period for which the King, under the Constitution, can adjourn Parliament, will witness the desired improvement in relations between the Wafd and the other parties, which will make it possible for the present Cabinet or any other Ministry, that is not Wafdist, to carry on with the existing Parliament, is, however, very slender, and it looks to-day highly probable that Parliament will have to be dissolved when the time comes for it to reassemble.

Educational Reforms.

Two interesting laws dealing with the Government Schools have been passed by the Chamber. The one deals with the vexed question of examinations, and the other

with free education, in both cases in primary and secondary schools. Hitherto on the application of unsuccessful students the Government has invariably agreed to hold supplementary examinations in the subjects in which they have failed and it has happened in the past that a series of supplementary examinations have had to be held in one year. This procedure was fast becoming a scandal, because it served as a useful source of patronage for the political element, which made use of the students for purpose of propaganda and was able to recompense them by supplementary examinations for the loss of time which their political activities caused them to lose in their studies. The new law lays down that there shall be two regular sessions of examinations every year and that unsuccessful candidates at the first will be allowed to sit at the second, provided that they have obtained 40 per cent. of the aggregate maximum marks obtainable at the written section and that at the second attempt they take all the subjects for which they entered at the first examination, but for candidates who fail only at the oral examination the re-examination will be confined to all the subjects in that section.

In regard to free education it is laid down that no more than six per cent. of the total number of pupils in the schools shall be exempted from fees. In the past there has been no such limitation and in some cases the percentage of free pupils has risen to as much as 40 per cent. of the total number in the schools. Of this six per cent., four per cent will be pupils of parents who cannot afford the fee, one per cent. for those who after starting their studies on a paying basis find that owing to the intervention of circumstances they cannot continue to do so—in both these cases, however, the pupils must have secured 65 per cent. of the total marks at the entrance examination—and one per cent. as scholarships for pupils who obtain 75 per cent. of the total marks at the entrance examination. Free education will be given for a year, renewable subject to satisfactory progress of the pupils in question and not as at present for the whole period of study. Both these innovations are due to the initiative of the late Minister of Education, Aly Pasha Ely Shamsy, whose enlightened conduct of his administration, since he took office two years ago, has contributed enormously to the improvement of the organisation of public instruction in this country, and whose relinquishment of that post, owing to the dismissal of the Nahas Cabinet, is a real loss to the cause of education.

The Question of Communications.

Abdel Hamid Pasha Soliman, Director-General of the State Railways (now Minister of Communications), has presented an interesting note on the working of the Railways and their future. The Council of Ministers had decided that the Exchequer would satisfy itself with a five per cent. annual yield on the capital value of the Railways estimated by agreement at thirty million pounds, leaving

*Under this heading appear weekly or at regular intervals communications from correspondents in Egypt, the Sudan, Roumania, Yugoslavia, Greece, Bulgaria, Albania, Turkey, Cyprus, Palestine, Iraq, and Persia.

EGYPTIAN MINISTRY OF EDUCATION.

APPPLICATIONS are invited for Assistant Masterships in Commercial Schools to teach English and Commercial Subjects.

Candidates, who should be between 24 and 34 years of age, must have University Degrees (preferably in Honours) and should have experience of teaching. Diploma in Education is desirable; those who are to teach Commercial Subjects must have the degree of B.Com.

Initial Salary, £E450 (about £461).

Full particulars and Form of Application may be obtained from the Director, Egyptian Educational Mission, 39, Victoria Street, London, S.W.1.

EGYPTIAN MINISTRY OF EDUCATION.

APPPLICATIONS are invited for Posts of Assistant Masters to teach English in Egyptian Government Secondary Schools.

Candidates, who should be between 24 and 34 years of age, should have University Degrees (preferably in Honours) and should have experience of teaching in Secondary Schools. Diploma in Education is desirable.

Initial Salary, £E450 (about £461) for those who have a University Degree, £E420 (about £431) for those who have only a Diploma.

Full particulars and Form of Application may be obtained from the Director, Egyptian Education Offices, 39, Victoria Street, London, S.W. 1.

the balance of the annual profit to be applied to the development of the railways to meet the needs of the country. Abdel Hamid Pasha points out that in spite of the heavy renewal work in 1923-24 the Railways gave a much higher return than five per cent. and that during the last four years the cost of manipulation represented only 63 per cent. of the gross receipts, which is less than the pre-War figure and considerably less than the majority of foreign railways.

The Ministry of Finance had, however, become considerably alarmed to find that the net receipts had been decreasing, and the General Manager, while pointing out that the return was still eight and a quarter per cent. on the capital value, states that the reduction, such as there has been, has been caused not only by the reduction in the railway-tariff and the increase in the number of trains, but also by the fact that the Administration pays Customs duty on all its imports, has had considerably to increase its wages-bill, and does not receive a proper re-imbursment for the services it renders to other Departments. He expresses the view that the improvements which will have to be introduced, and the extensions which will have to be made to meet the growing needs of the country, cannot fail further to reduce the net profit, and he goes on to say that two important factors likely seriously to affect the Railways are the increase in roads and the development of river traffic.

In regard to roads he expresses the opinion that an entirely wrong policy has been followed. Instead of the communications between the Railways and the interior being improved, the Government has concentrated its attention on creating roads parallel to the Railways, with the result that instead of outlying areas being linked up with the railway system and the traffic of the latter increased by the goods thus brought in from areas which

had in the past found difficulty in getting to the markets. the Railways now suffer from the very serious competition of motor transport along the main lines.

In regard to river traffic this must also be properly regulated in order not to prejudice the Railways, and various projects are at present under consideration with a view to protecting the interests of the latter while encouraging as much as possible the use of the wonderful water communications which Egypt possesses. One of these schemes, which has now been adopted, refers to the important areas of the east bank of the river between Assiut and Nag Hamadi and on the west bank between Nag Hamadi and Asswan, which have at present no rail connexion with the north or south. The construction of lines to connect the various towns and villages situated in these areas would be out of all proportion to the possible return within the near future. It has, however, been decided to set up in these areas stations at five kilometres distance one from the other, where passengers could obtain tickets and goods could be received for all destinations. Barges would ply along the river in these areas transporting goods from one station to the other and across the river to and from the main line, while passengers would similarly be conveyed by launches to and from the opposite bank, all at the expense of the Administration. Thus direct connexion would be established with the rest of the country, while the various villages in these regions would at the same time be linked up more closely with one another. This will safeguard the Railways from the competition of water traffic, while benefiting these areas and encouraging their development—a very different policy from that which has been followed in the past where, whether the interests of a region were affected thereby or not, river and road development has been rigorously discouraged whenever there appeared to be the slightest doubt that it would compete with the Railways.

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Jaffa	arr. 0750	Cairo	arr. 2230
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Haifa	arr. 1000	Kantara West	dep. 2125
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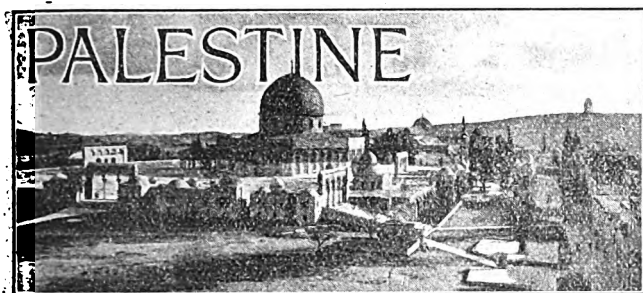
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R. B. W. Holmes,
General Manager,
HAIFA.



Jerusalem, June 23.

The Seventh Arab Congress.

The Seventh Arab Congress which met, conducted, and concluded its full business sessions all within a single day, Wednesday, June 20, is in itself a triumph for the local Arab leaders. The negotiations of the preceding weeks—with the Christian Arabs and "Opposition Arabs" making their own terms of representation and mode of election, as against the "Mejlissites" (namely, the Husseini adherents and followers of the small group of Muslim families who provide the members of the Muslim Supreme Council), who preferred to have a Congress made up of the more calculable element of nominees—all seemed to make it in the highest degree unlikely that an agreed basis of representation could be found for a long time to come to suit the competing claims of the three main parties among the Arab politicals. But at the last minute the organisers of the Congress compromised on generous terms—terms which no longer left the "Mejlissites" in control of the Congress and the consequent permanent executive body which was to be set up by the Congress.

The next stroke of wisdom by the Congress management was the limiting of the full gathering to a single day and the concentration of the discussion on one main item and three or four lesser grievances, about which there could be no conceivable difference of opinion in any politically-minded Arab. In principle Palestinian Arabs find themselves falling into four divisions; the *istiqlal-it-tâm* element, "complete independence," free from all mandatory supervision; a less extreme element which can endure, temporarily at least, and in diminishing quantities, the Mandatory Power, but will not suffer the British Zionist policy nor co-operate with the local Government on any such terms; a third element is prepared to co-operate on terms which will not leave the Arab representatives in a position to be outvoted in any decision taken by the constituted legislative body; while yet a fourth section is prepared to cooperate on the Government's own terms, trusting to time and British fairness to remove the present misguided policy of the British Government and the Zionist error.

With such material to make up the body of the Seventh Congress it was obviously impracticable to thrash out a detailed programme of the Arab attitude to the Mandatory Power. On the other hand, moved by an instinct that some radical change in Government policy might well be imminent during the next few months, with a new Chief Secretary and (as is confidently assumed) a new High Commissioner—it was all-essential to show a united

Arab front on the main issue, namely, that Palestine, no less than Iraq, Trans-Jordan, and Syria, was entitled to, and even more ready for, the benefit of a freely elected, wholly representative parliamentary body. All four sections of Arab politicals could be depended upon to agree on that. And they did. And before the close of the gathering they collected sixty-seven pounds from members of the Congress to send a long cable to that effect to all whose business it was to know, and take account of the Palestinian Arab mind.

There were a few other unanimously-agreed-upon resolutions—to abolish the *ushr*, to let Palestinians have all the benefits of the Dead Sea exploitation, to protest against the mass of legislation that was being ground out by the present wholly British Advisory Council, without, or against, the will of the people—and the like.

The New Arab Executive.

The immediate consequences of any impetus given to Arab claims by this Seventh Congress will turn on the work of the new "Arab Executive." This is a bulky body of forty-eight members. It is made up of 36 Muslims and 12 Christians. The Muslims' places are shared equally by "Mejlissites" and "Opposition," while of the Christians, eight are supposed to be supporters of the "Opposition" and only four of the "Mejlissites"—giving the "Opposition" a small majority in the Executive.

An "Executive" of this unwieldy Arab Executive has been set up, six in number, carefully chosen to include all opinions: President, Musa Kazim Pasha; Vice-presidents, Yakub Faraj (a Christian) and Tewfik Abdullah; together with Elias Mughannam (a Christian), Auni Bey Abdul Hadi (a supporter of the "Opposition"), and Jamal Effendi al-Husseini, as Secretaries.



Belgrade, July 5.

The Political Situation.

There is general thanksgiving in Yugoslavia that M. Stepan Raditch, whose pluck in the operating room won the admiration of all who saw it, including King Alexander himself, is now well on the road to convalescence and is able to walk a little in his room and to sit up all day. The riots in Zagreb which followed news that M. Raditch was worse and ill-based reports that he was on the point of death showed how seriously his death would have affected the situation. The Croats deny that these riots, during which three youths were killed and over sixty wounded, were the result of Communist activity, as has

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been suggested in Belgrade, and accuse the police of having been unnecessarily brutal in dealing with the demonstrators. The unanimity and discipline of the Croatian masses was shown during the funeral of Pavle Raditch and Basaritchek when over 200,000 peasants and town-folk, Croats and "prechanski" Serbs, rich and poor alike, paid tribute to their fallen leaders and protested mutely against the system which made their murder possible. Despite their great emotion, the huge crowd kept perfect order and silence—a far more impressive method of protest than shouting and violence. When disorder threatened, it was enough for one of the leaders to raise his hand and order was restored. Perhaps the most significant movement in what for want of the better translation of the word "prechanski," (literally meaning "from across the Sava and Drina,") we must call the new provinces is that of the breaking down of the last barriers between the Croats and the Serbs of the district. Until quite recently they were bitterly opposed, largely as a result of M. Pribitchevitch's earlier policy, but now they are all united in their opposition to the present form of government in Belgrade, and many of the best known of them who were members of the Radical or Democrat parties have resigned in protest against the refusal of the Government to take what they considered the necessary steps to make amends for the crime committed in the Skupshtina.

The Opposition parties remain firm in their belief that the only settlement of the present crisis which will have permanent effect is the resignation of the present Government, the dissolution of Parliament, the conducting of free elections under some non-party President, and eventually the changing of the Constitution in the direction of giving far greater and more real self-government to the new provinces. They have left Belgrade and refuse even to negotiate with the members of the present Government.

The Resignation of the Government.

The Democrats under M. Davidovitch at first took the line that, while the Government cannot be held responsible for a crime committed by an irresponsible private member of the Skupshtina, yet, in order to enable political passions to calm down, it was essential for the Government to resign and for some Government able to command the support of all sections to take its place. But after the return of M. Marinkovitch they seemed to evolve rather in the direction of agreeing with the Radicals of M. Voukitchevitch's immediate entourage that an immediate resignation was not necessary, and that they must remain in office, to keep peace and order in the country, and because of the threats of danger from abroad, as reflected in reports of an Italian fleet off the Dalmatian coast and of the strengthening of the police forces on the Hungarian-Yugoslav frontier. The *Pravda* began by demanding root and branch changes in the whole system of government and ended by suggesting that resignation in the immediate present was unnecessary and unwise.

The Radicals were divided again. Those nearest to the Central Executive, which by its memorandum had shown itself for some months strongly against the present régime, which it termed "unconstitutional" and "incapable," called for the immediate resignation of the whole Cabinet and the formation of a Government of new people with new methods. M. Voukitchevitch's friends urged that there was absolutely no need for resignation, since they had still a large majority in Parliament and there was no change in their relations with other Coalition groups or with their own members. They claimed still to have the confidence of both the constitutional factors and would continue to work at the mass of urgent legislation ever growing during these continual political disorders, whether the Peasant-Democrat bloc co-operated or not.

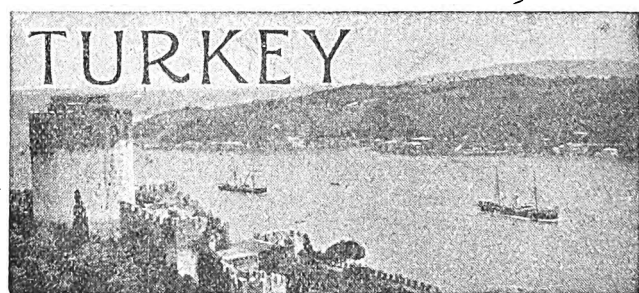
But when, after a delay which caused still greater embitterment among the Opposition parties, the matter was finally discussed by the political clubs it was obvious that there was a considerable majority in favour of resigning,

and on Wednesday morning M. Voukitchevitch handed his Cabinet's resignation to the King, who at once accepted it.

Negotiations are now proceeding for the formation of a wide concentration Government, but the situation is full of difficulties. M. Atza Stanoyevitch, the veteran Radical leader, a contemporary of the late Nikola Pashitch, was called at once to the Court and asked to begin negotiations for the formation of a Government. But M. Raditch refused to receive him or any other member of the majority parties who had a mandate for the formation of a working Government, since his party insisted on elections. M. Stanoyevitch, therefore, refused to accept the mission offered him. M. Raditch was called to-day to the Court and, being unable to go in person, sent M. Pribitchevitch to represent him. M. Pribitchevitch was in audience for an hour and a half, and on leaving went straight to see M. Raditch, stating that it was suggested that M. Raditch should try to form a Government. It is possible that nothing definite will be done until M. Raditch is well enough to be able to carry on negotiations himself. The Opposition have expressed their desire that the mandate should be entrusted to M. Raditch to show that Belgrade realises the full significance of the effect of recent events on the new provinces. The Radicals oppose this, as they want a Radical to remain at the head of the Government.

The Nettuno Conventions.

It is now obvious that, owing to the internal situation resulting from the Skupshtina murders and the resignation of the Government, Parliament cannot ratify the Nettuno Conventions in time for the Pact of Friendship with Italy to be renewed before July 27. It is hoped that Italy, realising the difficulties of the Yugoslav Government and taking into account the desperate efforts which it has already made to get the Conventions ratified, will extend the term during which the Pact of Friendship may be renewed. M. Marinkovitch issued an official declaration, in confirmation of his statements in Bucharest, that the Yugoslav Government cannot accept responsibility for what might happen, if the Conventions are not ratified, and it is believed that the first task of any new Government will be the difficult and dangerous one of trying to solve the question of the ratification or non-ratification in a way which will offend neither Italy nor the western provinces of Yugoslavia.



Constantinople, July 4.

Drought in Asia Minor.

At a time when economic conditions throughout Turkey are anything but promising and when so much depended upon Nature's bounty in the matter of this year's cereal crop, it is disheartening to read the daily reports which have latterly been coming in from up-country stations. The Konia plateau, the most fertile of wheat-producing areas in the whole of Anatolia, has been completely deprived of rain for weeks past and, as a consequence, the crops in some districts have withered away and are completely lost. Indeed, the spectre of famine has become so threatening in certain outlying regions that truck-loads of flour are being rushed to the spot both from Smyrna and Constantinople.

The Government has voted an extraordinary credit of

£100,000 for the relief of the distressed peasantry, the Red Crescent is distributing a similar amount, mostly in food-stuffs, whilst the Anatolian Railway have offered to carry up to 100,000 liras worth of flour to the affected area free of transport charges and to reduce railway fares by 70 per cent. for all husbandmen and labourers desiring to proceed to other districts in search of work.

It is feared that this year's failure of Turkey's staple crop, especially after last season's comparatively poor yield, may have serious economic consequences, and some criticism has been levelled at the Ministry of Agriculture in the vernacular Press for not having devoted more attention to irrigation instead of allowing the success of the crops to depend entirely on the rainfall.

The scarcity of fodder, moreover, has become so acute that farmers have been disposing of good milch cows for sums in the neighbourhood of 18 shillings per head, and an agglomeration of cattle, sheep and goats is reported at Konia, where it is becoming increasingly difficult to feed them. The south-westerly portion of the plateau leading up to the spurs of the Taurus Mountains is fortunately immune, thanks to the Lake Beychehir irrigation system, which was carried out by German enterprise before the War for account of the old Unionist Government.

Law of Nationality.

There will shortly disappear the last vestiges of the old Capitulations, some of which dated back to the days of good Queen Bess and all of which received their death-blow at the Peace Conference at Lausanne. In one aspect of the question, the new legislative measures recently promulgated by the National Assembly have a grave bearing on the national status of children born in this country of foreign parents. As from January 1, 1929, all children of foreigners themselves born in this country will be considered and registered as Turkish nationals. They are to be assimilated in all respects to Turks, even in the matter of military service, but will be given an opportunity, should they so choose, of reverting to their father's foreign nationality on attaining their majority, i.e., when they reach the age of 18. Should they opt for the national status of their forbears, however, they must leave the country for good. Diplomatic and Consular officers—in fact all such as enjoy diplomatic immunity by reason of their occupation—are excluded from the operation of this law.

The whole point at issue, of course, strikes at the very root of the question of domicile and residence of foreigners in this country. So far as the bulk of the British element is concerned—a steadily diminishing element, be it observed, as matters already are—there can be little doubt that, even with the friendliest feelings for the Turks, the prospect of the abandonment of possibly century-old national status and tradition, the break with the past in such momentous matters as Public School and Varsity upbringing, the weakening influence of the very sanctity of English home-life which the change must necessarily imply, will by degrees impel Britons of the younger generation, who by reason of their occupations might have looked forward to settling down and founding a family in this country, to emigrate.

A unique feature in this recent Turkish legislation affecting nationality is the provision whereby Turkish women who marry foreign nationals shall retain their Turkish status, the implication being that the offspring of such unions, when born in Turkey, shall also be Turkish subjects.

A further recent legislative enactment of the National Assembly provides that any Turkish military, naval or air force officer henceforth marrying a foreign woman shall cease *ipso facto* to belong to the armed forces of Turkey.

The High Cost of Living.

As a sequel to almost daily leading articles in the Turkish papers complaining of the high cost of living, possibly also as a corollary to the ever-deepening inroads

which the enhanced cost of life is making into the pockets of the Municipal officials themselves, Mouhieddine Bey, Prefect of the City of Constantinople, has appointed a Commission to inquire into the whole position.

That profiteering is freely indulged in by many middle-men and by certain classes of purveyors, such as market-gardeners, poultrymen and dairymen, is notorious, but with regard to the price of such indispensable articles of daily consumption as bread and meat, one cannot help feeling that the fault lies to a great extent with the Municipal mandarins themselves. The Prefecture, for instance, holds a monopoly for slaughtering beasts of all classes, which brings in a considerable yearly revenue, the slaughter-tax being a relatively high one. Certain parts of the offal, moreover, become the property of the Prefecture. A suggestion lately put forward by Anatolian and Thracian breeders and herdsmen that home-killed meat, especially mutton and lamb, should be allowed to enter Constantinople, whereby a considerable drop in prices would automatically follow, was immediately vetoed by the Prefecture on the ground that sanitary control would be absent and that public health might be endangered.

The bread question is a more complex one. Although a price called the "Narkh," which should regulate all sales, is fixed at regular intervals by the Prefecture, it has been found of late that certain bakeries using the prescribed flour can undercut and sell below the price fixed by the Prefecture. As the bakers cannot conceivably be selling at a loss on either humanitarian or patriotic grounds, one can only conclude that there is a flaw somewhere in the system of establishing Municipal prices.

ANGLO-EGYPTIAN STUDENTS' CONFERENCE.

For the third year in succession the happy idea of collecting in joint conference a number of Egyptian and English University students during the Summer Vacation was carried out last week. This year's Conference met at Welwyn Garden City from July 3 to July 7, under the chairmanship of Mr. W. Roushdy. Lady Jardine had kindly consented to act as hostess; Mr. K. W. S. Jardine was Hon. Secretary and Mr. A. H. Samaha, Assistant Secretary and Treasurer. The Conference was opened by Sesostris Sidarouss Bey, Egyptian Chargé d'Affaires, who has taken a special interest in these gatherings and to whose generosity the students are in no small measure indebted. More than forty students, among them several Egyptian lady students, were in session at Welwyn this year. The programme included the following items:—Reports from Colleges, Addresses by Dr. Awad (Lecturer in Cairo University), Miss Asma Fahmy ("Women in Modern Egypt"), Mr. M. H. Fahmy ("The History of the Suez Canal"), Mr. C. Robertson ("The Sudan"), Prof. G. Young and Mr. Osban ("Welwyn Garden City"). A visit to the Shredded Wheat Factory, Sports, a Garden Party and a Concert were also items on the programme.

In his opening address Sesostris Sidarouss Bey emphasised the advantages of these meetings, which were inspired by the love of peace and mutual understanding. There could hardly be anything more binding than the spirit of studentship, with its happy associations of education and sport, while those who had not the privilege of working together and playing together had the bond of humanity at large to bring a clear understanding to them. There were difficulties in the way owing to differences of temperament, race and culture, but he was confident that their labours would be rewarded, as there was really no great obstacle that could not be surmounted in the way of enabling the two countries to work harmoniously towards the common goal of civilisation. Sidarouss Bey paid a tribute to the helpful and valuable assistance which the Egyptian community in England received from Mr. Robertson, who, not content with what he did in Egypt during his education work there, had been unflagging in his efforts for the success of the Conference, and from Mr. G. Young.

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PERSIAN AFFAIRS.

(From a Correspondent.)

June 22.

The Royal Afghan Visit.

The King and Queen of Afghanistan left Teheran on the 16th instant after nearly two weeks' residence in the Persian capital. They proceeded by car to Meshed and thence proceeded to Herat and Kabul. The latter part of their journey may be completed in one of the three aeroplanes presented to them by Germany, which are expected daily in Teheran, one being a ten-seater and the others the usual Junkers four-passenger monoplanes, the arrival of which has been delayed owing to transit difficulties raised by the Soviet.

The Royal visit to Teheran was marked by much splendour and ceremonial. Their Majesties made themselves very popular with all classes, and the visit is generally regarded as having been successful. Two Treaties of Friendship and Co-operation were completed with Persia and the terms thereof published. The Queen took no part in public ceremonies, but was frequently seen out driving, wearing a very thin motoring veil. The King made a point of meeting all classes, moving about with the utmost freedom and achieving much personal popularity by his democratic bearing. Many incidents are related to show his democratic views and actions.

The Railway Administration Dissolved.

The Railway Administration has been dissolved and replaced by a Council of Control. Mr. Poland, the eminent Director-General of Railways, has resigned his post, and Mr. Carrol, Chief Director of Surveys, will assume his duties. Many former employees of the Government Department are being absorbed by the contracting syndicate of Messrs. Ulen and Co., the famous American engineering firm, which, with German interests co-operating, is now actively at work on survey and construction. The Majlis recently voted a sum of approximately £450,000 for expenditure as necessary, directly or by contractors, on purchases of railway material. It is considered probable that the entire construction of the line and termini at Bandar-i-Gaz and Khor Musa will shortly be added to the original contract.

It is of interest to note that, for three successive years, twenty students are to be sent annually to Europe, for practical and technical railway engineering study.

When announcing the charges to the contract system for railway construction on June 10, the Under Secretary for Works intimated that Government's expenses on railway construction amounted to £160,000 up to that date.

National Bank.

The Director of the new National Bank, Dr. Lindenblatt (German), is now at work preparing for the establishment of the National Bank.

Dr. Walder, a Swiss subject, the new Treasurer-General, has recently arrived in Teheran and taken over his duties from Major Davis (American).

Advisers.

The contracts of Dr. Bonne, mineralogist, Mr. Clapp, the American geologist, and Mr. Martin, foundry expert, are not being renewed, and their appointments will lapse.

Education.

Seven French teachers are to be engaged for the Education Department, and over 100 students are to be sent

to Europe during the current year. The Government is making every effort in this way to modernize and bring up to date its educational establishments.

Customs.

It is announced in the papers that negotiations are now in progress for a new minimum tariff with Russia. In accordance with recent agreements made with leading Powers the 1927 Tariff, modified to some extent, is now in force and apparently working satisfactorily.

Elections.

The results of elections are known for most districts, and the representatives in all cases are persons approved by Government interests, who will assure a strong majority for the execution of current projects. The results of Teheran City elections are not yet decided, but it appears that one or two People's Representatives are likely to lose their places in the next Majlis.

Archæology.

The announcement that Professor Herzfeld, the Government archæologist, has recently excavated a new statue of Cyrus, and disclosed the existence of ruins comparable in many respects with those of Persepolis, has created very considerable interest. Professor Herzfeld has been invited to visit Teheran to discuss ways and means of further excavation.

Motor Traffic.

The expansion of motor traffic continues by leaps and bounds, thanks to the great improvements carried out by the Roads Department. With the improvement of roads in and around Teheran there is a noticeable increase in motor cycles, side cars and small cars there. All principal roads in and around the city have been doubled in width and many new side roads made.

Apart from steady progress on the Khoramabad Road, a new road is being constructed along the shores of the Caspian, which will link Resht and Pahlavi (Enzeli) to Barfarush and Bandar-i-Gaz, and form a link between the two main routes from the Caspian to Teheran. The road will traverse rich forest and rice country, and be of much value to the tea and silk industries, both of which are rapidly expanding. Lahigan tea is of excellent quality and meets with a ready sale, though, locally, Indian teas are preferred as more economical.

THE CENTRAL ASIAN SOCIETY.

Annual Dinner.

The Central Asian Society held its annual dinner at the Hotel Cecil on July 5. Lord Peel presided. It had been announced that Sir John Simon and Sir Harcourt Butler would be the chief guests on this occasion, and it was a cause of disappointment to many to learn at the dinner that Sir John had accepted the invitation on the strict understanding that he would not be called upon to speak.

The toast of the Central Asian Society was proposed by Sir Ronald Storrs, Governor of Cyprus, who explained that, according to his "terms of reference," he was under obligation to incorporate in his speech remarks on Cyprus and Palestine. Having discharged this duty, he referred to the work of the Society, and pointed out that its interests might be said to be comprised within that great triangle based on Constantinople and Cairo, with its apex at Calcutta, within which had been produced the four great religions of the world. It was of paramount importance to the British Empire and, therefore, to the peace of the world also, that we should have at our disposal all the available knowledge dealing with that triangle, and this the Central Asian Society set itself to obtain.

Lord Peel, in responding to the toast, spoke of the part that the Society played in collating and disseminating

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knowledge regarding the whole of Asia. In that Society the ynever talk of the unchanging East, rather were they impressed by the kaleidiscopic rapidity of the changes that are now going on in those countries. The East was far more critical of the West than it was thirty or forty years ago, and they of the West must view Eastern problems with a tolerance born of full knowledge.

The toast of "The Guests" was proposed by Field-Marshal Lord Allenby, who pointed out that the Chairman's remarks about Sir John Simon and Sir Harcourt Butler left him little to say about two of the principal guests. They had also with them the Persian Minister, Jaafar Pasha al Askari and Sir Ronald Storrs. After reference to the representatives of Persia and Iraq, Lord Allenby paid a warm tribute to the services Sir Ronald Storrs had rendered as Military Governor of Jerusalem in the early days of the Occupation, when the difficulties of the administration were probably greater than anyone apart from himself and Sir Ronald Storrs had realised.

Replying on behalf of the guests, Sir Harcourt Butler said that the silence of Sir John Simon reminded him of animal fights in India, where occasionally the more formidable beasts refused to perform their part. The present occasion recalled one in particular where none of the animals would fight. In despair, the Prince, his host, ordered all to be driven into the arena—tiger, leopard, cheetah, wolf, donkey, pig, and so on, all together—but the only one that showed fight was the donkey, who used his heels to such good effect that all others were cowed and slunk for cover to the sides. So he replied on behalf of the guests. He was in no way a pessimist in regard to those parts of Asia with which he was acquainted, and he was confident that in the great task which was before Sir John Simon and his colleagues they would be able in the end to work out some solution which would add to the happiness of the great Continent. While there were many difficulties ahead in India, there were none which in time would not be solved with the help of the Indians themselves. There were many reassuring signs for those who looked for them. There was undoubtedly a growing number of Indian people who were beginning to appreciate the blessings that British rule had conferred on India. He had no doubt whatever that there was a far wider and more reasoned appreciation of the advantages of British rule than there had been at any time during the last forty years. A great deal was heard from time to time on the commercial exploitation of India. One reassuring sign in this respect was the extent to which Indians were now investing in concerns which depended on the maintenance of British rule. In all the troubles of recent years—which he maintained were not greater than those in certain other countries—there had been no attempt on the part of those who had been our strongest critics to break away from the West and go back to the East.

Among those present were:—

The Persian Minister, Jaafar Pasha al Askari, Lord and Lady Allenby, Lord and Lady Manners, Viscountess Mountgarret, Lord Lamington, Sir John and Lady Simon, Sir Montague Barlow, Sir George and Lady Barnes, Sir Hugh and Lady Barnes, General Sir George and Lady Barrow, Maharaja of Burdwan, Sir Henry and Lady Bax-Ironside, Sir Charles and Lady Bayley, Major-General Sir William and Lady Beynon, Sir E. and Lady Bonham-Carter, General the Hon. C. G. and Mrs. Bruce, Sir Maurice de Bunsen, Lady Cable, Sir Edward and Lady Chamier, Sir Gilbert Clayton, Sir Percy and Lady Cox, Lt.-Colonel F. and Mrs. Cunliffe-Owen, General Sir Ralph Egerton, Sir Edward and Lady Every, Sir Walter and Lady Fletcher, Sir George Stuart and Lady Forbes, Sir Stuart Fraser, Lt.-Colonel F. E. Fremantle, M.P., General Sir Webb and Lady Gillman, Dame Alice Godman, Lady Gowers, Admiral V. H. Haggard, Colonel Sir Wolseley Haig, Air Vice-Marshal Sir John and Lady Higgins, Sir Arthur and Lady Hirtzel, Sir Lionel and Lady Jacob, Lt.-General Sir George and Lady Kirkpatrick, Major-General Sir Neill and Lady Malcolm, General Sir Charles Melliss, Sir Samuel and Lady O'Donnell, Sir Michael and Lady O'Dwyer, Sir E. Penton, Hon. and Mrs. E. C. Pery, Lady Robson, Sir Denison and Lady Ross, Lt.-General Sir Thomas and Lady Scott, Master of Sempill, Sir Malcolm and Lady Seton, Sir Ronald and Lady Storrs, Mrs. F. E. Storrs, Brigadier-General Sir Percy and Lady Sykes, Lady Trotter, Mrs. Alec Tweedie, Sir Arnold and Lady Wilson, Mr. and Mrs. C. L. Woolley.

THE BALFOUR FOREST.

The site of the Balfour Forest, which is to be planted in Palestine to commemorate Lord Balfour's identification, as spokesman of the British Government, with the creation of the Jewish National Home, lies on the high road from Haifa to Nazareth. Five thousand trees have already been planted, and it is proposed to plant others at the rate of fifty thousand a year, until the reserved area of two hundred acres has been covered with three thousand trees, which are to be mostly Aleppo pine trees. The dinner given at the Guildhall on July 3 by the Balfour Forest Committee served the double object of a tribute from the Anglo-Jewish community to the Earl of Balfour and of a means of raising the necessary funds for the planting of the first fifty thousand trees. Both purposes were well served. The great Hall was filled for the first time in its history with a gathering almost exclusively Jewish—the guests numbering over 650—and subscriptions given or announced at the dinner amounted to nearly £16,000. Major H. L. Nathan, Chairman of the Balfour Forest Committee, presided, and among those present were:—

Lord Birkenhead, Lord Reading, Lord and Lady Melchett, Lord and Lady Erleigh, Lord Rothschild, the Lord Mayor and Lady Batho, the Very Rev. Dr. Hertz (Chief Rabbi), Sir John and Lady Shuckburgh, Lt.-Col. Sir Stewart and Lady Symes, Sir Meyer and Lady Spielman, Mr. James de Rothschild, Sir Frederick Keeble, Sir Frederick and Lady Nathan, Sir Edward Stern, Sir Israel and Lady Gallancz, Sir Philip Magnus, Lady Samuel, Lady Fitzgerald, Mrs. H. L. Nathan, Mr. N. Sokolow, Hon. Mrs. Clive Behrens, Hon. Henry and Mrs. Mond, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Mond, Mrs. Philip Snowden, Mrs. F. S. Franklin, Mr. and Mrs. Albert Levy, Alderman L. Jacobs, Mr. Sheriff Davenport, Mr. Sheriff and Mrs. Green, and Mr. D. D. Collins.

The following letter from Lord Balfour was read at the Dinner:—

I am profoundly touched by the action of the Anglo-Jewish community in bringing into existence a living and enduring symbol of their participation in the regeneration and development of Palestine.

I like to think of the Balfour Forest not merely as evidence of good will to myself personally, but as a token of the loyal co-operation between Anglo-Jewry and the British people in the fulfilment of a great enterprise.

Lord Melchett proposed the toast of His Majesty's Government. It was due to a British Government, he said, that it had been possible for them to meet in support of the Balfour Forest, and it was to the British Government as the Mandatory Power that they had to look for the carrying out of the Treaty, and on whom they relied to make a success of the task of upbuilding Palestine. As one of those privileged to plant the first trees in the Balfour Forest, he could tell them that where there were once malarial swamps there now stood smiling homesteads. Much remained to be done both by the Jews and by the Government. The Joint Palestine Survey Commission, who had recently completed their work, drew up a document in which they had laid down their views as to the programme which had to be carried out in order to make a success of the National Home. The co-operation of all Jews in the stupendous task of the upbuilding of Palestine was invited. It was hoped that the Mandatory would continue its help, especially by extending to Palestine the benefit of Imperial Preference.

Replying to the toast, Lord Birkenhead paid a tribute to Lord Balfour who, in his judgment, was the most

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eminent figure who still survived from a glorious past. With Disraeli and the late Lord Salisbury he attended the Berlin Congress, and now, in the evening of an honourable and distinguished life, was an influential member of the Cabinet. The Zionist experiment was as novel as it was difficult. Its complete success, although he shared Lord Melchett's views as to its prospects, was not yet completely determined. Many racial problems still existed in Palestine which required for their complete solution all the statecraft which the Zionists possessed. The population of Palestine was not homogeneous; there were people there who founded their claims to generous recognition and fair treatment upon a long history, and the Zionists' ability to adapt themselves to the just appreciation and treatment of those with whom their future lives must be lived would be a measure of their statecraft.

The toast of "The Balfour Forest" was proposed by Mrs. Snowden, who said that the enterprise was a very big one, but for immediate purposes a sum of £15,000 was required to enable some fifty thousand trees to be planted. In an eloquent speech, Lord Reading supported the appeal, and urged the gathering to provide much more than the sum mentioned by Mrs. Snowden. Mr. James de Rothschild proposed the health of the Lord Mayor and Corporation; he was supported by Dr. Hertz, Chief Rabbi, and Sir Charles Batho responded. Mr. Henry Mond proposed the health of Major H. L. Nathan, who in his reply, announced that, inclusive of the sums previously promised, among which were £5,000 from Mr. Bernhard Baron, and £1,050 each from Lord Melchett and Dr. Henry Dreyfus, the amount raised as the result of the appeal that evening was £15,590.

Book Reviews

IMHOTEP.

"IMHOTEP, THE VIZIER AND PHYSICIAN OF KING ZOSER." By J. B. Hurry, M.D. Second and Revised Edition. (Oxford University Press. 10s. 6d.)

Nearly two years ago we had the pleasure of reviewing the first edition of Dr Hurry's pious work on his predecessor by some thirty-two centuries in the healing art. We are glad to find that he has not ceased working at his deeply interesting study. His second edition is, in every way, fuller and more interesting than the first, is, indeed, a monumental monograph worthy of his professional zeal. Not only is the matter, specially as regards early Egyptian medical practice, much more complete, but additions

have also been made to the excellent illustrations. Some pages as well have, of course, had to be given to the recent finds at the great Step Pyramid. It is a pity that Dr. Hurry should have left standing the assertion that "it never had the continuous casing of stone which marks the true pyramid," now that he has to add, a few pages later, that "the latest discoveries have revealed that the Step Pyramid was covered with a coating of fine limestone." This slip, however, can easily be corrected in the third edition, to which we look forward. C. S. W.

A GIRL-BOY AMONG THE SERBS.

"CLAUDIA DECIDES." By Prudence Cadey. (London: Constable 7s. 6d. net.)

If incident were all that was necessary for the successful novel, this story of a young Englishwoman who did hospital work in the War, first in Serbia and then at Salonika, and who, nevertheless, gained little knowledge of the "world," must win considerable renown. For without question, Miss Cadey makes her scenes live; her description of the work of the Women's Hospital Unit in Serbia, as of various types thrown up by the War, Serbian, Austrian, and German, is both acute and veracious. It is rather in her characterisation, and in her philosophical sense of the probabilities that she fails. The yarns in fact one of incident piled on incident; there is no development in the strict sense of the word, no real continuity.

Claudia was an independent young female of the pre-War generation, whose adoration of parental and scholastic authority was not profound. Running away from home, she encountered the War in a mood of ready adventure. Fate took her as a motor driver in the Women's Hospital Unit in Serbia. The hospital was overrun in the German advance. Having helped several Serbs to escape from the Austrians and Germans—largely owing to her dressing and acting as, and being mistaken for, a young man—she herself escaped with a young Serb officer whose mode of veneration of the innocent "girl-boy" was so misconstrued by her that she led the all-too-willing Serb into Orthodox matrimony. But married, she hated herself, and fled across the Macedonian hills far, far away from her husband. To cut a fairly long and not too convincing story short, she arrived back in England after the Armistice still a mere "slip of a thing" who really needed looking after by a strong and faithful male. He, alas! was some years in materialising, and the intervening period was one of considerable, though not so inevitable inconvenience, for the strangely indecisive Claudia. In the end, however, the young subaltern friend of her killed brother turns up, and almost (though not quite, Miss Cadey being resolved on improbable, yet interesting incident) for ever afterwards the young heroine finds rest in conforming with the decisions of someone else. Altogether a not unattractive novel, with the pages on Serbia freshly and shrewdly written.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

"The Life and Times of Ali Ibn Isa, the Good Vizier." By Harold Bowen. (London: Cambridge University Press. 25s. net.)

"The Annual of the American Schools of Oriental Research." Vol. VII. For 1925-1926. Edited by Henry J. Cadbury. (London: Humphrey Milford. 21s. net.)

"The Uncensored Dardanelles." By E. Ashmead-Bartlett. (London: Messrs. Hutchinson and Co. 21s. net.)

"Preliminary Report upon the Excavations carried out in the Hippodrome of Constantinople in 1927." (London: Oxford University Press. 7s. 6d. net.)

"The Missing Partners." By Henry Wade. (London: Messrs. Constable. 7s. 6d. net.)

"The Bird that is Blue: A Study of Maeterlinck's Two Fairy Plays." By Florence G. Fidler. (London: Messrs. Selwyn and Blount, Ltd. 5s. net.)



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London, Tuesday Morning.

Labour's Election Programme.

The Labour Party has just published its draft programme, and it is seen to have cast its net very wide. The Socialism which is adumbrated is strictly of the constitutional, or evolutionary variety; there is nothing of the class-war in these proposals, and it is easy to see how their eminently "fair" nature was gall to the more ardent spirits of the I.L.P., while to followers of Marx they must seem so much pious nonsense. What the Labour Party lays down is a policy of peaceful transition, "without disorder or confusion, with the consent of the majority of the electors and by the use of the ordinary machinery of democratic government."

In many places this programme approaches the Liberal attitude, and there is some little enthusiasm in Liberal quarters at the prospect of a *rapprochement* with Labour in order to form a "progressive" Administration. Among the Labour Party, however, a similar desire to link up with the Liberals is not so evident.

Lord Byng's Appointment.

The reported resignation of Sir William Horwood from the Chief Commissionership of the Metropolitan Police and the appointment of Lord Byng to succeed him have fluttered considerably the minds of the politically-minded. The Labour Party, indeed, is furious at the appointment of a General, a man outside the Police Force, to succeed a man whose resignation occurs in circumstances in which the whole administration of the Police Force is being questioned. And it cannot be said that the Government has very happily managed its proclamation of the change.

That, however, is by no means saying that the new appointment is a bad appointment. There is ample precedent and there is ample justification for going to the Army for the supreme controller of the Police, and no one who knows the record of Lord Byng can fail to be struck by the fact that he is a man of remarkable quality.

The Police's Gum.

The Home Secretary, whose life seems to be spent in the fashioning of inhibitions, has now decreed that the habit of chewing gum among the Police cease. A short debate in the House upon the edict proved that the chewing habit has its defenders—not that such a trifle as this would make Sir William Joynson-Hicks swerve a hairbreadth from what he knew to be the path of duty.

The habit of chewing gum seems to me wholly reprehensible: for it is American in origin. I often wonder how much those dreary men know who drearily drag along our London streets vehicles bearing the ubiquitous Spearmint of the degeneration which this habit has introduced into the manners of the middle-classes. With the chewing of tobacco, a man's habit when all was said and done, this effeminate chewing of gum has nothing in common: it is the application of the second-rate and compromising mind to the first-rate problem of long physical endurance.

The "Mond" Conference.

The "Mond" conference between employers and Trade Unionists has published its reports, and it is for those who can to see what has been achieved. To the outsider there appears to be considerable cry but very little wool. True, agreement has been reached on a few matters—currency, victimisation, Trade Union recognition, nationalisation, and the setting up of a National Industrial Council.

But all this is, so to speak, tentative, binding on neither all the employers nor all the employed. It may be that Capitalism will be saved as a social system through the instrumentality of some such machinery as will be threshed out between the various members of the "Mond" conference, but there still remain many sceptics. Yet it is undoubtedly an achievement to have thus fostered the growth of good will but a year or two after the General Strike.

The Literary Weeklies.

The suspended publication of the *Outlook*, the weekly with which many permanent names in Literature are linked, is melancholy news indeed, particularly to those who are seriously concerned at the decline of free, independent criticism in England. There is, of course, still abundant vocal criticism left in the long-suffering souls of Englishmen, but it finds its way into print with increasing difficulty. The way of those journals which refuse to pander to proprietary fancies or to the dictates of advertisers is very hard.

Certainly the *Outlook*, which in later years was marked by the whimsical yet realistic individuality of Mr. Wyatt Tilby, its Editor, will be missed. Let us hope that, despite its impartial agnosticism, it will suffer timely resurrection.

The Dethronement of "Queen's."

This is an age when kings are broken and the populace exults on proletarian stilts. It is no surprise, then, to learn that Queen's Club is to be converted wholly to the use of Lawn Tennis players, that the famous cinder track is to be abolished, and that, therefore, the University sports in all probability will be seen there no more. Of course it was bound to come; one felt it when the Rugger and Soccer matches were moved to Twickenham and Stamford Bridge. For we live in an age of progress, when sport is become primarily a game worth the watching, but too dangerous to be worth the playing.

But what a sigh there will be over Queen's! Some think of Brooks' high jump there in the 'seventies, others of the quarter-miles of Jordan and Fitzherbert in the 'nineties, myself of Ashington and MacMillan and Sproule in the years before the War. . . . Ah, well! as we all, sooner or later, come to say.

London's Attractions.

London really could pride itself on the attractions which it held out last week—Wimbledon, Henley, Hurlingham, the A.A.A. Championships at Stamford Bridge, and cheap opera at Covent Garden. Is there a city in the world which could equal it?

At Wimbledon the main English consolations were in the fact that the ladies' doubles final was a wholly English affair, and that Austin got so near to the eventual and worthy winner, Lacoste. The passing out of Tilden, a player of whose renown and genius the world may be talking years hence, was to many people a surprise. To Americans it must have been something worse than that.

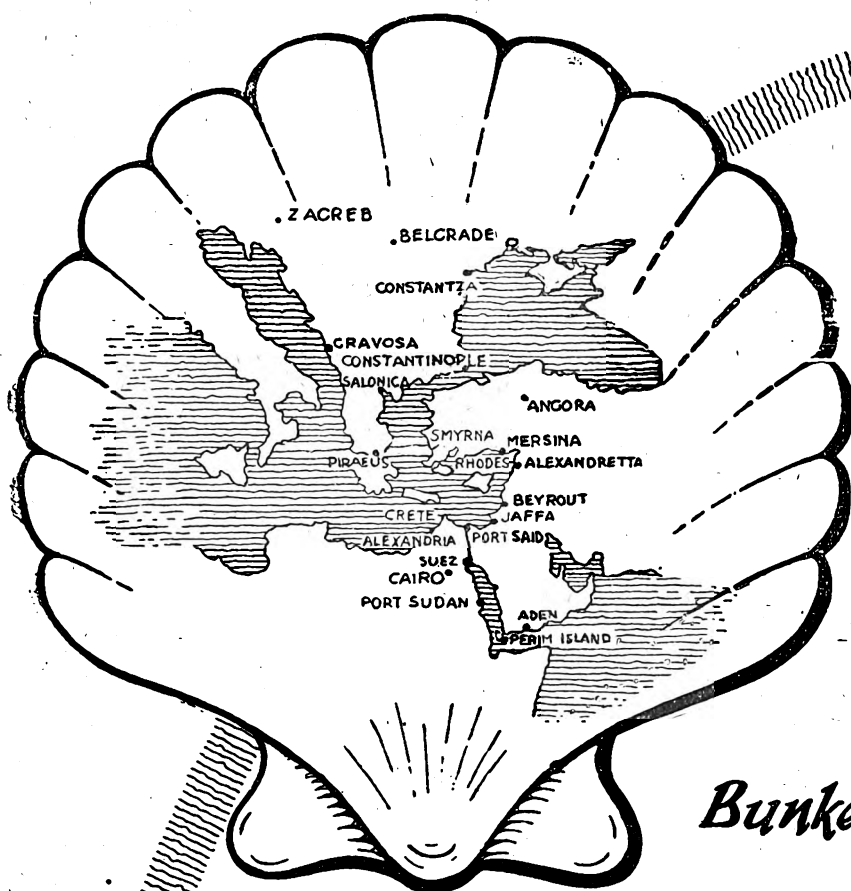
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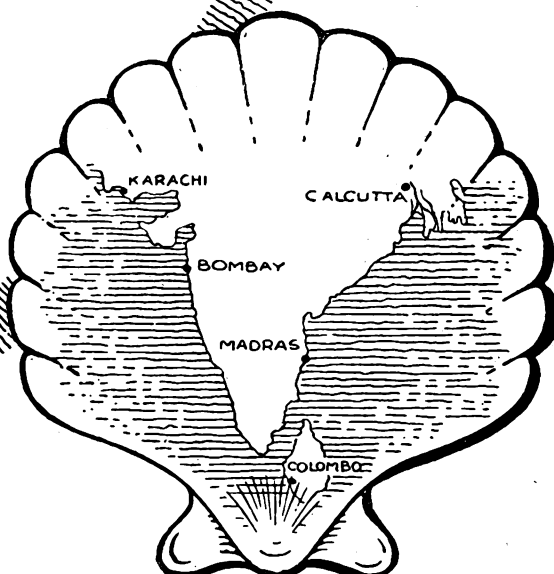
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SHELL



PERSONAL AND GENERAL

TO-DAY

July 12, 1928 (New Style).

June 29, 1928 (Old Style).

Muharram 23, 1347 A.H., of the Muslim Calendar.

Tammuz 24, 5689, of the Jewish Calendar.

The Prince of Wales received the Maharaja of Jammu and Kashmir at St. James's Palace on July 3.

Sir Grimwood and Lady Mears arrived at the Hotel Belgravia, Grosvenor Gardens, on July 3.

The Maharanee of Kapurthala arrived at Claridge's Hotel last week from Paris.

The Raja and Ranee of Jasdan, Kathiawar, have arrived in London and are staying at the Royal Palace Hotel.

Prince and Princess Nicholas of Greece visited their Majesties at Buckingham Palace on July 3.

Princess Andrew of Greece, with Princess Cecile of Greece, visited their Majesties at Buckingham Palace on July 8.

Princess Aspasia of Greece honoured Lady Demetriadi with her presence at a luncheon party at Claridge's Hotel on July 3.

The Maharaja of Kashmir and the Nawab of Palanpur were among the guests at a luncheon given by Earl and Countess Winterton at Clardige's Hotel on July 5.

Viscount Inchcape, who returned from Paris on July 2, left London for Glenapp the following day, to be with Viscountess Inchcape, who is still far from well.

General Sir Philip and Lady Chetwode will leave England early in October for India, where he will take up his new duties as Chief of the Staff.

Sir Ahmed Hassanein Bey arrived in London at the end of last month and is staying at 38, St. James's Place. He hopes to remain in England for about six weeks.

The Maharaja of Karpurthala and the Nawab of Palanpur were present at a luncheon given by the Earl and Countess of Birkenhead on July 6 at 32, Grosvenor Gardens.

Sir Maneckji and Lady Dadabhoi are this afternoon giving a garden party in connexion with the British Indian Union, from three till six p.m., at Kingsnympton Hall, Kingston Hall.

The ex-King of the Hellenes, attended by Colonel D. Levidis, honoured Dr. and Mme. Cawadias with his presence at dinner on July 2 at 52, Wimpole Street. Many prominent members of the Greek colony were present.

Air Vice-Marshal Sir Robert Brooke-Popham has been selected to succeed Air Vice-Marshal Sir Edward L. Ellington as Air Officer Commanding the Iraq Command towards the middle of November next, on completion by Sir Edward Ellington of two years' service there. Sir Robert Brooke-Popham became Director of Research at the Air Ministry after the War, and in 1921 was appointed Commandant of the then newly-constituted Royal Air Force Staff College. He became Air Officer Commanding, Fighting Area, Air Defence of Great Britain, in April, 1926.

It is announced by the Colonial Office that the King has approved the appointment of Sir John Robert Chancellor, G.C.M.G., G.C.V.O., D.S.O., to be His Majesty's High Commissioner and Commander-in-Chief for Palestine and High Commissioner for Trans-Jordan, in the place of

Field-Marshal Lord Plumer, G.C.B., G.C.M.G., G.C.V.O., G.B.E., whose tenure of these offices will shortly end. Sir John Chancellor was the first Governor of Southern Rhodesia, being appointed in 1923, when that Colony was granted self-government. He left Rhodesia last month. Born in 1870, Sir John Chancellor joined the Royal Engineers in 1890 and saw active service in the Sudan and on the Indian frontier, gaining the D.S.O. After service at War Office he was appointed Governor of Mauritius in 1911, and was transferred to Trinidad in 1916.

NEW GREEK CABINET.

The new Cabinet was sworn in on July 4. It consists as follows:—
M. Venizelos. Premier (without portfolio).
M. Karapanos. Foreign Affairs.
M. Zavitsianos. Interior.
M. Maris. Finance.
M. Sophoulis. War.
M. Argyropoulos. The Navy.
M. Gondikas. Public Instruction.
M. Christomanos. Communications.
M. Vouloumis. National Economy.
M. Petrides. Justice.
M. Emmanouilides. Public Assistance.
M. Kannavos. Agriculture.
M. Papadatos. Sub-Minister for the Exchange of Populations.

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JAIPUR (Rajputana)—New Hotel.	George Hotel.
JERUSALEM—St John's Hotel,	PORT SAID—
H. & F. Fast, Managers	Casino Palace Hotel.
	Grand Hotel de la Poste.

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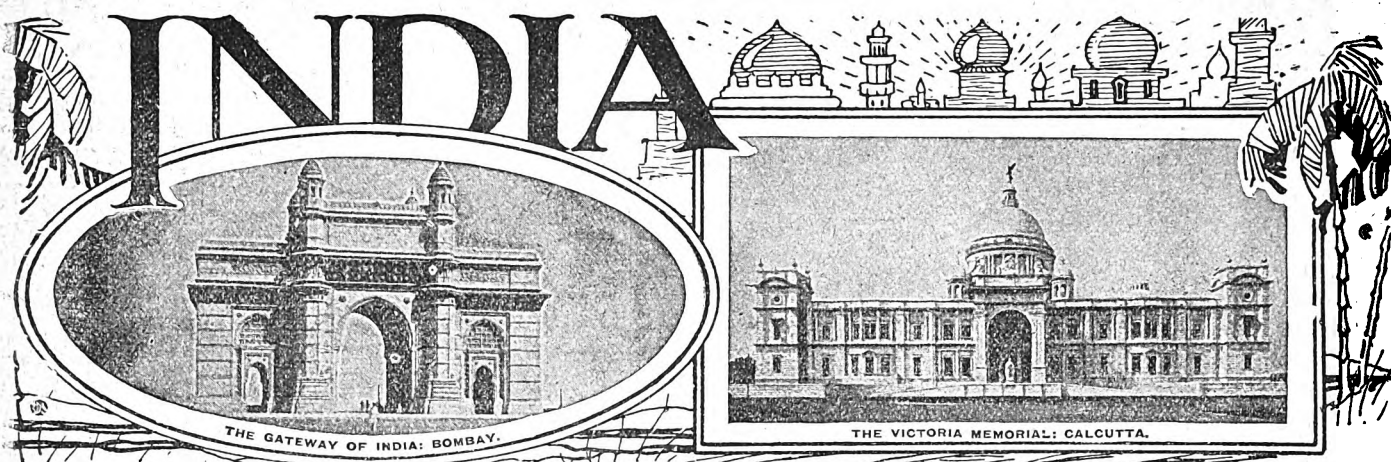
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BARDOLI.

Recent developments in the Bardoli dispute serve only to confirm the view taken from the outset of the controversy in these columns that the increase in the land assessment has absolutely nothing to do with the latest example of Satyagraha. The real issue at stake, it cannot be too often or too clearly emphasised, is not that of the financial ability of the people of Bardoli to pay an enhanced assessment; it is the attempted revival of civil disobedience, with the support, this time, of an organised Communist movement. Not many years ago the same taluka in the Surat district was singled out by Mr. Gandhi for special training in the art of civil disobedience, and was widely advertised as the place which was to set an example to the rest of India in the forthcoming campaign. Bardoli was represented as being fully prepared for its responsible task; but on the eve of the demonstration certain events occurred in other parts of India, which had not had the advantage of the same intensive training, which convinced Mr. Gandhi that civil disobedience was, in face of the conditions so blatantly revealed, "a Himalayan blunder," with the result that the whole project was abandoned.

The history of the means by which it has been sought to revive a political experiment of which the author himself has shown the folly may be briefly narrated. According to the land revenue code of the Bombay Presidency, the land revenue is assessed every thirty years. The occupants of agricultural land in Bardoli Taluka and Valod Mahal in the Surat district—one of the wealthiest in the Presidency—combined in February last, at the instigation and with the assistance of outsiders, to refuse to pay the revised assessment, the last revision being made in 1896-97. The Settlement officer had originally proposed an increase of 30 per cent. The Land Settlement Commissioner's recommendations reduced the ratio to 29 per cent. After the most careful inquiry and the fullest consideration of all the objections raised by both the cultivators and certain members of the Legislative Council, the Bombay Government fixed the ratio at 20 per cent. in excess of those paid during the thirty years' currency of the previous settlement. Until the middle of April the Revenue officers confined their action to notices of demand and attempts at distraint. The latter were frustrated by organised evasion, the locking up of houses and threats to the village Patels and Vethyas of boycott and excommunication. The Government then reluctantly resorted to the forfeiture of land and organised attachment of buffaloes and movable property. Twenty-five Pathans were obtained to assist

the Manlatda and Mahalkaris in the work of attachment and the care of the animals attached. Attempts have been made to represent the behaviour of these foreign mercenaries, who have worked under the strict superintendence of Government officials, in the worst possible light, but the allegations have not been substantiated, and they have since been displaced. The non-agricultural defaulters were served with notices of forfeiture, accompanied by a special warning that their lands would be entered as Government unoccupied waste on the expiry of the period of such notice and disposed of to persons applying for the occupancy as opportunity occurred. A very small area of land belonging to agriculturists with large holdings has been similarly dealt with.

The non-co-operation leaders have declared that Government would be afraid to forfeit any land, and that, if they did, no one would dare to come forward to take up the occupancy. The large number of applicants, many of them residents of the Surat district, forthcoming shows how erroneous was this belief and incidentally disproves the suggestion that the enhanced assessments are prohibitive. It has further been suggested that none of the land revenue would be paid. In point of fact, we understand that payments received from occupants of all classes and castes, under the seal of secrecy, total more than one lakh of rupees, or nearly one-fifth of the aggregate receipts from the Taluka and Mahal. And here it may be noted that in the neighbouring Taluka of Chorasi, where the revised rates are higher than in Bardoli and have also been introduced this year, over nine-tenths of the land revenue, the normal collection, have been paid up.

It has been suggested that the Bombay Government has not until recently realised the gravity of the situation, and that in refusing to give way to popular clamour by "a little gesture of solicitude," it is trying to maintain its prestige. Nobody who has seen the correspondence which has passed between the Governor and a member of the Legislative Council who pressed for an independent inquiry can for a moment entertain such a view. It is not a case of prestige but of fundamental principle; not merely the right but the duty of the Administration to uphold its authority against those who claim that they can with impunity defy it. "No Government can concede the right of private individuals to usurp the functions of the Government, and no Government would be worth the name of Government which allowed such a thing to happen." Sir Leslie Wilson, whose last few months in office bid fair to prove the most difficult of the whole five years, has, in one sentence, made clear alike the issue and its import.

CURRENT TOPICS.

The Late Sir David Yule.

By the death of Sir David Yule India has lost a merchant and an industrialist of the very highest ability. Sir David was connected with the trade of Calcutta for upwards of fifty years, having joined the firm of Andrew Yule and Co. as far back as 1875. His uncle, Mr. George Yule, was at that time the head of the firm, and was a well-known and popular figure in mercantile circles. Among his various activities he was President of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce for nearly two years—1878 to 1880. He was also a keen sympathiser with the Indian political movement which began to take shape during the Viceroyalty of Lord Ripon, and which crystallised into the Indian National Congress in the time of the next Viceroy, Lord Dufferin. Mr. George Yule was the President of the Congress which was held at Allahabad in the later 'eighties; and he gave a presidential address which was afterwards described by Sir William Wedderburn as having been animated "by a spirit of wise discretion and convincing common sense."

Sir David Yule, unlike his uncle, was not a politician, although he was always understood to be sympathetic to Indian political aspirations. He was first and last a business man. In his early days he took some part in the work of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce, but not for long; and for forty years or so he had nothing to do with that institution except as an ordinary member. His life work was the building up of the commercial and industrial house of Andrew Yule and Co., with the active direction of which he was for so long associated. He was one of the pioneers of the great jute manufacturing industry on the Hughli; and the mills controlled by his firm are now, and have always been, conspicuously successful. Together they form one of the largest groups of mills on the river, and they owe much of their success to Sir David's great ability. In the development of the Bengal coalfields he was also prominent; and by the acquisition, some twenty years ago, of a controlling interest in the Bengal Coal Company—the largest of the colliery companies—he took the leading place in the industry. While he was Chairman of the company his addresses at the half-yearly meetings were read with great interest throughout India, so keenly were his views on commercial and financial problems sought after by the public. The banking business which was conducted a long time ago by Messrs. Andrew Yule and Co. was launched by him as a separate local bank under the name of the Bank of Calcutta; and after years of extraordinary and uninterrupted prosperity it was merged in the Mercantile Bank of India, of which he became a director. It is also not without interest to note that the recent purchase of a morning contemporary was not the first of Sir David's ventures into newspaper ownership. He was associated years ago with a Calcutta newspaper which, curiously enough, was styled the *Indian Daily News*, and which was in its day a well-known and recognised organ of European opinion.

The attention which Sir David Yule gave to his business was extraordinarily close. No detail was too insignificant to be beneath his notice; and nothing eluded his vigilant eye. He was a tireless worker, attending his office in even the hottest weather for many hours daily, beginning at an earlier and ending at a later hour than most Calcutta merchants. It was by this extraordinary concentration of his undoubtedly great powers on the affairs of his firm that he amassed his colossal fortune, and made the business into one of the largest and best-organised in the East. As has been mentioned more than once since his death, he was not, in the ordinary sense, well known in Calcutta. For although he lived there for a great many years, comparatively few of the residents were personally acquainted with him, apart from those whose business concerns took them to his office. Outside the office he led a secluded life, but in commercial circles he was a great power, and Clive Street was always keenly anxious to

know his views when any important question was to the fore.

A Happy Ending?

The absence of an official statement by the companies concerned notwithstanding, recent reports of the settlement of the destructive oil rate war in India, appear to have been substantially correct. According to the latest advices, the basis of what is understood to be an amicable settlement is that, while the Standard Oil Company of New York reserves the right to continue its purchases of Russian oil under its contract with the Soviet Government, it agrees to recognise the claim, maintained by the Royal Dutch Shell group, of the right of the former owners of the oil properties in Russia to compensation. In this connection, it will be recalled that as far back as February last it was reported that the Standard Oil Company had agreed to earmark annually a part of the proceeds from the sale of the Russian products as an indemnity fund for the benefit of the dispossessed owners of the oil properties seized by the U.S.S.R. The difficulties in the way of a solution on such lines were obviously formidable, and little surprise will be expressed at the more general terms in which the present assurance is phrased. In any case, the practical consequences of the welcome, if tardy, recognition of the rights of the dispossessed proprietors are likely to be the same in existing circumstances.

Whether there is any connection between the reported settlement and the announcement a few days previously that the Indian Tariff Board had presented its report on the question of whether and to what extent the indigenous oil interests required protection is not revealed. Certainly the news of the settlement will nowhere be received with greater relief than by the authorities at Simla, to whom the Board's report, whatever its contents, must have been a source of serious embarrassment. The case put forward by the Indian industry has been received with mixed feelings in India, where the price fixing policy of the companies has wholly failed to conciliate public opinion, and the likelihood of the Legislature agreeing to any increase in the cost of either petrol or kerosene was very remote. All the parties concerned are therefore to be congratulated on the termination of a costly struggle, and the American combine in particular for its recognition, if somewhat belated, of the theory of sanctity of contracts which its action has gone so far to destroy.

Commerce and the Commission.

Although, in contrast to the practice of the corresponding Indian organisations, the Chambers of Commerce in India have always made it a rule to eschew politics as far as possible, they are naturally greatly interested in the outcome of the labours of the Statutory Commission. As foreshadowed in the outgoing President's address at the annual meeting of the Association last December, the Associated Chambers of Commerce of India and Ceylon are accordingly endeavouring to present the considered views of the constituent Chambers before the Commission in as effective a form as possible. To that end there is now in course of preparation a joint memorandum embodying the views of all the European Chambers, and one of the principal points for consideration will no doubt be the provision of satisfactory safeguards against legislation discriminating against British commercial interests. Readers of THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA do not require to be reminded of the necessity of such a course, the present position in that respect having been the subject of many references in these columns since the meeting held last year under the auspices of the East Indian section of the London Chamber of Commerce. Nor is there any reason why insistence upon the inclusion of safeguards of this nature should in any way offend Indian susceptibilities, since such a provision is a familiar feature of commercial treaties concluded on a most-favoured-nation basis between Sovereign States of every degree

While the Associated Chambers, it is understood, will submit a memorandum on the general scheme of reforms, it has been decided that the interests of the various Chambers are too conflicting for them to agree upon a joint expression of opinion on the subject of the financial relations between the Central and the Provincial Government—one of the most thorny of all the difficult problems confronting Sir John Simon and his colleagues. The Associated Chambers, we are informed, have contented themselves with recommending the appointment, under the aegis of the Commission, of a special Finance Committee consisting of experts in financial matters who should examine this particular aspect of the inquiry and report their conclusions, as in the case of the Committee on Education, to the main body. It is, at the same time, left to the individual Chambers to put up a case, having regard to the special circumstances of their own provinces, for the revision of the Meston Settlement and a more equitable division of sources of revenue between the Central and Provincial Governments. We can imagine the comment of Sir Basil Blackett when the news of the decision, which is as unfortunate as it seems inevitable, reaches the late Finance Member on his travels.

CALCUTTA LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Calcutta, June 21.

Politics.

The most careful scrutiny of the newspaper files since the date of my last letter shows but little political news. Apart from the short-lived Ministerial crisis in the United Provinces, there has been only one matter to attract attention—the publication on June 6 of a manifesto by a new political organisation, the Country League. This was sent out with the authority of the Maharajas of Darbhanga and Burdwan, the Nawab of Aligarh, Mr. C. T. Allen of Cawnpore, Mr. John Langford James of Calcutta and other leading Indians and Europeans. Those are the moderate men; this is their attempt to assert themselves. They are justified, for it is no secret that the active politicians, with the honourable exceptions of Mr. Gandhi, Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya, and a bare handful of others, are far from disinterested in the expression of their views. If a man wants to hear the worst that can be said of them, it is not to the Bengal Club he should go; he should draw apart in private with some Indian who has had good opportunities of judging, as some official of the ruler of a Native State close by, say, the Punjab. He will then hear the political legions up and down the country denounced in unsparing terms. We Europeans have all had our time of listening, and it may have been not once but many times.

The manifesto of the Country League, after an opening paragraph of no great interest, continued:—

“For the past eight years India, with varying degrees of success, has been experimenting with responsible government in a restricted form. There is nothing to be gained by referring to old controversies, but it is certain that large sections of India’s responsible citizens, accustomed to the traditional methods of making their wishes and requirements known to Government, failed to recognise the significance of the drastic changes that accompanied the introduction of the Montagu-Chelmsford Reforms. The result has been that a small section of India, which may be described broadly as representing local urban interests (at least in the Legislative Assembly and in most of the Provincial Councils), has, by intensive methods of political organisation, secured for itself a predominant portion of the power handed over under the Reforms, to the definite detriment of more solid, and perhaps more sober elements.”

There could not be language of a more studied moderation. The objects of the League are as moderate. They are to secure the maintenance of an administration favour-

able to agricultural prosperity and commercial development and for the protection of commercial and landed rights. The further objects of the League include the progressive realisation of responsible government in India, and the establishment of Second Chambers and some simple form of government in the Provinces. It cannot be too simple.

The Education Committee of the Indian Statutory Commission.

The Education Committee of the Indian Statutory Commission is now fully constituted under Sir Philip Hartog as Chairman, and the members who were in India after assembled in Simla. The Committee will tour India after Sir Philip Hartog’s return from England; for no Committee or Commission ever ventures to express its mind without first going a tour of the country. One may be forgiven for thinking that Sir Philip Hartog and his colleagues, who must already know all that can be known of the state of education in India, for they are a body of experienced educationists, would employ their time better in clarifying their views round a table in Simla, a *modus operandi* which would, incidentally, save the country some money. What one wants is not an attempt, certain to be vain, to learn more of the already so well known, but a statement of the position so well drawn up that a better could never be written. That would secure the attention for it, not merely of those interested in education in India at the time of its publication, but two or three generations of readers. But that is a counsel of perfection.

The Strikes.

After the announcement that the Lillooah workshops of the East Indian Railway would be re-opened on May 25, after being closed for eleven weeks, and after they had been re-opened, but only to be the scene of that strange Indian thing, a performance of *satyagraha*, the position reverted to that of an obstinate strike, and subsequently the trouble spread to Asansol. Things have looked brighter these last two or three days, men, both at Lillooah and at Asansol, being reported to have resumed work. The numbers are small and the men are all said to be Muslims; but that anyone, in a strike, should resume work, is always a certain sign of the end. Most well-informed people hold the opinion that the end of the railway strike is in sight. There was a strike, but happily it was short-lived, at the Kesoram Cotton Mills at Garden Reach. Mr. Bepin Chandra Pal, one notices, has been trying to bring about a saner handling of industrial disputes. The trouble, according to Mr. Pal, is that the workers never have proper leaders, but are led on each occasion by some legal person from outside the industry, his hope being that, if an increase of wages comes of the strike, he may come in for a percentage. That will always be bait big enough to attract someone; so it is greatly to be wished that trade unionism in India should be better organised, and that the workers had natural leaders.

Sir Alexander Muddiman.

I was in Simla, but on the point of returning to Calcutta, when the news came of the sudden and unexpected death of the new Governor of the United Provinces. From the hotel window I could see only one flag at half-mast, the flag on the tower of Christ Church; but those who know Simla know how rare is a building on which there can be a flagstaff. The regret of all classes was deep and sincere. Sir Alexander was only in his fifty-third year and had only been Governor of the United Provinces for half a year. Death takes a heavy toll of Europeans in India, but Viceroys and Governors of Provinces have usually been spared. Sir John Woodburn, Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal twenty-five or more years ago, died at his post; but one cannot remember the name of any other head of a province who did not live to retire at the end of his term.

A High Court of two Judges, constituting the final Court of Appeal for Jind State, in the Punjab, was opened on July 2.

BOMBAY LETTER.*(From Our Own Correspondent.)**Bombay, June 23.***Sir Alexander Muddiman.**

The death of Sir Alexander Muddiman, who was appointed Governor to the United Provinces last year, comes as a great shock to the country since few people had realised, when he cancelled the tour in the Kumaon Hills which he was to have made this week, that he was seriously ill. Recent reports that he was recovering from his indisposition, had led people to believe that he was not in any danger. The end came with dramatic suddenness. Sir Alexander was taking a quiet stroll after luncheon when he collapsed and died before medical aid could be procured. Sir Alexander had a distinguished career, extending over thirty years, in the Indian Civil Service which he entered before his twenty-fourth birthday. During the last ten years Sir Alexander had occupied three of the most responsible positions in India—he was, successively, President of the Council of State, Home Member in the Legislative Assembly, and Governor of the United Provinces. From each of these high offices he emerged with distinction. Of his governorship of the United Provinces it is not easy to judge, but he threw himself wholeheartedly into his work. His Excellency had made friends among persons of all classes and political creeds and his death will be widely mourned all over India.

The Nawab of Chattari.

Nawab Sir Ahmad Said Khan of Chattari has taken over the Governorship of the United Provinces until a successor is nominated by the Viceroy. The Nawab as Vice-President of the Executive Council, has done so under the section of the Government of India Act which provides that if a vacancy occurs in the office of Governor when no successor is on the spot to fill the vacancy, the vice-president or in his absence the senior member of the Governor's Executive Council shall hold the office until the successor arrives. The Nawab of Chattari is the first Indian to assume the office of Governor under this section.

An All-Indian Memorial.

On Saturday the 16th, the unveiling ceremony of the equestrian statue of the Mahratta warrior, Shivaji, took place at Poona. It will be remembered that in 1921 the Prince of Wales had laid the foundation of this memorial. The Maharaja of Kolhapur, in an address delivered prior to the unveiling, recalled that the movement was originated in 1921 by his father and by the late Maharaja of Gwalior and that a Committee was appointed to undertake the arrangements in connexion with a national memorial. The cherished desire of the Committee was to get the work executed by Indian artists and it was entrusted to Mr. Karmarkar, who had done the work with great credit to himself. Two lakhs had already been spent on the memorial and the Committee held a balance of five lakhs and was assured of two and a half lakhs more from Indore. This amount was to be utilised for a great historical institution which soon would be established on the same ground. The unveiling of the memorial was staged in fine weather and amidst scenes of great enthusiasm. The Governor arrived with Lady Wilson in a magnificent procession from Shanwarda and was received by the Maharaja of Kolhapur and the Deccan Chiefs, many of whom had sent their retinue to take part in the procession. The Indian Army Regiment of Poona took a very prominent part in the celebrations. Unveiling the statue, Sir Leslie Wilson read a number of messages. In his speech the Governor paid eloquent tribute to the greatness of Shivaji. He said: "Shivaji is now rightly regarded as an Indian hero and I trust this memorial will be a sign of unity and will be accepted as celebrating not merely a great Mahratta but a great Indian." The recognition of Shivaji's greatness by European writers and speakers is of recent growth. It is largely due to authorities like Mr. C. A. Kincaid and Mr. H. Rawlinson of the Education Service,

who in his monograph on Shivaji justified some of Shivaji's deeds which Grant Duff and the writers coming after him, all of whom drew largely from his Mahratta history, had strongly condemned. We have also had in recent years Indian historians who have drawn from Mahratta sources, unlike Duff, who has gathered his materials from the chronicles of the Moghul historians. Sir Leslie Wilson himself has supported the movement, and last year, when the centenary celebrations were held in Bombay, the Provincial Government declared a public holiday in honour of the Mahratta soldier-statesman.

The Bardoli Dispute.

One more public body has entered into the Bardoli dispute. The Indian Merchants' Chamber has been trying to bring about a settlement and correspondence has passed between the President of the Chamber, Mr. H. P. Mody, and the Governor. It is generally believed that the demand for an independent and impartial inquiry into the question has been given up for obvious reasons. The Chamber will now ask for a round-table conference. It is very likely that the Governor will receive a deputation of the Chamber, consisting of Mr. H. P. Mody, Sir Purshottamdas Thakurdas and Mr. Lalji Naranji. The last two members of the Chamber have gone to consult Mr. Gandhi at Ahmedabad.

SURVEY OF NEPAL.

The Survey of India General Report for 1926-27, issued last month, contains an interesting article on the first survey of Nepal, the successful completion of which, in the short time of three years, in spite of the difficulties of climate and topography is a notable achievement and reflects great credit on all the officers and surveyors concerned.

It was in 1924, the Report recalls, that His Highness Maharaja Sir Chandra Shamsher Jung Bahadur asked for the co-operation of Indian Surveyors of the Survey of India in preparing complete modern maps of the whole of Nepal. This enlightened act has resulted in one of the greatest single contributions to Himalayan geography which has ever been made. Accurate knowledge is for the first time available of the drainage and structure of 55,000 square miles of country (an area approximately equal to that of England and Wales), extending over some of the greatest mountains of the world, and including the highest known peak, Mount Everest, which is over 29,000 feet above sea level.

EGYPT-INDIA AIR ROUTE.

In the House of Commons on July 4, Lieut.-Com. Kenworthy (Hull, Central, Lab.) asked the Secretary for Air what subsidy for Imperial Airways, Limited, was allowed for in last year's Estimates and this year's Estimates, respectively, for the purpose of operating an air service between Baghdad and Karachi; and what reductions had been made in these payments on account of the non-establishment and non-operation of this service pending agreement with the Persian Government.

Sir S. Hoare replied that the air service was planned in two sections, Egypt-Basra and Basra-Karachi, and the provision for subsidies for the latter section was £31,200 in last year's and £46,800 in the present year's Estimates, these sums being the aggregate of the subsidies for the maximum number of flights on the section at the rates specified in Clause 14 of the agreement published in White Paper Cmd. 2758. As a result of the Persian difficulty it was agreed with Imperial Airways, Limited, that the fortnightly service on the Egypt-Basra section should be augmented for the time being to a weekly one, and that the extra flights so made should be treated as though they were made on the Basra-Karachi section for the purpose of earning subsidy. There was consequently no reduction of subsidy.

In reply to a supplementary question by Lieut.-Com. Kenworthy, who asked if the Minister did not see that this policy was putting a premium on the Imperial Airways Company not pushing on with this section of the scheme, as obviously they made more money by not flying the service than by operating it, the Secretary for Air said that that was not the case. Imperial Airways were most anxious to open the whole section, and it was only the Persian difficulty, over which the company had no control, that had held it up. The company and the British Government were taking every possible step to open the whole route.

Lord Irwin, the Viceroy, has sent a telegram to King Amanullah on the latter's return to Kabul from his European tour, expressing his warmest congratulations and best wishes for the future.

INDIAN OILSEEDS.

(From a Correspondent.)

It is satisfactory to see that the Royal Commission on Indian Agriculture has rejected without hesitation the proposal to levy export duties on oilseeds. In most countries the economic objections to export duties, except on monopoly articles, are deemed to be conclusive; but in India this form of taxation still finds advocates. It may be that the idea is a survival from the past, for in the earlier customs tariffs export duties were levied on quite a number of articles. But in course of time these were all removed except the duty on rice which, from 1880 to 1916, was the only export tax in force. By 1916 revenue needs had become urgent, by reason of the War, and the Government of India then determined to levy—for revenue purposes—export duties on tea and jute. In 1919 they similarly taxed hides and skins, but not exclusively for revenue purposes. The Government were, of course, alive to the economic objections, but they had to find revenue. The Indian Fiscal Commission of 1921 rightly made it clear in their report that export duties ought not to be levied except on monopoly articles, or at any rate, articles enjoying a partial monopoly. A majority of the members of the Indian Taxation Enquiry Committee of 1924 thought differently, and expressed themselves in favour of duties on oilseeds, and on bones and other forms of manure. They held that in the interests of Indian agriculture the use of fertilisers should be encouraged; and that the supply of a nourishing food for cattle should be increased. And they believed that the best way of achieving these objects would be to impose an export duty which would promote the crushing of oilseeds in India, and would cheapen the cost of oilcake and other forms of manure to the Indian cultivator.

It appears from the report of the Royal Commission that many witnesses emphasised this view of the question, some favouring the total prohibition of export. They pointed to the loss which accrues to India, by the export of oilseeds, of a valuable source of combined nitrogen. The quantity exported of the various seeds—cotton, groundnut, rape, mustard, linseed and sesamum—is on the average about eighteen per cent. of the out-turn. Those who favour restriction seem to base their argument on the assumption that the whole of the nitrogen contained in this quantity would be returned to the soil. But, as the Commission points out, much of the material would probably be used for feeding cattle, and would be subsequently dissipated as fuel. The Commission recognises that Indian agriculture would benefit if certain oilcakes were used more extensively as a manure for the more valuable crops. But as is pointed out in the Report, India has no monopoly of the world's supplies of oilseeds. She is not even the largest supplier of these seeds. It follows that an export duty would be paid by the producer, who would receive a lower price for the seeds exported. The present time would also seem to be particularly inopportune for the imposition of duties. For the acreage under oilseeds in British India is still considerably below the pre-War figure. There is, that is to say, a tendency to replace oilseeds by other crops; and the fall in price which would follow restriction of export would certainly accentuate this tendency. Then, again, the Indian market for oil is limited, and any great extension of the oil-crushing industry would mean that Indian oil-crushers would have to compete in the world's markets. And it is doubtful if their costs of production, and the quality of their product, would enable them to compete successfully.

Oilcakes were exported from India during the five years ending 1925-26 to the extent of 165,000 tons. This means, as the Commission observes, that they are an even less important factor in the world's supply than are oilseeds. The burden of an export duty would be, therefore, in their case, borne entirely by the producer, that is the oil-crushing industry. And in these circumstances

the conclusion at which the Commission has arrived is that the effect of a duty on oilcakes "with or without a duty on oilseeds would be the curtailment of oil-crushing activities and a diminution in the available supply of oilcakes, in other words it would have effects entirely different from those desired by its advocates. It is not, therefore, by any restriction on trade that Indian agriculture is likely to reap greater advantages from the supply of combined nitrogen available in the large crops of oilseeds she produces. The only methods by which these advantages can be secured are by the natural development of the oil-crushing industry coupled with great changes in cattle management and in the use of fuel."

Similarly the Commission is opposed to anything in the way of a restriction on the exports of bones in any form. Bones are useful chiefly for supplying phosphates to the soil, although they can also rectify to some extent a deficiency of nitrogen. The exports from India aggregate about 100,000 tons, or rather less, yearly; and they are almost entirely in the form of crushed bones and bone-meal, uncrushed bones being exported to a very small extent only. The Report states that many witnesses advocated the total prohibition of export; but the Commission declined to accept any such proposal. For it is, of course, obvious that most of the arguments against the levy of an export duty on oilseeds are applicable to bones also. And furthermore, the local consumption of bones is very small, and has shown no tendency to increase even in the favourable conditions of recent years. A restriction on exports would consequently menace the existence of the crushing industry in India by closing its markets. It would be, in fact, as was shown some time ago, be more profitable for India to export bones and to buy in their place equivalent quantities of artificial fertilisers than to restrict the export of bones and to use them as fertilisers. The reason is that crushed bones realise a higher price for export than they do locally because they are used in Europe for industries—gelatine, glue, etc.—which are not in existence in India.

INDIAN INCOME TAX.

By a recent amendment of the Indian Income-tax Act, refunds under section 48 of the Act are now based, in the case of non-residents in British India, not as heretofore on the portion of their income which arises, accrues or is received in British India, but on their total income wherever arising, accruing or received. No refund is due to non-residents unless they are either British subjects or subjects of an Indian State. All applications for refunds for 1928-29, which should be addressed to the Income-tax Officer, Non-resident Refunds Circle, 5, Wallace Street, Bombay, should be made on the official form (obtainable from the Office of the High Commissioner for India), and should include:—(a) a statement of the applicant's total income of the preceding year from all sources, and (b) a declaration as to the applicant's nationality.

No refund is admissible when the total income of the preceding year is Rs.40,000 (£3,000) or more. Within that limit, the rate of refund is graduated according to the amount of total income.

A motion to appoint a committee to co-operate with the Simon Commission is likely to be made in the Legislative Council of the Central Provinces during the August session.

The Indian delegates to the British Commonwealth Labour Conference have withdrawn from the Conference as a protest against the Labour Party's action in appointing members to the Simon Commission. The decision was reached at a meeting of the Indian delegates held on July 4, the majority being in favour of withdrawal.

The Calcutta scavengers' strike was settled on July 5 on terms representing a victory for the men, who, excluding certain classes, will get an increase of one rupee (1s. 6d.) a month. Pay for the strike period was also conceded, and it was agreed that impending prosecutions should be withdrawn and that there should be no victimisation.

Commercial and Financial Section.

NOTES AND NEWS

170, Strand, London, W.C.2,
Tuesday Morning.

The Outlook in Palestine.

A very frank statement of the economic position in Palestine is made in the report by H. M. Government to the League of Nations on the administration of Palestine and Trans-Jordan in 1927. From causes in the main unconnected with Palestine that country suffered last year from marked economic depression with the result that there was an exodus from Palestine of many who had come in the last few years to settle there. The view taken in the report as to the outlook is not on the whole favourable. It is stated that it is improbable that there will be any immediate improvement and that the problem of the Government for the next few years will be to find the means to meet its essential liabilities "without imposing undue burdens on the people of a small and little-developed country." The result of the continuance of adverse conditions has been that the movement to emigrate from Palestine is still maintained though to a much less extent than in 1927. As I have explained on previous occasions the chief explanation is that a considerable proportion of the wrong type of settlers for an undeveloped region was attracted in the first place. As this will not be the case in the future it may be assumed that before long the balance of arrivals and departures will be redressed. The favourable side of the picture of Palestine to-day, on which emphasis is rightly laid in the report, is that despite the economic depression there has been development in a number of directions. Thus the value of the exports last year showed a marked increase, while for the first time since the War exports exceeded imports of agricultural products and by no less than £P282,274. Then the area under orange trees has been further increased, while steady progress has been made by various industries, notably by the soap, tobacco, cement, and flour industries. A particularly satisfactory feature is the fact that export markets are now being found for an increasing number of commodities.

Roumanian Loan Negotiations.

Of the Near Eastern loans at present on the tapis, that for Roumania is by far the most important from the point of view of the developments which may be expected to follow from its issue. At the present time progress in Roumania is absolutely retarded by the lack of finance, which is felt particularly in the spheres of agriculture and transport, and the effect of which is that the country which should have shown most progress in South-Eastern Europe is far behind some of its neighbours in economic development since the War. Negotiations for the loan have been carried on here and in America, but so far without a definite agreement having been made. It has been reported that the American negotiations have fallen through, but there is reason for thinking that this report is pre-

mature, and that all that has happened is that there has been a temporary postponement. There was no question in any case of the issue of the loan before the autumn, and while there is opposition in some quarters to the loan on account of the Hungarian question there is no reason to suppose at present that it will not materialise. It must be emphasised that the failure to obtain a loan would have serious consequences for Roumania, and might well bring about new political complications.

The Other Two Loans.

Of the other Near Eastern loans—those for Yugoslavia and Bulgaria—the negotiations for the former have not yet been concluded, while the latter is expected to make its appearance in October. The difficulty with regard to the Bulgarian Loan has been over Bulgaria's pre-War obligations to the Disconto-Gesellschaft. It was anticipated that this difficulty would be smoothed over, but conversations in London were not productive of any result, and it is now understood that the loan will be secured on revenues other than those allocated to the 1914 Loan. Various developments have affected the negotiations for the Yugoslav Loan, notably the adverse economic conditions in the country and recent political developments. It is no doubt felt that in the prevailing circumstances the terms on which the loan could be raised would be affected. This loan, like that for Roumania, it may be emphasised, should mean much for British trade, despite the fact that, unwisely as some think, we do not follow the American practice and insert a clause providing that a substantial proportion of whatever material is required must be obtained from this country.

British Trade with Roumania.

It is clear from what Mr. R. J. E. Humphreys says in his interesting report on Roumania, further extracts from which are given elsewhere in this issue, that there are very considerable prospects for the development of British trade in Roumania. Its expansion, however, will naturally

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depend on the economic recovery of Roumania, and it can therefore be said that this country is considerably concerned in the favourable issue of the loan negotiations. At the present time trade between the two countries is on a relatively small scale though it is growing. Last year the value of Roumania's imports from Great Britain was £2,683,000 as against £2,596,000 in 1926, while Great Britain imported from Roumania goods to the value of £2,376,000 as compared with £2,663,000 in 1926. It will be seen from these figures that the trade is mutual, a fact which is all in favour of its growth. Mr. Humphreys, it may be noted has much to say of the past year which is encouraging. Thus he states that British manufactures and exporters have shown an increasing interest in the market, and he is able to give a number of instances in which British goods have met with an increasing demand. Among these commodities may be mentioned gramophones, internal combustion engines, and teas. He also makes the very satisfactory statement that British motor tyres, india rubber goloshes and sports goods are overcoming competition successfully, while it is of interest to note that since the removal of the import prohibition good business has been done in whisky and gin. Mr. Humphreys' reminder that the foreign trade of Roumania will greatly expand after the economic consolidation of the country is followed by the timely suggestion that the means of advertising should be utilised to introduce goods to this market. It is one of the points which British firms have still to learn with regard to the Near East.

Roumania's Transport Problem.

Mr. Humphrey deals in detail with the transport situation in Roumania, and gives a long list of some of the improvements which are thought to be most urgently needed. From the figures he gives it will be seen that except for goods trucks and tank wagons there was less rolling stock in use in 1927 than in the previous year and it throws an illuminating light on the situation that goods trucks had to be borrowed from neighbouring countries. At the present time the utilisation of the country's great economic resources is seriously handicapped by the transport position. As I have indicated, it is largely for the railways that the loan is required, and its urgency may be gathered from Mr. Humphrey's statement that it is highly probable that the system will decline unless the necessary funds are forthcoming to enable the railways to meet their requirements.

P. & O. Banking Corporation.

At the meeting of the P. and O. Banking Corporation, Mr. W. E. Preston, who presided in the absence of Lord Inchcape, was able to show a record of satisfactory progress during the year. Mr. Preston briefly reviewed the position in Eastern countries during the year, and what he said made it evident that the results obtained by the bank were even more satisfactory than they appear. The crop conditions in India were good, but trade conditions were not, and Mr. Preston described the competition as being ultra keen. He was of the opinion that developments in China were in the right direction, but the volume of business in the Straits was naturally affected by the fall in rubber and tin.

COMMENTATOR.

DEVELOPMENT IN THE YUGOSLAV TEXTILE INDUSTRY.

Textile products form an important part of the Yugoslav import trade, comprising as they do approximately one-third of the total. Owing to the development of the domestic industry, however, the importation of manufactured textiles has been decreasing during recent years (says the American Consul at Zagreb, Mr. Leslie A. Davis, in a recent report). The importation of raw materials for use by the Yugoslav industry, at the same time, has been increasing. Of the total textile products imported into the Kingdom, cotton and cotton manufactures comprise between 60 and 70 per cent.

The protective and high import duty on cotton textiles has led to the development of the domestic industry, and a number of mills have been established in the country by foreign manufacturers during the last few years. Serbia has the largest number of textile mills, but Slovenia leads the country in capacity of production and Croatia-Slavonia follows. The total number of establishments in the country was reported in 1927 as 20; the number of spindles 112,907; looms, 5,951; employees, 9,450; annual production capacity for yarn, 5,650,000 kilos, and for cloth, 51,150,000 metres. In comparing these figures with the estimates made for 1921 it will be observed that 10 new weaving mills have been established; the number of spindles has increased by 34 per cent.; the production of yarn 60 per cent.; and the production of cloth, 150 per cent.

The total value of the yearly production of the spinning mills now amounts to about £714,500 and that of the weaving mills to £2,321,400.

Adding the total average imports and domestic production, it appears that there is need for cotton manufactures in the Kingdom amounting to about 17,000,000 kilos per year. The production of the domestic industry totals approximately 5,000,000 kilos. The remainder of the annual consumption has to be met by imports.

Coincident with the growth of the domestic manufacturing industry has been the increase in the importation of raw cotton and cotton yarn. Receipts of raw cotton from abroad amounted to 237 metric tons in 1920, 4,554 tons in 1923, and 6,893 in 1926. Imports of cotton yarn increased from 3,541 tons in 1920 to 5,585 in 1923 and 7,606 in 1926.

The Yugoslav wool industry is represented by 15 mills, of which 11 are comparatively large and 4 are somewhat smaller. A large mill is now being organised in Bosnia. The wool-spinning industry centres in Serbia and the weaving in Croatia and Serbia. The annual production of wool cloth amounts to about 6,740,000 metres. Considering that Serbia only had one mill in operation prior to 1913, the progress made by the industry is considered quite satisfactory. The demand for wool manufactures is very keen, and the mills are now operating with two, and, in some instances, three shifts.

With the growth of the domestic wool-manufacturing industry, the importation of finished wool products has shown a steady decline—from 5,200 metric tons in 1923 to 3,600 in 1926. This decrease has been evident in the imports of hosiery, gloves, sewn goods, and cloth. The receipts of foreign-made wool piece goods continued to

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show this decreasing tendency during the first six months of 1927. The development of this particular branch of the domestic industry has taken place principally since 1923. Before that year the domestic production was for the use of the army alone.

The growth of the wool industry can be viewed also from the angle of the imports of raw material, which increased from 188 metric tons in 1920 to 1,735 tons in 1923 and 3,826 in 1926. The production of raw wool in the Kingdom amounts to 16,000,000 kilos annually, of which only 5 to 10 per cent. is exported. A large portion of this wool is used by the peasants for home spinning and weaving, especially in the mountainous and southern parts of the country. The domestic wool is inferior and the better quality used in the manufacturing industry is imported.

A small part of the wool and wool yarn imported is used by the carpet industry which is represented by 4 factories having 389 looms. The carpet industry employs about 575 labourers and produces annually 55,500 square metres of hand-made rugs and 33,500 lineal metres of carpets, while the State-owned rug factory in Sarajevo produces about 5,000 fine rug.

Some cotton and cheap rayon hosiery is manufactured in Yugoslavia. Most of the knit goods, however, found in this market are imported from Europe, chiefly from Germany.

TENDERS INVITED.

Tenders are invited for the following contracts, and must be made by the dates mentioned.

(Particulars of tenders marked D.O.T. are to be obtained from the Department of Overseas Trade, 55, Old Queen Street, S.W.1).

EGYPT.

Filter.—Tenders in respect of the contract for the installation of a third filter at the Damanhour waterworks are invited by the Municipalities and Local Commission Section, Ministry of the Interior, Cairo. August 4. (D.O.T.)

Filters.—The Tanzim Department, Egyptian Public Works Ministry invites tenders for the supply and erection of four mechanical water filters. These filters are required to have a total output capacity of two million gallons of water per 24 hours. August 2. (D.O.T.)

Buffers.—The Egyptian State Railways, Telegraphs, and Telephones, invites tenders for 60 buffers complete.

The date of the adjudication for the construction of an overhead bridge at Minia, originally fixed for August 4, has been postponed to September 4.

Telephone Trunk Cable.—The General Management, Egyptian State Railways, Telegraphs, and Telephones, Cairo Station, invites tenders for the supply and laying of Cairo-Alexandria telephone trunk cable. October 3.

Ejectors and Accessories.—The Director-General, Main Drainage Department, No. 2, Sharia El Maleka Nazli, Cairo, invites tenders for supplying ejectors and accessories for stations Nos. 1, 2, 3, and 4 (Damanhour Drainage). October 15.

Paper, Binding Cloth, and Stitching Wire, Etc.—The Egyptian Ministry of Finance invites tenders for the supply of paper, boards, binding cloth, stitching wire, ink, etc., required during the year 1928-29. July 21. (D.O.T.)

Rails.—Tenders are invited by the Ministry of Finance, Survey of Egypt, for the supply of any quantity of rails up to 14,050 tons (8,300 tons light, 5,750 tons heavy). Offers for any portion will be taken into consideration. Offers may be for either new or second-hand rails. July 25. (D.O.T.)

Steel Plates.—The Stores, Egyptian State Railways, Telegraphs, and Telephones, Saptieh, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of 58 steel plates for renewals of four swing bridges. August 23.

Fire Float.—The Director-General, Ports and Lights Administration, Arsenal, Alexandria, invites tenders for the supply of a fire float for Suez Harbour as per conditions of tender and specification. August 31.

Flat Mild Steel.—The General Management, Egyptian State Railways, Telegraphs, and Telephones invites tenders for the supply of 472,800 kilos flat mild steel. August 29.

Spare Parts for Machines, Etc.—The Financial Secretary, War Office, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of spare parts for machines, leather, belts, iron goods, paints powder, nails, files, etc., to Tura Mills. July 28.

Pumping Sets, Etc.—The Financial Secretary, War Office, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of two pumping sets and two water tanks to the Ministry of War. July 25.

Soap.—The Egyptian State Railways, Telegraphs, and Telephones, invites tenders for 30 tons of soft soap to specification.

Iron Sheets.—The Egyptian State Railways, Telegraphs, and Telephones invite tenders for 144,300 kilos galvanised corrugated iron sheets of various dimensions with accessories.

INDIA.

The Indian Stores Department invites tenders in respect of their requirements in relation to galvanised wrought iron or mild steel tubes and fittings for gas, tested to 10 lb. hydraulic pressure per square inch, for the period from September 1, 1928, to August 31, 1929. July 23. (D.O.T.)

FORTHCOMING SAILINGS.

The following are the sailings for the Near East and India, the ports of departure and closing dates for cargo being given in parentheses:—

Anchor Line.—S.s. Tarantia for Bombay (Birkenhead, July 23). (For passenger sailings and dates see advertisement.)

Anchor Brocklebank Line.—S.s. Mangalore for Calcutta (Birkenhead, July 24).

Bibby Line.—S.s. Derbyshire for Port Said, Port Sudan, Colombo, and Rangoon (Birkenhead, July 26).

British India Line.—S.s. Mundra for Bombay and Karachi (London, July 21); s.s. Morvada for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, July 28).

Cunard Line.—S.s. Brescia for Gibraltar, Genoa, Leghorn, Naples, Palermo, Messina, Catania, Bari, Venice, Trieste, and Fiume (Liverpool July 21, and in Swansea July 24); s.s. Bactria for Malta, Patras, Piræus, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, and Constantza (Glasgow July 20, Liverpool and Swansea July 21).

Johnston Line.—S.s. Aviemore for Smyrna and Constantinople (Liverpool, July 28); s.s. Aviemore for Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, August 4); s.s. Dromore for Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, September 1).

P. and O. Line.—S.s. Malwa for Bombay (London, July 20).

Prince Line.—S.s. Soldier Prince for Tunis, Malta, Alexandria, Jaffa, Haifa, Beyrout, and Cyprus (Manchester, July 21); s.s. Scottish Prince for Tunis, Malta, Alexandria, Jaffa, Haifa, Beyrout, Tripoli, Alexandretta, Mersina, and Cyprus (London, August 1).

Ellerman and Papayanni Lines.—S.s. Roumelian for Oran*, Algiers*, Malta, Piræus, Volo*, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, and Constantza (Liverpool July 14, Swansea July 14); s.s. Fabian for Malta, Alexandria, Jaffa, and Haifa (Liverpool, July 28); s.s. Polo for Algiers*, Patras, Smyrna, and Constantinople (Liverpool, August 4); s.s. Egyptian for Gibraltar, Malta, Alexandria, Jaffa*, and Haifa* (Liverpool, August 4); s.s. Manchurian for Genoa, Leghorn, Naples, Palermo, Messina, Catania, Bari, Gruz, Ancona*, Venice, Trieste, and Fiume (Liverpool August 4, Swansea August 6). *Subject to sufficient inducement. Cargo taken on through Bill of Lading to:—Algerian ports via Algiers; Moroccan ports via Gibraltar; Tripoli (Barbary) via Malta; Syria and Cyprus via Alexandria, Greek outports via Piræus or other convenient port.

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THE WEEK'S FINANCE.

(By Our Financial Expert.)

London, July 10.

The Stock Exchange week was progressing quietly and without special feature when on Thursday came the news of the tragic death of the Belgian millionaire financier, Captain Lowenstein. The range of his recent operations had been so wide that all the principal Bourses of the world were affected, and a severe slump took place in the shares of those companies to which his recent activities have been principally devoted—namely, Hydro Electric Securities Corporation and International Holdings. The shares of these concerns lost half their market value, but recovered nearly half the loss on the issue by the companies of a reassuring statement. In an affair of this kind some little time must elapse before it is known what the ramifications of effect will be. So far as London is concerned no major disaster need be expected. But on the other hand the markets, both here and abroad, are not in the best condition to resist a new adverse factor which may be of considerable dimensions. Moreover, the season of the year is advancing and the holidays are near. It is now less probable than ever than any substantial resumption of the market activity, which broke in June, will take place until the holiday season is over.

The Home Railway Position.

The week has been of exceptional interest to home railway stockholders. The chief event has been the publication of the final revenue figures for the first half of the year, and other developments have also focussed attention upon the home railway position. These have not been interpreted optimistically, but we consider that pessimism has proceeded to unreasonable lengths. There are certainly depressing influences, the revenue figures in particular being disappointing. Compared with the corre-

sponding period of 1927, the London Midland and Scottish shows a decline in gross revenue of £2,129,000, the London and North Eastern £1,457,000, the Great Western £832,000, and the Southern £359,000. It should be remembered, however, that the figures for the first half of 1927 cover a period when the arrears of business in 1926 due to the coal stoppage were being overtaken while the revenue figures, being gross figures, give no clue to any economies that may have been effected. Moreover, the Select Committee examining the companies' Road Transport Bill have conceded in principle the companies' right to use the roads. Finally, the railwaymen's chief trade union is facing the companies' problem in a helpful spirit. Thus, despite the gloomy views of certain highly placed observers, the situation is not without redeeming features and we suggest that a careful search among the companies' stocks should reveal several good bargains. For instance, the Southern preferred ordinary stock, the interest on which is well covered by earnings, can be obtained to give a return of £7 2s. per cent.

Mond Nickel Progress.

During recent months the ordinary shares of the Mond Nickel Company have been a feature of the Stock Markets. To-day the shares stand at around £9, but at one time this year they could have been bought for £6½, while last year they fell as low as £1 27-32. The dividend announcement, made this week, is proof that the recent rise has not been entirely without justification. The shareholders are to receive a final dividend of 4s. making 5s. 6d. for the year ended April 30, which is equal to 27½ per cent. This compares with 12½ per cent. paid for some years past, and therefore represents a substantial addition to the shareholders' return. But this is not the limit of their good fortune. The directors propose to obtain powers to subdivide the existing £1 ordinary shares into ordinary shares of 10s. each, while they also propose to increase the capital by the creation of 1,200,000 new ordinary shares. It is intended forthwith to give the ordinary shareholders the right to subscribe for 600,000 new shares at a premium. Shareholders will naturally be anxious to learn the price of issue of the new shares, but the quotation of the existing shares clearly points to the possibility of the bonus being substantial. Moreover, they will be interested to hear the chairman's review of the company's past and his forecast of the future, for it has lately been the subject of many rumours.

A Promising Industrial Investment.

The recently published report of the General Electric Company created a very favourable impression, the ordinary dividend being raised from 7½ per cent. to 10 per cent. The Company is one of the few progressive units in the electric equipment manufacturing industry. The meeting was, therefore, awaited with interest and the tone of the chairman's speech was in no sense disappointing. As regards the electrical industry itself, "it is, as ever," he said, "full of promise. The working of the Electricity Act is progressing satisfactorily, but has, as yet, not influenced our accounts." Dealing with the consequences to the company, he declared, "I have always maintained it will take some four or five years before the Act makes an imprint on our balance sheet." It has, however, been of great value in educating the public and the "increased production of appliances cheapens the price and should thus prove a distinct aid to the expansion of our export business." The company is already doing a considerable export business. Moreover, it is obviously pursuing a policy of vigorous and enlightened expansion, much attention being paid to research; and the company's interests are very diversified. At present the ordinary shares give the somewhat modest return of slightly over £5 per cent., but it seems highly probable that in the long run they will well reward the investor.

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BEIRA —Beira Shipping Agency.	Watson & Co.
DELAGOA BAY —John T.	HONG KONG —The Bank Line,
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EAST LONDON —Messrs. Dunn	Ltd.
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PT. ELIZABETH —Mackie, Dunn	& Co.
& Co.	MAURITIUS —Adam & Co.

LONDON—ANDREW WEIR & CO., 21, Bury Street, E.C.

Motors and Motoring.

By G. B. B.

The Fire Danger.

One of the ever-present dangers that threaten the car owner is that of fire. A skid on a slippery road may bring about the destruction of the car by fire just as easily as could a carelessly thrown match in a garage or a little thoughtlessness during a picnic. Petrol, whether of high or low grade, is always dangerous, and one of the most curious things about the whole business is that whilst Parliament has laid down elaborate regulations relating to the storage of petrol, once it is out of the hands of the storekeeper its use, either on a private motor car or in a private garage is quite unfettered and left to the private owner. Chassis may be, and are, constructed without the slightest regard being paid to the fire risk. No one seems to trouble as to how the occupants of a car are to get clear in the case of an outbreak; in fact, in large number of commercial vehicles petrol tanks are placed under drivers' seats, a position which may save space but which is decidedly dangerous for the driver. Again, a little more investigation might be given with advantage to the causes of fire on petrol-carrying vehicles. What, for instance, really ignites the petrol, as it often does, when a car collides or capsizes? Some say it is a spark from the magneto; others that it is invariably caused by a sparking to earth or between leads of disrupted battery cables. Other, again, say it is always caused by the exhaust, or by the hot exhaust pipe. This all seems to point to the need of a little research work. But, pending that, we may take it that fires do occur and, so far as I am aware, there is nothing, this side of a powder explosion, that is quite so swift or so terrible as a petrol fire.

A number of devices are on the market designed to prevent petrol fires on cars, most, if not all, of which depend on the action of some mechanism cutting off the supply of petrol from the service pipe and carburettor. One appliance is a ball valve in a short nozzle in the petrol tank, which comes into action the moment the tank begins to take a vertical rather than a horizontal angle. In another there is a tube made of a special alloy through which the petrol passes, and the moment this gets hot, through fire, it expands so much and so rapidly that it doubles itself up and so cuts off the petrol supply. A German inventor has a small fire extinguisher filled with the usual carbonic acid-soap mixture under pressure fixed over the carburettor and so arranged that the driver can operate it instantly by means of a push-button. Then, of course, there are all sorts of projects, some of which have already met with more or less success, by which the petrol itself is rendered non-flammable.

Motor Cycle Tour.

The motor cycle tour of Europe, just completed, of the three English lady riders, Miss Marjorie Cottle, of Liverpool, Mrs. L. McLean, of Bristol, and Miss Edyth Foley, of Stockport, should do much to stimulate business. The thorough reliability shown by the motor cycles ridden must have proved a magnificent advertisement for this country. Everywhere the riders went the machines were inspected by numbers of potential buyers, and at times the crowds were so great that the local police had to be requisitioned to clear a way. Altogether 5,110 miles were ridden and the only troubles were six successive punctures, on some of the worst roads. No mechanical trouble of any kind was experienced and the engines ran perfectly throughout.

Roads in Ceylon.

Some discussion has taken place in the motoring Press regarding the gradients of a certain road in Ceylon. I have mentioned before in these columns that Ceylon can boast some excellent roads and has none which could be really called bad, taking everything into consideration. The gradients have been given as most severe and, as a matter of fact, the various correspondents have been in error in their figures. The road in question is that from Colombo to Kandy, by way of Kadugannawa. There are on its route very few hills and the steepest, about 60 miles from Colombo, is one in eleven. There are fairly stiff hills on the Nuwara-Eliya-Welimada road and on the road between Ramboda and Eliya, but they do not exceed one in eight at the steepest parts. No one thinking of visiting that part of the Empire need worry about hills, and no British maker seeking to sell cars should neglect Ceylon as a most promising market.

British Motor Cycles' Success.

The third meeting of the Kesselberg races, of which the first was held in 1905, took place recently. The course is one of considerable difficulty, owing to the many curves and, therefore, the speeds obtained were not very high, although in consideration of the course they were good. Solo motor cycles, sidecars, and cars participated. In the 500 c.c. class, British motor cycles were well to the fore, the winner being Max Seltsmann Immenstadt on an Ariel; fourth place was gained by a Sunbeam and fifth place by another Ariel.

At the Bournemouth motor rally, just concluded, one of the great events was the Concours d'Elegance, a competition in which the winner is he, or she, who exhibits the car with the finest coachwork and fittings. This year there were over 260 entries from all parts of the world and amongst them was one from the Maharanee of Baroda.

RIDE



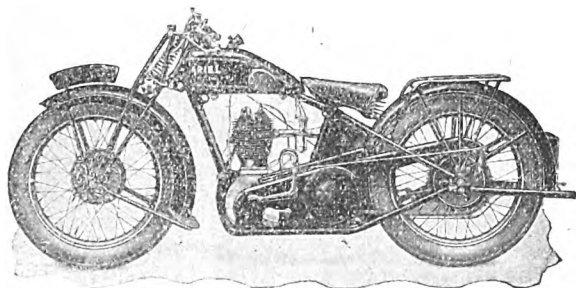
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British Consular Reports

H.—ROUMANIA.

(Continued from page 24.)

During the year 1927 the Roumanian industries were adversely affected by the rise in the value of the national currency and the continued rise in wages due to the increase in the cost of living caused largely by the high import tariff and other fiscal taxation. The poor harvest of the year also affected them indirectly, as it lowered the purchasing power of the population. On the other hand, however, the metallurgical, leather, boot and shoe and textile industries benefited by the protective customs tariff and received large orders from State institutions. The paper and sugar industries were also busy.

During the second half of the year and the beginning of 1928 the industries in general were more or less freed from the dread of currency fluctuations and were able to look forward with more confidence to the future with the hope that when the legal stabilisation of the leu is effected they will be able to procure the financial assistance they require for a wider development of their activities.

Petroleum.

The production of crude oil in 1927 was higher than in the previous year, viz., 3,650,000 metric tons, as against 3,244,415 metric tons in 1926. Drilling activities increased in the beginning of the year, when the oil companies hoped that the world prices for petroleum products would rise, though they were low at that time. When it became evident that there was no immediate prospect of any improvement in prices most of the companies reduced their drilling programmes and proceeded to cut down their administrative expenses. The low prices obtainable were partly compensated for by the reduction of export taxes to almost nominal figures and the substantial reduction of railway freights, which were granted by the Government authorities in consideration of the difficulties with which the industry was contending. These difficulties were enhanced by fluctuations in the value of the currency at the beginning of the year and by high fiscal taxation as well as by various unexpected municipal charges, so that the companies have been obliged to continue their policy of restriction of the cost of production, while endeavouring to extend the sale of their products both at home and abroad.

During the year 1927 the home and export prices of petroleum products were very little over cost price, and indeed some of the products were sold abroad below cost price in order to retain their foreign markets. About the end of September prices rose slightly and remained

steady until the end of the first quarter of 1928 at figures which allow a narrow margin of profit.

During the whole of the year 1927 and the first three months of 1928 transports were effected satisfactorily and there were no complaints of delay. With a view to reducing further the cost of transport the Government has decided to lay new pipe lines from the oil fields to the port of Constantza, and for this purpose a company is to be formed with State participation, under the Law for the Commercialisation of State Enterprises. The Bill proposing the formation of this company was laid before Parliament in the beginning of March, 1928. The total production of refined products in 1927 amounted to about 3,533,346 metric tons, as compared with 3,031,428 metric tons in 1926. The internal consumption of petroleum products increased from 1,292,649 metric tons in 1926 to about 1,367,757 metric tons in 1927. The exports for the whole year are recorded at 1,912,982 metric tons, as against 1,492,953 metric tons in 1926, making an increase of 29.2 per cent. The following are the detailed figures of the exports during these two years:—

	1927.	1928.	Increase.
		(Metric tons)	
Motor spirit	543,502	424,967	118,535
Lamp oil	610,634	527,069	83,565
Gas oil	215,510	199,808	15,702
Lubricating oil	64,097	42,396	21,701
Fuel oil	479,239	298,713	180,526
Total	1,912,982	1,492,953	420,029

The following countries were the principal purchasers: Italy, 348,310 metric tons; Egypt, 287,390; Great Britain, 226,807; Austria, 175,772; Hungary, 144,068; Germany, 141,869; France, 108,623.

The Transport Problem.

The Roumanian railway system has now reached a point when it is highly probable that a decline will set in, in the near future, and all the achievements of the last few years will be forfeited, unless a large foreign loan is obtained to enable them to meet their most urgent requirements and to increase their capacity in proportion to the ever-expanding economic needs of the country.

The following are some of the improvements thought to be most urgently needed:—(1) The relaying of some of the lines with a heavier type of rail, these lines being destined to serve as principal arteries of circulation both for local and international traffic. It is officially stated that about 1,000 kilometres of rails of type 45 are required and 700 km. type 40 will have to be renewed, the old rails being completely worn out, causing many accidents. In connection with these 1,500 points are required, type 45, and 1,000 of type 40, as well as the relative quantities of double crossings of both types. (2) It is also urgently necessary to double some of the existing lines (425 km.), the transport capacity of which has reached the maximum. For these type 45 rails will be required. (3) The modification of some stretches of the permanent way so as to reduce the incline, which greatly adds to the expense. (4) The laying of new connecting lines so as to secure a better service and a more complete system, and the completion of the five lines already under construction. (5) The construction of new sidings so as to increase the circulation capacity. (6) The construction of two large shunting stations imperatively needed at Marashesti and Brashov. (7) To increase the number of locomotive sheds and procure much new systematic loading plant for coal. (8) To replace many of the worn out bridges and install new turntables. (9) To provide the existing workshops with further modern machine tools and install water-softening plant in various stations. (10) For the safety of traffic it is essential that telegraph and telephone lines and electric signals and other modern improvements should be installed.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

Country.	Method of Quoting.	Parity of Exchange.	Latest Quotations
Alexandria.....	Piastre to £	97½	97½
Amsterdam ...	Florins to £	12.107	12.08½
Athens	Drachmæ to £ ..	25.22½	375
Belgrade	Dinars to £	25.22½	277
Berlin	Marks to £	20.43	20.40½
Berne	Francs to £	25.22½	25.27½
Bombay	Sterling to Rupee	18d.	17 29/32—15/16
Brussels	Belga to £	35	34.91
Bucharest	Lei to £	25.22½	795
Budapest	Pen to £	27.82	27.96
Calcutta	Sterling to Rupee	18d.	17 29/32—15/1
Constantinople ..	Piastres to £	110	957½
New York	Dollars to £	4.86 2-3	4 87 1/16
Paris	Francs to £	25.22½	124.22
Prague	Kronen to £	24.02	164½
Rome	Lire to £	25.22½	92 80
Sofia	Leva to £	25.22½	674
Teheran	Krans to £	47	47
Vienna	Sch to £	34.58	34.55
Warsaw	Zloty to £	25.22½	43½

Up to the present time no attempt has been made to do more than purchase the most indispensable materials to maintain the *status quo*. The law of 1925 for the re-organisation of the administration of the Roumanian railways was re-enacted in 1927.

The present Director-General of the railways has decided that all small repairs of wagons and locomotives shall be carried out only by the railway workshops and not by private concerns. The capacity of the repair shops has been greatly increased by the installation of new plant obtained from Germany on account of war reparations.

The following table shows the qualities of the various kinds of rolling stock in service during 1927, as compared with the two previous years:—

	1925.	1926.	1927.
Locomotives	2,191	2,160	2,139
Passenger carriages	2,227	2,252	2,032
Goods trucks	35,842	33,276	41,560
Tank wagons	5,668	7,170	8,871

It will be seen that the number of goods trucks and tank wagons had increased in 1927, whereas there were fewer locomotives and passenger carriages in service than during the previous years. Additional goods trucks were also borrowed by the railway administration from neighbouring countries, chiefly for international trade.

On January 1, 1928, a greatly reduced railway tariff for goods and passengers was introduced, but the administration is convinced that the advantages offered to both services will so stimulate traffic as to more than compensate for this reduction.

At the International Railway Conference held at Dresden in the course of the year proposals were discussed for facilitating the transit of passengers and goods from the northern countries through Roumania (Braila, Galatz, Constantza) to Turkey, the eastern Mediterranean and Egypt.

During the year the railway administration received delivery of several passenger carriages and goods locomotives and wagons from the Astra Company of Arad, the Union Company of Satu Mare and the Reshitza Works, and a contract has recently been signed with the Reshitza Works for a large quantity of rails. A certain quantity of rails of a heavy type were purchased in Germany on account of reparations.

It is stated to be the aim of the new Director of the railway administration to overcome all financial difficulties as soon as possible in order that work may be begun on the improvement of the present railway system and the reorganisation of the administrative offices.

Roumanian Ports.

The following information is given by H.M. Consul-General at Galatz:—

The total number of vessels cleared from the Danube in 1927 was 806, with a total tonnage of 1,491,741 tons net. These 806 ships sailed under 19 different flags.

During the last two years a marked increase in Greek shipping has been noticeable, due no doubt to the following causes: lower working costs, especially in the Mediterranean ports, where the crews are paid in Greek currency at rates little more than half those paid on British ships; the geographical position of Greece; frequent overloading with heavy grain and excessive deck loads of timber (this is possible because there is no control of the load lines or seaworthiness of vessels leaving the Danube); purchase of second tonnage from British and other owners, much of which is unsuitable for the longer trader; the reduced dues hitherto charged by the European Commission of the Danube on vessels under 1,500 Danube register tons.

Freights in the opening months of the year were still high from the effects of the British coal stoppage, but were steadily declining towards normal figures. The early and sudden closing of navigation by ice on December 21 found numerous steamers and loaded lighters in the Danube ports, and caused serious losses to owners of vessels and cargoes. There is no ice-breaker on the Danube, and every year the same difficulty occurs.

There was a noticeable increase in the shipments from the port of Reni. This was mainly due to the fact that it is the nearest port connected by rail with Bessarabia which had the richest harvest in 1926. It was the Bessarabian harvest for 1926 which also increased the shipments of cereals from Galatz as compared with those from Braila, which lies furthest of these ports from Bessarabia and is fed mainly by lighters from up-river. Reni is also conveniently served by barges coming down the Pruth, which enters the Danube just above the port. It is likely that the experience of 1927 will tend to make Reni a more important port of shipment in the future, and that a part of the traffic of Galatz and Braila will be diverted to it. There is no dock or quay, but railway wagons run alongside the steamer and their contents can be loaded directly on board.

Constantza is the principal petroleum exporting port of this country and is fitted with all the necessary plant for the purpose. H.M. Vice-Consul at Constantza reports that in June, 1927, the State pumping station in the port was almost completely gutted by fire together with its pipeline connexion. Owing to the urgent necessity of devising some means of loading the tankers immediately after the fire, the principal oil companies joined forces and conferred with the authorities, and finally temporary pumps were procured in haste from the oilfields by the oil companies. The pumping station has now been reinstalled, and there is no longer any danger of a recurrence of the cause of the fire. Space has been left in the pump house for further new pumps or for a compressor. The purchase of a compressor is now projected.

The entrance to the petroleum basin is now found to be too narrow for the tankers of ever increasing dimensions of vessels which come to Constantza for loading (ships of up to 11,000 tons are now regular visitors), particularly in view of the total absence of tugs of even normal power in the whole port. It has been proposed to widen the entrance by about 16 feet by cutting off the north mole, and it is expected that the work will be begun during the spring of 1928. The construction of a new 10-inch pipeline from the oilfields to Constantza is also under consideration. It is estimated that the improvements already effected and those in course of construction or projected will have the effect, if and when completed, of doubling the exporting capacity of the Constantza plant. Three electric cranes of three tons lifting capacity have been received, and one is already in working order.

TURKISH MARKET FOR SECOND-HAND CLOTHING.

Although the sale of new ready-made clothing in Turkey is limited at the present time there is an important trade in used clothing. These garments, chiefly men's overcoats, coats, and vests, are widely sold to the poorer classes (says an American Consular report). According to the latest Turkish Custom figures, the total imports of all types of ready-made clothing into that country during 1926 were valued at £T3,030,028. Imports of all types of ready-made clothing from the United States were valued at £T1,172,242, of which, it is estimated, 95 per cent. consisted of used clothing. France is the only other country exporting important quantities of used clothing to Turkey.

Eight per cent. of the winter corn is reported to have been frozen in the Ukraine and the harvest outlook is grave.

The Lloyd Triestino Line has decided to place in hand at once, in their yards at Trieste, the construction of a large new liner for their weekly express service from the Adriatic to Alexandria. This vessel will attain a speed of 21 knots, making it the fastest ship in the Mediterranean. This high speed will enable the duration of the sea passage to be substantially reduced. The vessel is to maintain a regular weekly service from Trieste (or Venice) and Brindisi, and the journey from London to Egypt will be performed in three and a half days. The service will also provide the shortest sea passage—less than 40 hours from Brindisi. At the present time the Helouan and Vienna, vessels of the Lloyd Triestino, enable the journey from London to Egypt to be performed in four days.

Company Meetings.

THE P. AND O. BANKING CORPORATION.

Review of the Year.

Eastern Trade Conditions.

The eighth ordinary general meeting of the P. and O. Banking Corporation, Ltd., was held on July 6 at 122, Leadenhall Street, E.C. Mr. W. E. Preston (Deputy Chairman) presided.

Lord Inchcape's Letter.

The Chairman said:—Gentlemen,—Before we proceed to the business of the meeting I desire to read to you a letter which Lord Inchcape has addressed to me under date June 27, 1928:—"My dear Preston,—On account of the recent tragic blow which my family has received, I do not feel equal to presiding at the annual general meeting of the P. and O. Banking Corporation, to be held on July 6. I am sure the shareholders will excuse my absence from this meeting in the circumstances. The interest which I have always taken in the bank, whose welfare has had the first call upon me, is unabated, and I confidently anticipate that the bank has an important and independent future before it. It will be my care and wish, as it has always been in the past, to forward the interests of the bank in all respects to the best of my power. Would you then, in the circumstances, take the chair at the annual meeting in my absence, and assure the shareholders, to whom I should like this letter to be read, of my deep regret at not being able to meet them this year as I have done in each of the last seven years?"

I need hardly say, gentlemen, that I voice your feelings when I say how very deeply and sincerely we all regret the circumstances which have occasioned our chairman's absence from us this afternoon, and, with your permission, I propose to ask our secretary to convey those regrets to his lordship in writing. (Hear, hear.)

A Vote of Condolence.

Mr. E. T. Hargreaves: May I be allowed, sir, on behalf of the shareholders, to say how much I echo what you have said with regard to Lord Inchcape? I should like to suggest that we should rise in our places and pass a silent vote of sympathy and condolence to Lord Inchcape and his family in the irreparable loss which they have sustained. Will those gentlemen who support me in that suggestion kindly rise? The meeting then stood for a moment in silence.

The Accounts.

The report and accounts having been taken as read, the Chairman said, commenting on the balance-sheet, that the totals this year were £18,500,000, as against £16,900,000 in 1927. Last year Lord Inchcape had had occasion to point out that the figures differed from those of 1926 owing to book parities, but there was no such question this year, the turnover showing a genuine increase over the 1927 figures.

With regard to the individual items in the balance-sheet, their cash had gone up from £1,655,000 to £1,861,000; bills receivable were £4,600,000, against £4,300,000 in 1927; investments £2,900,000, against £2,297,000. Amongst those investments the reduction of Indian Government securities to £548,000, as against the 1927 figure of £1,071,000, represented a good move on their part, because they had had to write off a certain amount for depreciation of the Indian Government securities which otherwise would have gone to the benefit of the profit and loss account.

Their Allahabad bank holding stood unchanged at £589,659. The business of the Allahabad bank was proceeding most satisfactorily under the able management of the new manager, Mr. Lamb. (Hear, hear.)

In loans against security there was little or no change; advances to customers were slightly in excess of the 1927 figures.

The capital account remained unchanged. In this connexion he referred to Lord Inchcape's private circular on October 17 last, in which he submitted to shareholders an offer made by the Chartered Bank of India, Australia and China to purchase a block of P. and O. shares on specified conditions. They, the shareholders, would be interested to know that holders had availed themselves of the opportunity to the extent of 208,601 shares.

Their profit and loss account total amounted to £127,012 4s. 8d., and included £19,380 5s. 2d. brought forward.

Trade Conditions in the East.

Whilst the crop conditions in India during the period had been satisfactory, trading conditions had not, and competition in their particular markets had been ultra keen, profits having in many cases shaded away to vanishing point. Whilst conditions in China move slowly, he thought he was justified in saying that the movement

was in the right direction, but the fall in rubber and tin prices in the Straits had naturally been reflected in the volume of business there.

On the whole, profitable trading in the respective spheres in which this bank operated had been somewhat difficult, and this led him to speak of the tribute due to their general manager, to his colleagues, and to the Eastern officers and their respective staffs for the great care and attention which they had given to the satisfactory conduct of the affairs of the bank. (Applause.)

The report and accounts were adopted and it was resolved that a dividend of 5 per cent. per annum, less income tax, at 3s. 6d., be paid on July 13, 1928.

The directors retiring by rotation, the Hon. Alexander Shaw, Mr. F. A. Johnston, and Mr. M. M. S. Gubbay, were re-elected, as, in connexion with the affiliation of the Corporation's interests with those of the Chartered Bank, were Mr. W. E. Preston, Mr. Henry Bateson, Mr. Colin F. Campbell, and Mr. Edward F. Mackay.

Messrs. Peat, Marwick, Mitchell and Co. were reappointed auditors.

Mr. Hargreaves, a shareholder, moved a vote of thanks to Mr. Preston for his conduct in the chair, and to the directors for the results which the chairman had placed before the meeting. They all felt how pleasant it would have been to have had their friend, Lord Inchcape, with them. He appreciated that the past year had been a difficult one for the board and for those who represented the bank in the Far East—hear, hear—to whom they felt a debt of gratitude.

Mr. A. Pitt seconded the vote, which was unanimously accorded, and, with a brief acknowledgment by the chairman, the proceedings terminated.

BANK OF ROUMANIA.

Improvement in Trade.

The ordinary annual general meeting of the Bank of Roumania, Limited, was held on July 4 at Winchester House.

General the Hon. Sir H. A. Lawrence, G.C.B., who presided, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said:—The balance available, after making provision for bad debts, income-tax, etc., amounts to £12,223. An interim dividend of 3s. per share, less income-tax, was paid on December 22 last, and the board now recommends the payment of a final dividend of 3s. per share, less income-tax, which will absorb a further £6,000, and the transference of the balance of £223 to contingency account. The severe stringency of money, the disappointing result of the harvest, and the unsatisfactory state of the oil industry had a restrictive influence on trade generally in Roumania last year, particularly in the closing months, and this, of course, affected banking transactions and consequently earnings. The rate of exchange, however, has in the circumstances remained surprisingly steady. When I addressed you in August last the rate stood at 800 lei to the £, and it has remained at approximately that figure up to the present. The absence of any violent fluctuations in the rate has served to attract a certain amount of foreign money to Roumanian industries. The note issue of the National Bank has remained more or less stationary—a slight increase being registered from 20,950 million lei to 21,026 million. The index figure of the cost of living remained stationary throughout the year at 50 times the 1916 figure. This, of course, keeps our working expenses at a very high figure.

Commerce.

Turning now to the commerce of Roumania for 1927, it is interesting to see that the exports again exceed imports in spite of an indifferent harvest. In 1925 there was an adverse trade balance of 1,000 million lei, but in 1926 the exports exceeded imports by 4,000 million lei. In 1927 the trade balance was again favourable by the same margin as in 1926—namely, 4,000 million lei.

This satisfactory state of affairs proves that progress has been made in some directions, but the shortage of money and deficient transport services have prevented the realisation of the great progress hoped for.

Trade between Great Britain and Roumania remained steady. Commodities to the value of £2,376,000 were exported from Roumania to this country as against £2,663,000 in 1926. Of this total £1,300,000 represented oil and £920,000 represented grain. Imports

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amounted to £2,683,000, as against £2,596,000 in 1926. Of this total £1,279,000 represented cotton goods and £688,000 represented metals and machinery.

The Budget.

The Budget for this year shows little change and, excluding railways and postal and telegraphic services as formerly, provides for an expenditure of 38 milliards of lei as against 34 milliards last year—the difference being accounted for by a general increase in all departments. Mr. Vintila Bratianu points out that the present Budget is the sixth period in which expenditure has been kept within the margin permitted by revenue. The increase year by year of the revenues, he explains, has been utilised to make more adequate provision for the public services, to provide for the gradual liquidation of the burdens left by the War, and to cover the needs arising through the increase of territory under the Peace Treaty. A sum of 1,250 million lei has been earmarked in the 1928 Budget for the reduction of the State Debt to the National Bank—which is twice the amount devoted to this purpose in 1927. The only War debt which previously remained unsettled—namely, that due to France—was arranged last March on similar lines to the War debt due to Great Britain. With regard to the service of debts in sterling, francs, etc., the sum of 3,430 million lei is earmarked in the Budget as being ample to meet all liabilities. This sum is easily covered by the Customs receipts, which amounted in 1927 to 9,287 million lei. The total of export taxes collected in sterling amounted to nearly £3,000,000.

The 1927 crops were disappointing and although the area sown was approximately the same as that of 1926, the production of grain scarcely reached 9 million tons, as against over 14 million tons in 1926. The main cause of this decrease was the comparative failure of the maize crop, owing to the excessive dryness the production falling from 6 million tons to 3½ million. Exports of grain rose from 1,800,000 tons to about 3 million tons, an increase of 66 per cent. in quantity, but 35 per cent. only in value.

The increased exports were principally due to the shipping of the unusually large balance left over from the 1926 crops. To assist the sale of Roumanian grain abroad, the Government has decided to standardise all cereals destined for export. The prospects of an improved harvest this year are good. The area sown is equal to that of last year and rather more wheat has been sown. The following wire has just been received from our Bucharest manager:—“Plentiful rains all districts. Harvest about one month late, but fair average crop expected. Available export probably 40 to 50,000 waggons wheat. 120,000 waggons barley and oats. Maize showing well but too early estimate.”

Some progress has been made to ameliorate the condition of the railways and considerable purchases of locomotives and waggons were made. During the export season the goods traffic was adequate to meet the needs of the export trade for the first time since the War. Very large sums, however, are needed for the construction of new lines to provide direct and rapid communication between the old Kingdom and the new Provinces.

Before resuming my seat, I desire, on behalf of the Board, to thank the managers and staff, both here and in Roumania, for their loyal co-operation in carrying out the affairs of the bank.

Mr. E. W. H. Barry seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

COMPANY NOTES AND REPORTS.

NATIONAL BANK OF EGYPT.

Position at April 30, 1928, published in conformity with Article 8 of the Statutes:—Banking Department.—Liabilities: Share capital (£300,000 fully-paid shares of £10 each), £E2,925,000. Reserve Fund: Statutory reserve, £E1,462,500; special reserve, £E1,243,125; current, deposit, and other accounts, £E15,127,618; Egyptian Government, £E15,069,277; Sudan Government, £E218,696; Mixed Tribunals, £E2,011,842; bankers' accounts, £E563,905; cheques and bills payable, £E322,008; sundry other accounts, £E1,533,581—£E41,377,552. Assets: Government securities and securities guaranteed by the Egyptian Government, £E21,373,454; sundry securities, £E453,258; advances on merchandise, £E3,622,372; advances on securities, £E4,416,650; advances otherwise secured, £E1,407,950; sundry other advances, £E1,015,260; bills of exchange, £E3,427,389; local bills discounted, £E625,707; buildings and furniture, £E230,553; money at call and at short notice, £E1,092,000; bankers' accounts, £E408,264; sundry other accounts, £E989,192. Cash: Notes, £E1,486,230; gold, £E499,681; silver, nickel, etc., £E329,574—£E2,315,485—£E41,377,552. Issue Department.—Notes issued, £E27,800,000—£E27,800,000. Gold, £E3,339,570; *British Treasury Bills, £E10,500,430—£E13,900,000. Securities: Egyptian Government securities and securities guaranteed by Egyptian Government, £E1,500,000; British Treasury Bills and National War Bonds, £E12,400,000—£E13,900,000—£E27,800,000.

* By authority of the Egyptian Government these Treasury Bills are deposited in lieu of gold. (See *Journal Official* of October 30, 1916.)

The Central Bank of India reports net profits for the past half-year, including the balance brought forward of Rs.12,08,330. A dividend at the rate of 8 per cent. has been declared, and the balance of Rs.5,35,800 carried forward.

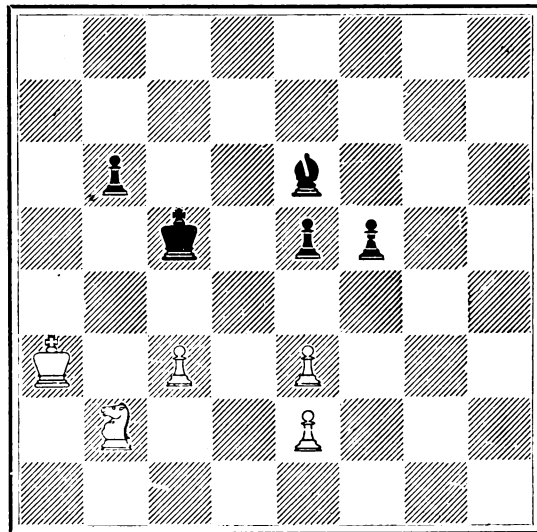
CHESS.

By “CARO-KANN.”

The solution to the end game which I gave recently is as follows:—

1, . . . Q—Q7; 2, Q—K5 (ch), K—Kt6; 3, Q—Kt2 (ch), K—R7; 4, Q—R3 (ch), K—Kt8; 5, Q—Kt4 (ch), Q—Kt7; 6, Q—KB4 (ch), P—B7; P—R5, K—B8; 8, Q—Kt3, K—Q8; 9, P—R6, P—B8 (=Q); 10, resigns.

I give this week another end game.



Black to play. What result?

NEAR EAST MARKET REPORTS.

The current issue of the monthly review of Barclays Bank Ltd, contains the following reports:—

Egypt.

The cotton market has fluctuated within narrow limits, with no definite tendency. The margin between Uppers and Americans has contracted, and at one time was as small as 6 dollars. Sakellaridis, especially staple lots, has been in better demand, although the old crop has been neglected. News regarding the crop is good; water is plentiful and there is a noticeable absence of insect pests. During the period under review, prices for cotton goods have ruled steady, and stocks, which are of poor selection, have been reduced, while fresh arrivals have been readily sold at satisfactory prices. The stock of Manchester goods is unchanged and the market is quiet, prices being slightly lower.

The Statistical Department of the Ministry of Finance announces that total imports for Egypt for the month ending May 31 were £E4,266,860, against £E3,898,798 for the corresponding month last year, and exports totalled £E4,660,034, against £E3,433,051. Of this total, cotton exports accounted for £E3,608,137, against £E2,579,506.

The Sudan.

Markets generally have been weak, as the dull season is now commencing and will continue until the harvest in December. The Agricultural Department estimate the total yield of Sakel cotton at 457.425 kantars. The import market in cotton goods has been steady.

Palestine.

Owing to the lack of rain and to excessive heat, from which many areas are suffering, the season's crops have been poor, and, in consequence, purchasing power has been restricted. Business conditions generally, therefore, have continued dull. The forthcoming construction of the harbour at Haifa, the official announcement of which has been made by the High Commissioner, will doubtless be an important factor in contributing to an improvement in the trade situation.

Cotton and Cotton Goods.

THE LIVERPOOL COTTON MARKET.

Messrs. Reynolds and Gibson report as follows for the week ended July 4:—

Egyptian Futures.—Sakel Contract.—This market has been adversely affected by several factors during the past week and at times a very weak tone has been in evidence. In the first place, trade support has been unsatisfactory for some time and whilst up to recently this was neutralised by speculative purchases, encouraged mainly by the advancing tendency of the American markets, at the first signs of the latter developing a reactionary tendency our values broke rapidly. In addition, for some time past, Alexandria has been offering a very lukewarm response to any advances at this side and, judging from the tone of advices received from there, some pretty drastic liquidation has been effected during the past few seasons.

Another depressing factor encountered since our last report was the amount of pre-July liquidation encountered just prior to the first notice day; this unsettled the whole list and forced the month in question to 80 points below November; 1,150 bales were tendered, mostly old dockets, which have since passed into the hands of various spot interests. Manchester reports continue to be unsatisfactory and spinners are finding little business, the general lack of demand being further accentuated by the holiday season and the prolonging of the Nelson dispute. Crop advices from Egypt are still very favourable, but we have yet to pass through the critical period when no doubt the usual scares will be in evidence. After some stop-loss cotton had been uncovered this morning, the market commenced to develop a better tone and prices started to react, the movement being helped by a recovery in the American departments; in addition, more trade interest appears to be developing at the present level.

Upper Contract.—Values in this market have been mainly governed by American advices recently; thus, up to the week-end following our last report further advances were registered. Subsequently, a sharp reaction was recorded, a particularly weak session being experienced yesterday, "stop-loss" and liquidation orders being uncovered on the decline. The tone to-day, however, shows considerable improvement and prices have readily responded, to-night's close being one point advance for near and 9 to 14 points decline for distant positions since we last wrote. Some fairly heavy selling of July came into the market just prior to the first tender day, bringing the month in question at the widest to 40 points under November. On the 2nd inst. 1,000 bales were tendered, but were quickly taken up by trade interests, and this has caused the above difference to close in to 16 points, and also contributed to the healthier outlook now in evidence.

Trade reports continue rather unsatisfactory, but spinners' purchases of actual, whilst only of moderate weight, are consistent; we believe American buyers have shown more interest this week than for some time past. New crop reports are still satisfactory.

Egyptian Spot.—We have again experienced a quiet week in this department, spinners' activities being checked by the poor yarn demand, the continuation of the Nelson dispute, and the erratic fluctuations that have taken place in the value of the raw material. During the earlier days of the week the demand was particularly thin, and more latterly the sharp drop in values failed to bring in business. To-day, however, with the market developing a healthy reaction, spinners have shown more interest and there are evidences of a broadening inquiry, provided that values show a more settled tendency. Business transacted throughout the week has been fairly evenly divided between Sakels and Uppers, and premiums for good-stapled lots of both these varieties are inclined to harden in Sakels; cotton grading from Good Fair to Fully Good Fair has been inquired for, but only isolated sales have been concluded in the top qualities. In the shorter-stapled varieties the popular range has been from 25 off to 25 on contracts with few transactions in the dearer styles. All qualities grading from Good Fair downwards are beginning to be scarce, not only at this side but also in Alexandria. Pilon has only been occasionally asked for, but the selection of this variety is limited and holders are in a position to wait for their price. Both Sudan and Tokar Sakels have been rather neglected but maintain their basis.

Forwardings to spinners for the week ending June 29 were returned at 7,649 bales Egyptian and 1,733 bales Sudan. Estimated spot sales for the week, 1,500 bales Egyptian and 650 bales Sudan. Quotations of Sakel have been reduced 30 points on the week, whilst those of Upper and Pilon have been advanced 10 points. F.G.F. Sakel to-day, 20.75d. F.G.F. Upper to-day, 15.10d. F.G.F. Pilon to-day, 15.70d.

THE EGYPTIAN MARKET.

The Alexandria Commercial Company, in their report for the week ended June 28, state:—

Since our last report the futures market has been fairly active, but the tone has not been too good. The week's summary of price movements is as follows:—Sakellaridis: July, 40.90 dollars, 0.10 dollars down; November, 42.50 dollars, 0.34 dollars up; January,

42.42 dollars, 0.47 dollars up. Ashmouni: August, 27.88 dollars, 0.53 dollars up; October, 28.43 dollars, 0.65 dollars up; December, 28.65 dollars, 0.40 dollars up.

Sakellaridis: Business has again consisted principally of speculative operations, but the buying has been more cautious and operators have not shown themselves disposed to push prices up on the same scale as the American advance; thus, we have an advance of only 35 points here against a rise of 120 points in New York. The demand from abroad has run very much on the same lines as recently, although reports generally indicate a revival of interest on the part of spinners; for the time being, however, the revival has been more inquiry than actual business. The near position has had to stand the weight of considerable liquidation this week and the July/November straddle has been pushed out to 150 points. It does not seem logic to anticipate a further widening, but it is possible. The Sakel/Ashmouni straddle (new crop) is 1,407 points.

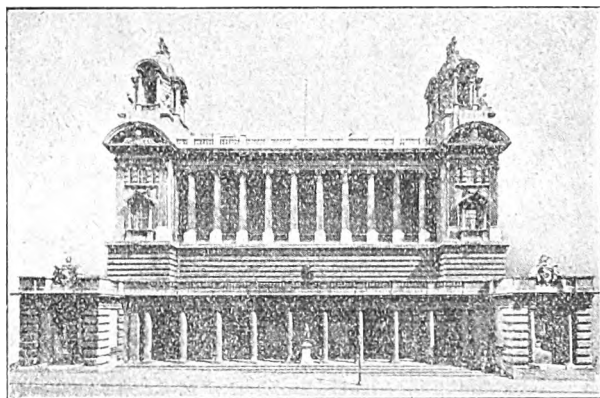
Uppers.—This market also has been loth to follow the American advance and prices show only a rise of 60 points. The American/Ashmouni straddle is down to 610 points. Sellers of October have not been so much in evidence this week and there has been but little straddle selling against Sakellaridis. Spinners' demand has been more or less the same, and the remarks in this connexion with regard to Sakellaridis apply equally to Ashmouni. The August/October straddle has widened out to 55 points against 43 points a week ago, which is indicative of the demand; at the same time, however, it should be mentioned that the quantity of desirable cotton for sale is comparatively small.

The future course of the market depends a good deal on American, although it is probable that a decline in New York would not be reflected here to the full extent.

The week's receipts amount to 5,650 kantars, against exports 108,225 kantars; the stock in Alexandria stands at 2,107,742 kantars. **Spot.**—The spot market this week has been fairly active on the whole; sales amount to about 8,400 bales, of which we estimate 3,700 bales Sakellaridis, 4,200 bales Ashmouni and Zagora, 400 bales Pilon, and 100 bales other varieties.

Sakellaridis: The demand for this variety has been somewhat restricted; the high and low grades have been almost entirely neglected, the business registered being mainly in the medium grades. Spot differences do not show much change.

Ashmouni and Zagora: These varieties are still very much in demand, especially from Fully Fair up to Fully Good Fair/Good, and spot differences have stiffened somewhat for these grades. The higher



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Liverpool Cotton Association

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The Greatest Spot Cotton Market in the World

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EVERY GROWTH OF COTTON.

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SEND THEIR COTTON TO LIVERPOOL.

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grades have been rather neglected. Low grades are becoming somewhat scarce, that is to say in good style of cotton.

Pillion: The many buyers of this cotton find difficulty in fulfilling their requirements owing to the scarcity, and premiums have, in consequence, hardened.

Other Varieties: There continues to be a small demand for White and Nahda, but the stocks of the latter are now practically nil and any odd lots appearing on the market fetch very fancy prices.

Crop, 1928: There is very little to report on the new crop. The plants are growing and maturing normally. In the North Delta there are still complaints of leaf worm and wilt, but this is but natural, as these districts are the last to pass the period of these attacks; we do not find, however, that the damage is at all serious. Temperature has been about normal, but some nights have been rather fresh. Water is ample for requirements.

The French Lawn Tennis Association has decided that Dunlop balls shall be used in the challenge round of the Davis Cup.

The traffic receipts of the South Indian Railway Company for the week ended June 9 amounted to Rs.12,69,065, making the total from April 1 Rs.1,26,44,324.

The latest report of the Roumanian Ministry of Agriculture states that fruit trees have suffered from the cold weather, and crops are expected to be much below normal.

The arrivals at the port of Varna during 1927 included 468 steamers, of which 140 were under the Belgian flag, 113 Italian, 63 British, 41 German, 37 French, and 35 Dutch. There were also 274 sailing ships.

NEWS FROM ALL SOURCES.

The traffic receipts of the Suez Canal for the first half of the year 1928 amount approximately to 111,500,000 gold francs, compared with 103,820,000 for the corresponding period last year.

An agreement has been arrived at between the Roumanian Government and Dutch holders of Roumanian pre-War loans, in virtue of which the latter will receive the same treatment as the French, Belgian, and Italian bondholders.

According to official statistics the Greek merchant fleet consisted, on December 31, 1927, of 504 steamers of 1,111,050 tons and 726 sailing ships of 58,684 tons, making a total of 1,230 vessels of 1,169,734 tons.

The construction of the Abu Deleig road and railway bridge across the river Atbara, 250 miles east of Khartoum, has been completed by Dorman, Long, and Co. five months ahead of contract time. The river at the point of crossing is 1,050 ft. wide, and the bridge, with the new railway extension, will open up an important cotton-growing area.

The Northern Sudan Estates has been registered as a private company with a capital of £25,000 (24,000 Eight per Cent. Cumulative £1 Preference and 2,000 Ordinary of 10s. each), to acquire lands for the planting and cultivation of cotton in the Sudan and elsewhere, etc. The subscribers are: M. Bakirgian, Bowdon Old Hall, Bowdon, Cheshire, merchant, 1 Pref. share; H. C. Bardsley, Chesham Place, Bowdon, Cheshire, cotton broker, 1 Ord. share. The first directors are to be appointed by the subscribers.

Stock and Share Markets.

LONDON EXCHANGE		Prices on July 9
Government Stocks.		
Egyptian 4 p.c. Unified Debt ..	85	
Do. Pref. 3½ p.c. 1890 ..	74½	
Do. Turk 4 p.c. 1891 ..	90½	
Do. 3½ p.c. Eg. Trib. Bonds '94 ..	84½	
Bulgaria 7 p.c. ..	89	
Greek 5 p.c. 1881 ..	65½	
Do. 5 p.c. 1884 ..	65½	
Do. 4 p.c. Rentes, 1889 ..	48½	
Do. 5 p.c. 1890 ..	63½d	
Do. 5 p.c. Funding Loan, 1893 ..	64	
Do. 4 p.c. Rents, Loan, 1902 ..	59½	
Do. 4 p.c. Loan, 1910 ..	61	
Do. 5 p.c. Loan, 1914 (1.0n. issue) ..	73½	
Do. 7 p.c., 1924 ..	100	
Do. 6 p.c. St. Bds. ..	90½	
Palestine 5 p.c. ..	104½	
Persia 5 p.c., 1911 ..	87½	
Roumania 4 p.c. Ext. ..	704	
Do. 4 p.c. Consolidation ..	47½	
Sudan 5½ p.c. Guar. Bds. ..	108½	
India 3½ p.c. ..	72	
Do. 3 p.c. ..	62	
Do. 2½ p.c. ..	52½	
Do. 5½ p.c. ..	101½	
Do. 4½ p.c. ..	93½ 16	
Turkish 4 p.c. Unified ..	22½	
Banks.		
Agri. Bank of Egypt ..	7½	
Bank of British West Africa ..	88 9	
Bank of Roumania ..	86 3	
Barclays Dom. Col. Pf. ..	25 9	
Lloyds ..	65/9	
Eastern ..	71/16	
Chartered Bank of India ..	22½	
Ottoman Bank ..	12½	
Imperial Bank of Persia ..	17	
Land Bank of Egypt Ord. ..	12½	
Mercantile Bank of India A ..	35½	
National Bank of Egypt ..	34½	
National Bank of India ..	55½	
Westminster ..	19½	
Land.		
Kassala Cotton ..	63	
Sudan Plantations ..	47/32	
Mines.		
Balaghat Gold Mining ..	8½	
Burma Corp. ..	14½	
Champion Reef Gold ..	12 3	
Mysore ..	16½	
Nundydroog ..	16 6	
Onoregum Gold Mining Ord. ..	14 9	
Oil.		
Anglo-Egyptian B ..	2½	
Anglo-Persian Ord. ..	325 32	
Do. 8 p.c. Cum. 1st Pt. ..	27 7½	
Do. 9 p.c. Cum. 2nd Pt. ..	28 4½	
Do. 5 p.c. Debs. ..	48	
Brit. Burmah ..	7 6	
Burmah Oil Co. Ord. ..	413/16	
Do. 8% Cum. Pref. ..	20 9	
Phonix Oil and Transport ..	15½	
Steaua Romana ..	9 9	
Railways.		
Assam-Bengal ..	91½	
Bengal Nagpur ..	101	
Egypt Delta Light Ry ..	3½	
Ottoman (Smy. t. Aid) ..	65½	
Southern Punjab ..	205	
South Indian ..	120½	
Rubber.		
Ceylon Para Rubber Ord. ..	7/6	
Doolgalla (Ceylon) Rub. Est. ..	19½	
Grand Cent. (Ceylon) Rubber ..	1 5/32	
Hewagum Rubber Co. ..	10 9	
Keptigalla Rubber Estates ..	1 3	
Malayalam Rub. and Produce ..	30 6	
Shipping.		
Anchor 5½ p.c. Prf. ..	8	
Cunard ..	20 9	
Furness Withy ..	28 6	
Khedivial Mail Ord. ..	242	
P. and O. Deferred ..	242	
Tea.		
Assam Co. ..	29 32	
Bengal United Tea Ord. ..	23/16	
Bramapootra ..	39	
British Indian Tea Ord. ..	211 16	
Cachar and Doorga Tea Ord. ..	33	
Carolina ..	64	
Ceylon Tea Plantations Ord. ..	34	
Consolidated Estates ..	221 32	
Darjeeling Co. ..	35 16	
Dimbula Valley (Ceylon) Ord. ..	4	
Doorga Tea Ord. ..	19 16	
Dooloogram Tea ..	4d	
Doom Dooma ..	4	
East Assam ..	223 32	
Empire of Ind. ..	21½d	
Halem Tea ..	211/16d	
Imperial Ind. ..	59 16	
Jhanyie Tea Association ..	39 16	
Jokai (Assam) Tea Ord. ..	41	
Jorehaut ..	21 16	
Lanka Plantations Ord. ..	13 16	
Lungla (Syhet) Tea Ord. ..	6½	
New Dimbula ..	5½	
Nuwara Eliya Tea Estates Ord. ..	3½d	
Nedem ..	3	
Ouvah ..	64	
Pablonjan ..	513 16	
Standard ..	23 16	
Scottish Assam ..	31 16	
Scottish Tea and Lands ..	215 16	
Upper Assam ..	215 16	
Insurance.		
General Accident Fire and Life (£5, £1½ paid) ..	12½	
London & Lancs (£5, £1½ paid) ..	31½	
Royal Exchange (£10) ..	613 16	
Sun Fire £10 (£2½ paid) ..	35½	
Trade Indemnity (£10) ..	16	
Miscellaneous.		
Alexandria Water Co. ..	17	
Associated Cotton Ginners ..	16 6	
Egyptian Hotels ..	7½	
Do. Markets Ord. ..	25 9	
Do. Salt and Soda ..	27 6	
Mortgage Co. of Egypt 5 p.c. Pref. ..	8½	
INDIAN EXCHANGES.		
Government Loans.		
3½% Government Paper ..	75 9/16	
Banks		
Imperial Bank of India ..	1,500	
Bank of India ..	95½	
Central Bank of India ..	26½	
Coal.		
Baraboni ..	1	
Bengal ..	392	
Burrakur ..	12½	
East Indian ..	18½	
Equitable ..	17	
Pench Valley ..	25	
Raneegunge ..	21	
Standard ..	55	
Cotton.		
Bengal Nagpur ..	28½	
Bombay Dyeing, etc. ..	895	
Bowreah ..	330	
Buckingham and Carnatic ..	180	
Cawnpore Textiles ..	3½	
Century ..	410	
Central India ..	495½	
Elgin ..	101	
Khatau Makanji ..	85	
Muir ..	3½	
New Ring ..	289½	
Phoenix ..	383½	
Svadeshi ..	485	
Jute.		
Alliance ..	641	
Barnagore ..	310	
Budge Budge ..	645	
Clive ..	50	
Dalhousie ..	619	
Delta ..	69½	
Fort Gloster ..	1,125½	
Gourepore ..	1,168½	
Howrah ..	66	
Kamarhaty ..	860	
Kanlamarrah ..	657	
Khardah ..	66½	
Kinnison ..	1,180	
National ..	34½	
Standard ..	567	
Union ..	860	
Miscellaneous		
British India Corporation ..	4	
Bengal Paper Mills ..	3½	
Bengal Timber Trading ..	38½	
Burn and Co. ..	291½	
Cawnpore Sugar ..	583	
Champan Sugar ..	23½	
Howrah Oil Mills ..	11½	
ALEXANDRIA		
<i>Prices as June 29, supplied by G. L. Morten, Alexandria & Cairo.</i>		
Agricultural Bank of Egypt ..	£79 16	
Do. Foud. ..	£760	
Alexandria Water Co. ..	£171 16	
Assoc. Cotton Ginners ..	£23 32	
Behera Ord. ..	££20 15 32	
Ciments d'Egypte ..	Frs. 125	
Do. Div. ..	180	
Comptoir Fin. & Com. d'Egypte ..	£5 16	
Credit Foncier Egyptien ..	Frs. 1,160	
Do. Fondeur ..	2,800	
Crown Brewery Priv. ..	Frs. 119	
Filature Nationale d'Egypte ..	£3 16 32	
Frigorifique d'Egypte ..	£7 1	
Immeubles d'Egypte Soc. An. des. ..	£17½	
Land Bank of Egypt Actions ..	£17½	
Do. Parts de Fond ..	£241	
Menzaleh Canal Navigation ..	Pt. 180	

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(A Limited Liability Company Registered in Athens.)

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RESERVE FUNDS - Drs. 57,091,594.50

The Assets include securities worth £1,000,000, which are valued at Drs. 25,000,000; that is at the rate of Drs. 25 per £1 only.

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ESTABLISHED 1893.

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Managers—J. S. BRUCE and G. MILLER.

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BANGKOK	HONGKONG	MANILA	TAVOY
BATAVIA	HARBIN	MEDAN	(Lower Burma)
BOMBAY	ILOILO	NEW YORK	TIENTSIN
CALCUTTA	IPOH	PEKING	TOKYO
CANTON	KARACHI	PENANG	TONGKHAH
CAWNPORE	KLANG	PESHAWAR	(Bhuket)
CEBU	KOBE	RANGOON	TSINGTO
COLOMBO	KUALA	SAIGON	YOKOHAMA
DELHI	KANGSAR	SEMARANG (Java)	ZAMBOANGA
HAIPHONG	(Perak)	SEREMBAN	(Philippine Islands)
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THE NATIONAL BANK OF SCOTLAND, LIMITED.

The Corporation buy and receive for collection Bills of Exchange grant Drafts and transact general business connected with the East. DEPOSITS OF MONEY are received for fixed periods on terms which may be ascertained on application. Interest payable half-yearly, 30th June and 31st December.

The Bank is prepared to undertake Trusteeships and Executorships.

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Subscribed Capital (200,000 Shares of £10 each) - £2,000,000
Reserve Liability of Shareholders - £1,000,000Paid up Capital - £1,000,000
Reserve Fund - £425,000

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The Bank issues Drafts, Telegraphic Transfers and Letters of Credit, purchases, grants advances against or collects Bills of Exchange, and transacts Banking and Agency Business in connection with the East.

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SUDAN				
Khartoum	Omdurman	Port Sudan	Wad Medani	Hassa Heissa
PALESTINE				
Haifa	Jaffa	Jerusalem	Nazareth	Tel-Aviv
MEDITERRANEAN				
	Gibraltar	Malta		

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‡COMORIN	15,000	...	July 19	Colombo and Australia
†NALDERA	16,000	...	July 13	Bombay and China
†MALWA	11,000	...	July 20	Bombay and Karachi
†KASHGAR	9,000	...	July 26	Straits, China, Japan
‡NARKUNDA	16,500	...	July 27	Australia via Bombay
†MANTUA	11,300	...	Aug. 3	Bombay and Karachi
‡CATHAY	15,000	...	Aug. 10	Colombo and Australia

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MARGHA	8,258	...	July 14	Madras and Calcutta
†MUNDRA	7,275	...	July 14	Bombay and Karachi
‡MORVADA	8,193	...	July 21	Madras and Calcutta
MATIANA	9,066	...	July 25	East African Ports
†HATIMURA	6,666	...	July 28	Bombay and Karachi
†MASULA	7,261	...	Aug. 4	Madras and Calcutta
MANORA	7,888	...	Aug. 18	Madras and Calcutta
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cCity of Baroda	7,129	July 19	Colombo & Calcutta
cCity of Canterbury	8,421	July 24	Bombay & Karachi
cCity of Sparta	5,415	Aug. 4	Colombo & Calcutta
cCity of Lincoln	5,861	Aug. 4	Straits, China, Japan
dTrafford Hall	5,321	Aug. 15	Bombay & Karachi
City of Manchester	5,564	Sep. 4	Colombo & Calcutta
dbCity of Valencia	7,329	Sep. 5	Bombay & Karachi
ceCity of Poona	7,485	Sep. 15	Colombo & Calcutta
ccCity of York	7,844	Sep. 15	Bombay & Karachi
dcCity of London	8,956	Sep. 27	Colombo & Calcutta

(a) Direct from Marseilles. (b) Calls Marseilles. (c) Calls Naples.
(d) Calls Port Sudan. (e) Calls Madras.

LONDON to SOUTH AFRICA.

City of Karachi	5,573	July 21	Cape Town, Algoa
City of Harvard	7,071	Sept. 1	Bay, East London

MEDITERRANEAN and LEVANT.

Malatian	3,537	July 14	Malta & Alexandria
Roumelian	2,686	July 16	Smyrna & Constantinople

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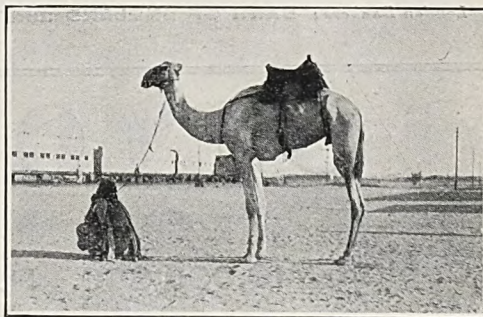
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C. J. HAMBRO, Esq.J. O. ROBINSON, Esq.
JOHN M RYRIE, Esq. (Chairman)W. H. SHELFORD, Esq.
SIR DAVID YULE, BART.

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CHINA:— Hong Kong, Shanghai.

SIAM:— Bangkok

DUTCH EAST INDIES:— Batavia, Soerabaya. MAURITIUS:— Port Louis

Deposit Agency:—64, QUEEN STREET, EDINBURGH.

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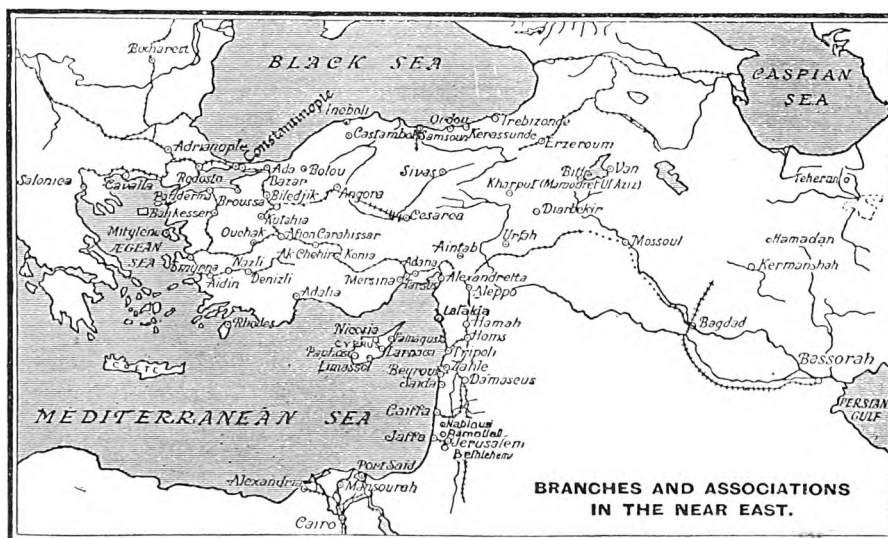
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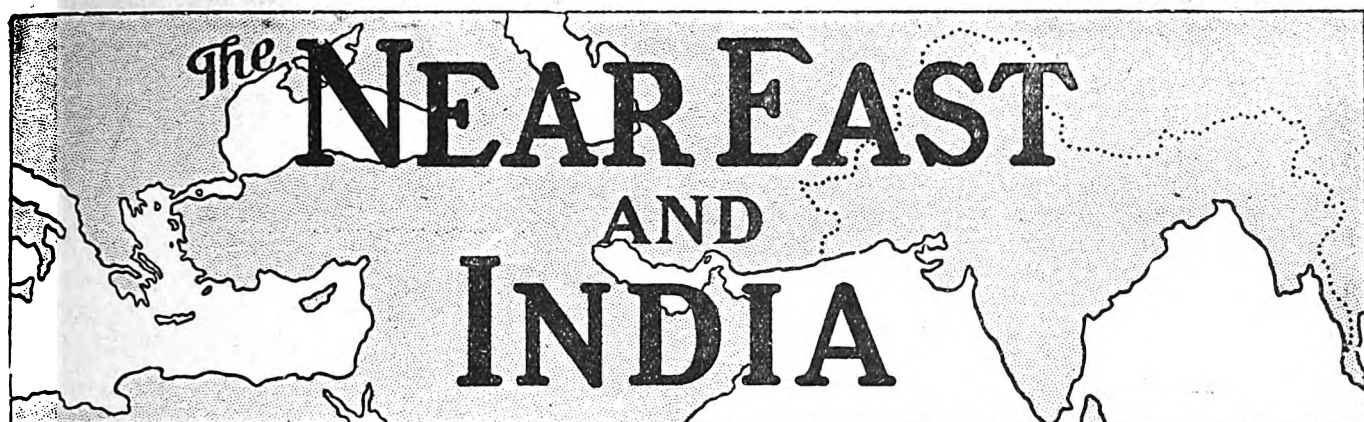
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Notes of the Week.

The Greek Political Situation.

M. Venizelos has defeated the numerous political leaders who joined issue with him on the subject of the electoral system. The Prime Minister favoured the abandonment of Proportional Representation and a return to the majority system. The leaders objected on the ground that the change could be legalised only by a vote of the Chamber, relying on its rejection by that body or on the fact that, if it were dissolved, the matter could not be submitted to it. M. Venizelos, however, has dissolved the Chamber and has persuaded the President to abolish Proportional Representation by Decree in favour of the majority system for the forthcoming elections on August 19. He has given way to Admiral Coundouriotis in regard to the election of a Senate, which is not to be carried out simultaneously with the election of deputies to the Chamber, but will wait until the latter body is in existence and can nominate its own quota of Senators in accordance with the Constitution. Their defeat will furnish the political leaders with fresh fuel for their attacks on M. Venizelos; but it is unlikely that public excitement over the matter will be aroused in their favour. The Greek electorate continues to be more or less apathetic to the quarrels of the Athens politicians, and sections of it which are not well disposed towards M. Venizelos will be content that he should be given an opportunity of showing what he can accomplish in contradistinction to the ineffective administration of the last two Cabinets, in which M. Zaimis found his time and energies absorbed in keeping the peace between the component elements of his Ministry.

The Liberation of General Pangalos.

Although from the point of view of so many of his countrymen M. Venizelos suffers from lack of touch with Greek affairs as they are, and from a desire, which is not shared by the whole nation, to see them as he thinks that they ought to be, he has, within a short time of reassuming office, done, as a good European, a signal service to

Greece by setting General Pangalos at liberty. For nearly two whole years successive Greek Governments have shown themselves so remote from the accepted principles of civilised justice that, apparently without the least compunction and without even recognising the enormity of their action, they have kept the ex-Dictator in prison without trial, and with only mock efforts to carry out what were supposed to be investigations preliminary to a trial. M. Venizelos has realised that he could not well show himself in any European capital, if he were responsible for the continued perpetration of such flagrant injustice, and he ordered the immediate release of General Pangalos. It will be left to the new Chamber to decide whether the ex-Dictator is still to be prosecuted; but it should be difficult for a Parliament, in all the circumstances of the case, to order him to stand his trial without impeaching all those Ministers who since August, 1926, have been responsible for the violation of the law in keeping a Greek citizen in prison indefinitely without trial. If the hatchet of Greek political strife is ever to be buried, the first step must be the drawing of a veil over the political past, and the amnesty, which must be based on the national conscience as much as on any form of constitutional enactment, must apply not only to those who were responsible for the judicial murder of Ministers, but also to those who, like General Pangalos, tried, however mistakenly, to save Greece from the folly and crimes of her political leaders. Now that tardy justice has been done him, it is to be hoped that General Pangalos will recognise that he too lives in a glass house and will, on that account, not start to throw stones.

Macedonian Activities.

The murder of General Protogueroff, the Macedonian leader, has been followed by an attempt to kill M. Lazitch, Chief of the Yugoslav Department of Public Security, in Belgrade. There seems to be no reason to doubt the confident assertion that both these crimes are to be attributed

to the Macedonian Revolutionary Organisation. Apart from the personal antagonisms that had sprung up in the executive committee of that organisation, the rival leaders stood for conflicting policies. General Protogueroff may have been killed in revenge for the death of the murderers of Todor Alexandroff, but he was credited with being ready to endorse a policy of reconciliation between Bulgaria and Yugoslavia, one effect of which would be to put the Revolutionary Organisation out of action. His rival, Ivanche Mihailoff, stands for the old methods of murder and war to the knife, and his entourage does not seem anxious to dissociate him with the new developments. The removal of Protogueroff would thus be intended to introduce a return to terrorist methods, and the first instance has been provided by the attack, happily unsuccessful, on M. Lazitch.

Yugoslav and Bulgarian Responsibilities.

The first duty of both the Yugoslav and the Bulgarian Government in the face of a fresh campaign of Macedonian terrorism is for each to keep its head; their second duty is to see that their respective Presses keep theirs. The two Governments are assured of their mutual good faith in the attempt that has been made to lead the countries to a friendly agreement. It is, therefore, certain that their interests are identical when they are threatened with further Macedonian excesses. A statement issued by the Belgrade police to the effect that the attempt on M. Lazitch was organised in Zagreb by Bulgarian exiles is two-edged. It may point to the necessity of the Bulgarian Government to exercise a close watch on the leaders of the Macedonian Revolutionary Organisation; but it also shows from Yugoslavia's own experience the difficulty experienced by a Government in carrying out that close watch. For the moment the Yugoslav people appear to be anxious to make the Macedonian outrages serve their own party quarrels. A Belgrade newspaper, which acquired unenviable notoriety in its open advocacy of the methods which recently disposed of two Croat deputies in the Skupshtina, now accuses M. Raditch of being the murderer of M. Lazitch, who has so far not succumbed to his wounds. It is to be hoped that one of the steps taken by General Hajitch's non-party Government will be to restrain the activities of their murder-Press with the ruthlessness with which Yugoslavia expects Bulgaria to deal with Macedonian activities. It will not be encroaching on the liberty of the Press, for such prints have as little claim to the dignity of membership of the Press as the Macedonian Revolutionary Organisation has to the status of an independent Government.

Progress in Afghanistan.

King Amanullah has lost no time in reminding his subjects that his tour abroad has confirmed him in his intention to press forward with the reforms that he had already decided upon for the "up-lift" of Afghanistan. Very shrewdly he has fixed upon two basic reforms as the foundation of the new order—education and *purdah*. The Afghan people are to be educated, and to this end education has been made compulsory and, wherever the need exists, free. It is obvious that a State cannot be modernised if the people remain steeped in ignorance. On the other hand, any wide increase of knowledge must, sooner or later, be accompanied by a demand for constitutional changes, which will make Afghanistan more democratic than it is at present. The King, however, is clearly prepared to face this eventuality. *Purdah*, or the seclusion of women, is to be abolished. Queen Surraya, with the King's consent, has already set the example, by appearing unveiled at a dinner and reception at Kabul. This innovation has shocked the mullahs, who, in deputation to King Amanullah, have denounced the step as an insult to Islam, but only to be sent about their business by his Majesty. King Amanullah probably realises, as other good Muslims have before his time, that the practice of keeping the womenfolk of the nation veiled and secluded reacts on the upbringing of the children, and in a variety of ways is a handicap to a country in the modern struggle for national existence and development. Industrial activities can follow as education progresses, the standard of living improves, and the requirements of the people increase. Communications are a necessary preliminary, and, if he had not realised the fact before, King Amanullah must, on many occasions during his long tour, have been reminded of the part played by good roads in any country that aspires to be regarded as civilized.

Peace with the Yaman.

It is a curious fact that, whereas in the rest of Arabia Great Britain has managed affairs with considerable enterprise and a fair measure of success, her dealings with the Imam Yaliya of the Yaman have so far met with signal lack of fortune. Nor can it be honestly said that prospects of a *rapprochement* have grown brighter since the Colonial Office and the Royal Air Force assumed control at Aden. In the view of Sanaa, at any rate, Aden has in recent months become peculiarly difficult to deal with, and the Imam's advisers feel certain that, if they could only obtain connexion with the British Government through some other medium than that of the Protectorate, a beneficial peace between the Yaman and Great Britain could speedily be obtained. As things are, continued infringements and bombings would appear to lead nowhere, for the simple reason that they cannot be indefinitely pursued. There are grounds for believing, indeed, that the Yaman is psychologically ripe for a change of relationship with Great Britain. It is whispered that she is not entirely content with the alleged benefits arising from her Treaty with Italy, and is now realising that Great Britain is the only strong and stable Power which could facilitate development along the lines wished by the Imam. In these circumstances, would it not be a wise step to invite to London a mission from the Yaman, which could discuss in a calm atmosphere the various points at issue between the Zaidi State and the Protectorate and the rest of Arabia? Without question the Yamanis would respond eagerly to such an invitation, which would seem to be precisely one of the sort which a Great Power can fitly and without the slightest loss of prestige make to a backward but aspiring nation. Doubtless the British Government has in mind the failure of the Clayton Mission in 1926, but certain circumstances have changed since that date. It is in the highest degree improbable that a Royal Yamani Mission to London could return empty-handed. Something, at any rate, must be done to check the threatened increase of military activity in South-Western Arabia.

(Continued on page 71)

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THE YUGOSLAV CRISIS.

Although the course of political affairs in Yugoslavia may yet have certain surprises in store, it would appear as if a settlement of the crisis has been found for the time being in the appointment of General Hajitch, Minister of War in recent Cabinets, as the new Prime Minister. His task is to form a Government representative of the different elements of the Yugoslav population with a view to holding fresh elections at an early date. To this end the new Ministry will comprise a number of Serbs, one Bosnian, one Montenegrin, one representative of the Voivodina, three Croats and one Slovene. Not the least interesting appointment is that of Dr. Juritch, Yugoslav Minister in London, to the Ministry of Finance. His inclusion in the Cabinet is eloquent of the straits to which Yugoslavia finds herself reduced. Dr. Juritch is essentially a diplomatist, and not a politician; he has been strikingly successful in his post in London, and there could be no question of recalling him, if the need of the country had not been great. Dr. Juritch is a sound economist and has rendered yeoman service in the settlement of Yugoslav debts to the United States and Great Britain; but it is reasonable to suppose that his presence in Belgrade is desired less for the purpose of introducing any new financial policy during the tenure of office of a provisional Government, than in the expectation that his acceptance of a portfolio will win for the new Ministry the confidence of foreign Governments and enable the negotiations for a loan to be carried to a conclusion. In other words, Dr. Juritch's light instead of being (relatively speaking) hidden under a London bushel is to be set high in a Belgrade candelstick, in order that it may illumine the whole sphere of Yugoslav foreign relations. Finally, the presence of Dr. Juritch in the Cabinet is the best possible guarantee for Yugoslavs and foreigners alike that there is to be nothing in the nature of a military régime in General Hajitch's assumption of office.

One of the most interesting features in the situation in Yugoslavia is the apparent vindication of Croat belief in M. Raditch. It has been difficult for any foreigner to regard him hitherto as anything but an irresponsible demagogue with an amazing capacity for making himself a nuisance to his compatriots. His coquetting with Soviet Russia, his adoption of republican views and almost equally rapid reversion to monarchical principles, his unmeasured denunciation of Italy and the intemperance of his language in all his political utterances marked him as

politician seemingly devoid of all ballast and even of a rudimentary sense of responsibility. Croat support of M. Raditch, however, has never wavered to any serious extent, and gradually his uncompromising hostility to Serb domination is seen to be coming into its own. His chief, if not only, constructive contribution to the solution of Yugoslavia's difficulties was made several months ago, when he proposed that the Voukitchevitch Cabinet should make way for a Ministry of non-politicians under a high military officer. There can be no doubt that in M. Raditch's view a dictatorship pure and simple would have been preferable to the domination of Serb politicians; but his instinct was right, that the country would have no respite from political quarrels until some authority was established over the politicians, which would introduce into the administration justice, equality, and efficiency without regard for the interests of particular parties. M. Raditch's scheme has now been adopted by King Alexander, and he has improved upon it by calling upon the former Minister of War, instead of introducing at the head of the Government a military officer from outside, entirely unversed in administrative affairs. General Hajitch's appointment appears to have been well received in Yugoslavia, even by the politicians whose shortcomings are responsible for the tragic situation in which the country finds itself. If, therefore, M. Raditch, having so far gained his point, can now show a capacity for working in harness with others equally concerned to promote the interests of Yugoslavia, a brighter day will have dawned for the Kingdom.

It is unfortunate that the splendid qualities shown by Serbia in the War should have proved so ineffective for the administration of the State in peace time. The art of seeing themselves as others see them has not been cultivated by Serb patriots, whose resentment over the Croat claim to an equal status in the Triune Kingdom has been so strong that, but for the pressure of possible complications resulting from the hostility of neighbours, the State must before now have been resolved into its component elements. The spirit of compromise plays no part in the Serb nature. The obtuseness and obstinacy that were responsible for the maintenance of an intransigent attitude towards Bulgarian claims in 1914-15, until it was too late, have been manifested in Serb dealings with Croats over the Vidovdan Constitution and the routine work of the Administration. Whether in regard to Montenegro, Southern Serbia or Croatia the Belgrade authorities have shown consistent lack of statesmanship. A capacity for adopting a hard-and-fast policy and for seeing it through ruthlessly to the end, however prejudicial to the general interests of the country that end may be, has been their guiding principle, and all other considerations are subordinated to it. These methods are successful neither in statecraft, nor in business, and the prejudice done to Yugoslavia as a result of their adoption for the last ten years has been greater than is realized in Serbia. There could be no better foundation for the new State than Serbian grit, to which the world bears testimony; but, until it is amalgamated with the wider outlook and the tactfulness which the Croat and Slovene elements can contribute, Yugoslavia is likely to prove a problem to herself and a restless partner to all her neighbours.

*The Near and Middle East

From Our Own Correspondents.

CYPRUS.

Nicosia, July 14.

A Rumour.

One of the principal topics of discussion and of comment in the Greek press relates to a rumour, now current, that the British and Italian Governments contemplate a change of administration in Cyprus and the Dodecanese. According to this report the two Powers are considering the appointment of an independent Governor-General, to be elected by the Hellenic Government, but subject to British and Italian ratification. The arrangement would resemble that applied to Crete in 1897-1912, and to Samos. The idea, whatever its origin and value, does not meet with favour, as might be expected, in Cyprus. Such a policy, it is said, while recognising, and making concessions to, Greek aspirations, could only be temporary, and a step towards the only change which would be acceptable, either in Cyprus or the Dodecanese, viz. complete union with Greece.

A Church for Mt. Troodos.

A proposal is on foot for the building of an English Church in the summer quarters of the garrison and of many civilians. Subscriptions are already being received towards a fund for this purpose. Hitherto one of the military buildings has been used for Church of England Services, and tents for Presbyterian, or other denominations.

The "Leper Farm."

Improvements on the Leper Farm continue to be carried out. It is said that the existing Greek Chapel at this establishment is in a dangerous condition, from the foundations upwards, and a new building is required, at a cost of about £500.

Sir Ronald Storrs.

Reports of speeches of the Governor, Sir Ronald Storrs, are read with interest. Much is expected from his visit to England. It is regarded as certain that a loan for at least £500,000 will be sanctioned. Agriculturists hope to see the establishment of an Agricultural Bank that will bring relief to the depressed and heavily indebted peasantry, and further borings for artesian water are awaited.

American Tourists for Cyprus.

A large number of visitors from the United States is expected by the steamer Byron, leaving America on June 26. Many Cypriots settled in the States will probably take the opportunity of running home to see their families. The tourists, after visiting Greece, are expected to arrive about the middle of July.

*Under this heading appear weekly or at regular intervals communications from correspondents in Egypt, the Sudan, Roumania, Yugoslavia, Greece, Bulgaria, Albania, Turkey, Cyprus, Palestine, Iraq, and Persia.

General News.

Great heat has set in, and all who can afford to leave the towns are visiting the various hill-stations.

Olive trees of the island, which form a very important branch of arboriculture, but one far too much neglected, are attacked rather seriously by a parasite. The Agricultural Department is about to carry out a spraying campaign over large areas of the olive growing districts.

FROM LONDON TO THE BLACK SEA BY CAR.

BY FEODORA STANCIOFF.

A journey from London to the Black Sea in a 12 h.p. "Standard" car, is a very mild performance. It would be hardly worth mentioning in the light of the dazzling achievements of the past year, if touring Europe during the holidays were not such a fascinating experience.

Judging from personal observations I would add that expenses are very moderate, roads good, with a few exceptions, and that the *Tryptiques* and *Carnets* of the Automobile Associations have solved the problem of frontiers in a most welcome manner.

France.

I can imagine no greater sense of freedom than that which my brother and I experienced on that bright May morning in Paris, when he had finally secured our luggage on the back seats, and settled a burly Airedale in their midst. There was some difficulty in persuading this dog to adopt a dignified and restful attitude in preference to a precarious position between a tennis racquet and a kettle, but he soon curled up and slept through the Paris traffic, a sign of iron nerves.

We had reached Paris the night before, via Dieppe, and our plans were made while we looked out on the Place de la Concorde and on the fresh green tree-tops of the Champs-Élysées, from a hotel window. Paris seemed to be singing and laughing in the sunset . . . so many voices, so many throbbing pulsations; motion reigned supreme, tearing at millions of lives. The frenzied mood of the city remained with us for many hours, as we drove into the restful country roads, those wide straight roads of France, that the genius of Napoleon, a hundred years ahead of his time, contrived for the needs of our restless age.

We were bound for Strasbourg, a run of nearly 300 miles, and eastwards we sped, like the couriers of old times who ran their war-like errands for Emperor or King, linking Paris with the towns of Lorraine or Alsace. Near Sezanne (Marne) we were informed by local motorists that we were not far from the marshes of St. Gond, where the clash of the Marne Victory had doomed the German armies. No sign of war, now, in the gay fields where peasants are bending over their ploughs, except a sign-post to a side track: Cimetière Allemand. Probably an isolated burial ground. Sezanne was our first stop; we strolled into the 15th century old church through a massive oak porch of great beauty. The square solid tower and gabled roof, the exquisite workmanship of stone carving, seem to radiate peace and harmony on the little "place" where a fountain plays to an audience of discreet shutters, as very few people are visible on this summer morning. The grey walls of grey dwellings have a fine sense of proportion and dignity, and Sezanne's hospitable welcome was typical of the French provinces: excellent food, delicious wine and smiling inn-keepers.

Then to Vitry-le-François and across the wooded stillness of Champagne, we drove on towards Nancy. Still no signs of War, and yet we were passing Perthes and St. Dizier; Vitry-le-François had been Joffre's headquarters, but France is a past master in trimming up war-wrecked

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lands; it is such an old habit of hers. The French farmer is as steady as his mottled stately *percheron* and they make a fine pair, the man in his flowing blue blouse, and the grey horse towering and clattering on the white roads. There is a line of poplars in the distance.

After Toul, a hive of barracks, colonial troops, and French soldiers, Nancy seemed a gracious queen of Lorraine, with her exquisite *Hotel de Ville* and 18th century architectural refinement. The sun was setting as we neared the pre-War frontiers of France and passed into Alsace; the long one-street villages were strangely silent; great piles of timber, from the surrounding forests flanked the cottages, and very few lights shone through the low windows; a slanting thatched or slate roof assumed mountainous proportions in the twilight and the air grew chilly as we gradually approached the Vosges. Sarrebourg's ruined town-walls look austere in the panorama of receding hills. At Saverne we began our descent towards Strasbourg. Rain set in, and the last 40 miles seemed for ever stretching on. Though our lively engine showed its usual pluck, darkness on unknown wet roads is depressing, and our arrival at Strasbourg was distinctly gloomy. Later we were to learn that the town authorities had restricted the lights in the streets to an almost uncanny minimum as a measure of economy after the financial chaos of War. Passers-by directed us in most guttural French to the *Maison Rouge* hotel. The car was safely disposed of, and our dog raced round and round Kleber's statue on the square in the uncongenial darkness.

The next day was Sunday and Mass in the Cathedral was a scene of great beauty, lit up by the mystic light that poured into the aisle from the great "rosace" above the porch. The Cathedral has a single spire, a façade of exquisite proportions: every detail is perfect and inspiring. Other Gothic treasures are hidden in the old quarters, where you get medieval glimpses of huddled buildings and dreamy canals. But Strasbourg is elusive: it has no wish to explain itself; it is silent, cautious, and maybe thinking deeply; surely from the Cathedral spire, you can see far into Germany, as you can see far into France.

Germany.

The bridge of Kehl, on the Rhine, is only 2½ miles from Strasbourg. Before crossing it, you are stopped by the blue-clad French *douanier*, on the opposite side you deal with the green-clad officials of the Reich. You pay 15 marks for touring rights and your papers are duly and efficiently stamped.

There was some sort of *Blumen-Fest* in Baden on that particular Sunday, and in the first villages we saw signs of rural rejoicings, arches of fir branches, garlands of spring flowers over cottage doors, and, in spite of showers, many a troop of hefty young men hatless, care-free, and friendly, marching along the pretty country lanes. Our route, however, was not through Baden. In spite of this we felt the *Blumen-Fest* atmosphere in the whole province, and sounded our horn to countless merry-makers, as we drove towards the Schwarzwald. Apple-blossom, iris and pæonies were in all the small gardens, and we met pretty girls in tight bodices and flowing skirts, fair-haired

and shy, who gave the human touch to this "Werther" scenery. That whole morning we did not pass a factory or a lorry, and enjoyed 18 miles of the soothing *pastorale* after which the serious business of a 1,000 metres climb in the Schwarzwald began, a test that our car stood without a hitch.

The road we took via Peterstahl, Griesbach, and Kniebis to Freudenstadt is one of the most direct across the mountains, and the relatively stiff climb is well worth doing. Griesbach is a touring centre with medical waters and ideal surroundings: Kniebis, too, is attractive. During the ascent, when the fragrant gloom of the pine forest is broken by a sudden clearing, the views are superb, then the Black Forest closes round you once more.

Freudenstadt is on the open wooded plateau at an altitude of 750 metres. We lunched in a crowded *Gasthaus* where young students on a walking tour were resting. Bunches of mountain lilac and glasses of beer were on the tables and snatches of song seemed unavoidable. I could not say what they were singing, but the rhythm suggested medieval Germany, and the taverns of old, old times. Did they take walking tours in those days with the same odd mixture of deliberate co-operation and Nature worship?

During the afternoon, driving across Wurtemberg, we lost the medieval feeling and were steeped in the 16th and 17th centuries, when the Lords of the land hunted in the Neckar Valley, and the Dukes of Wurtemberg drove in state to the provincial towns from their palace in Stuttgart. These towns have not lost their picturesque character, and the wooded, hilly, countryside makes an ideal background for the browns and greys of town-wall or watch-tower. The clear, dry air adds to the general enjoyment. Our eastward course led us through Horb, once a fortified town, and Rottenburg where an etcher could spend many a day in the shade of a big chestnut tree that overhangs the old stone bridge on the river. Then on to Tubingen where steep narrow streets lead up to the Rathaus and church, towering above serried ranks of quaint, pointed roofs. Reutlingen was the last town on our way to Ulm where we decided to spend the night, after the day's moderate run of 130 miles. Long before Ulm was reached, we could see the Cathedral spire, the highest in the world (528 ft.) soaring up into the evening sky. Surely very few people ever mention this "record" of inspired art, and yet to gaze on it and wonder, and listen to its silent message has been the privilege of Ulm for five centuries.

We wandered through the dark, quiet city to the banks of the Danube: the rushing, black waters had a sinister appeal; later we discovered the Market Place and its very fine fountain. This trip of ours was decidedly in favour of sight-seeing at night. It has its charms. The long day on the road has strained every nerve, and your cramped limbs enjoy the exercise, just as your tired eyes relish the failing light. If you have a locating instinct, you bless the absence of guide books and you sacrifice efficiency to romance. The spirits and ghosts of the past linger in the empty streets, but the hotel you eventually retire to has enough commonplace comfort to ensure

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dreamless slumbers. In the case of Ulm, the hotel was very cheap and our bill the next morning was a small draw on our little pile of marks. There were so many currencies to come yet—Austrian “shillings,” Hungarian *pengos*, Roumanian *lei*, and Bulgarian *leva*. Still, everything goes well, provided that you do not buy too much of each currency at a time; the League of Nations might well provide Europe with an international method of payment.

Meanwhile we started on our way from Ulm to Augsburg and Munich, a smooth run on excellent roads, though we found the country a little uninteresting compared to the previous day. We realised that we were in Bavaria when we saw the village churches, round-domed and white-washed, looking very much like the church of a toy village in the distance. Augsburg struck me as a very prosperous town, and while the car was being treated to petrol I spent a few minutes in the beautiful church of Sainte Anne, in happy oblivion of the nearness of a garage. Two hours later we were at Munich, and towards evening the enchanted shores of the Chiem See appeared in a mist of rain, for we were making a “detour” on our way to Vienna, so as to break our journey at Salzburg. The road along the lake is a poem in itself; an old monastery stands on a small island, where the “Ugly Duchess” of Carinthia is said to have brooded on her sad fate. South and east the blurred contours of the Tyrolean mountains grow more defined until the snowy peaks of the Kapuzinerberg and Gaisberg show their curious silhouettes and broken lines: they are Salzburg’s lofty guardians.

Austria.

We saw the last German official at Freilassing and the first Austrians at Rott, both localities being only 7 miles from Salzburg. Soon the fortress was in sight, standing stern and haughty above the town. Salzburg, as usual, was in the throes of a musical centenary (Beethoven), and some investigations were necessary to secure rooms; but Austria is the home of good manners and grace, and help is always forthcoming from this eminently courteous nation.

There are several roads from Salzburg to Vienna; we went by Frankenmarkt, Lambach and St. Polten, leaving Linz on our left. The distance is about 190 miles, but we were often delayed by road repairs, and commented patiently on the noble efforts of an impoverished State to improve its highways. The fields were gay with masses of flowers, so varied and scented that the thought of hay-making suggested the destruction of an enchanted garden. Lambach is the ancient seat of a Benedictine Abbey, which history traces back to the 11th century. The present building, despite huge and noble proportions, looks somewhat desolate and we were more interested in a white marble memorial to the Russian and Austrian generals killed in the war of 1805 in their united struggle against Napoleon. Broken armies, broken alliances, heroes of past and present ages, ever laying down their lives in the great game of destiny! Already at Ulm Napoleon’s first big victory as an Emperor had haunted us, and that same evening we approached Vienna *via* the plains of Wagram.

But to return to our little English car on the roads of Austria. We lunched at Enns, a pretty town on the river of the same name, after passing Wels on the Traun. The Danube, to which both rivers flow, was not visible until we reached Melk, where the monastery, famous since the Middle Ages, shows no signs of old sieges by Turk or Christian. As Melk and its domes fade in the distance, somehow the road becomes a blank in my recollections. There are tiring rows of factories near St. Polten, and the last 30 miles of hilly country to Vienna are devoid of meaning because of villas, summer resorts, suburbs and traffic. Moreover, the great capital of belittled Austria yields none of its beauty or grandeur to the motorist who enters by the Linzer-strasse, leading to the endless, commercial and noisy Mariahilfer-strasse, with its shrieking trams and cheap shops. Eventually we found the better quarters of Europe’s best-built town, but oh! the diffi-

culty of convincing a Viennese hotel manager that an Airedale is a suitable client! Police regulations in Vienna would humble gentler animals than ours perhaps, but we spent an awkward evening trying to reduce his bark and stride with so little result that we had to feed and sleep in modest places where tolerance went hand in hand with shabbiness.

(To be continued.)

NEWS IN BRIEF.

A beginning has been made in Constantinople on a dictionary giving the official Latin spelling of all Turkish words.

At an international congress of deaf mutes held in Prague last week the delegates included representatives from Yugoslavia and Roumania.

Major Charles Glynn Hughes Bellamy (41), R.E., O.B.E., P.W.D., India, of Rajpur, Central Provinces, India, left £1,957 (net personalty £830).

The sudden resignation is reported of Midhat Bey, Vali of Constantinople. It is expected that the post of Vali may be merged in that of Prefect, in which case Mouheddin Bey, the present Prefect, will probably be appointed to the joint office.

Mustapha Kemal Pasha, the Turkish President, has given Turkey an example in the use of the new Latin alphabet by autographing a photograph of himself in Turkish written with Latin letters as follows: “8 Temmuz, 1928, Hickmet Beye Gazi Mustapha Kemal” (“July 8, 1928, to Hickmet Bey from the Gazi Mustapha Kemal.”)

A report emanating from steamers plying from the Arabian coast states that fighting broke out on June 25 between Yamanites and British forces from Aden over a boundary dispute. Since that date British aeroplanes are stated to have bombed several towns in Southern Yaman.

The Greek Cabinet agreed on July 7 to negotiate with a British company, with a view to granting a 25 years’ lease of the Achilleion at Corfu, formerly the property of the Kaiser. The proposal is to establish a casino, erect an hotel of 450 rooms, instal electric light and tramways in Corfu, and execute other works. The Achilleion was purchased by the Greek Government for 15,000,000 drachmæ, under the German-Greek debts settlement.

The King of Afghanistan, as an expression of his appreciation of services rendered during his recent visit to London, conferred upon Sir Josiah Stamp, Chairman and President of the London Midland and Scottish Railway Company, the Order of Astaur, first class, and upon Mr. Horace Ernest Horne, Passenger Service Assistant to Chief General Superintendent, the Order of Astaur, third class. The Order of Astaur, fourth class, has been conferred upon a number of officials of the L.M. and S. Railway.

The International Congress of Orientalists, which used to meet once every three years in some important city, held its last meeting at Athens in 1912. Oxford was selected for the next meeting, but the War intervened, and it was not possible to resume the gatherings till this year. During the last week of August the 17th Congress will be held at Oxford, as decided on 16 years ago. A large number of delegates will attend, representing various Governments, universities, and learned societies.

Continuing their cruise in the eastern part of the Station, ships of the Mediterranean Fleet, under the command of Admiral Sir Frederick Field, left Navarino on July 10 for Skiathos, where they will be until July 23. There are present with the flag the battleships Queen Elizabeth, Warspite, Royal Oak, Valiant, Resolution, and Ramilles; the aircraft-carrier Eagle; the First and Third Cruiser Squadrons; the Coventry and First and Second Destroyer Flotillas; and certain auxiliary vessels. The Douglas, Cyclops, and First Submarine Flotilla, which had been at Navarino for a fortnight, proceeded thence to Suda Bay, Crete. After they leave Skiathos the ships will separate for a number of independent visits to Athens, Nauplia, Milo, Kavala, Probakia Bay, and other places.

THE CENTRAL ASIAN SOCIETY “JOURNAL.”

The *Journal* of the Central Asian Society (Vol. XV. Part III.) contains some excellent reading matter. In addition to the full text of lectures already reported in *THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA*, there are useful articles on Cis-Caspia and on “Arab and Indian Ships and Seafarers of the Indian Ocean.” The reviews of books are comprehensive and authoritative.

NOTES OF THE WEEK

(Continued from page 66.)

The Points at Issue.

The attitude of the British Government towards the Yaman, seems, superficially, so plain that there must be some strong reason still in existence against the signing of a Treaty. Great Britain is prepared to recognise the independence of the Imam Yahya, provided that he recognises the boundaries of the Aden Protectorate and the obligations which are due from Great Britain to certain tribes within the borders of the Protectorate. Further, Great Britain is known to be willing to accord to the Imam such assistance as is possible within the limits of her international obligations. Why, then, this delay, this report of the resumption of hostilities? The ill-faith of Sanaa, says Aden: the hostility and insatiableness of Aden, says Sanaa. At this distance from the scene of operations it is difficult to judge who has the better cause, but the case would seem to be established for a frank discussion of the matter directly with the British Government. For there is no finality about the present policy; it brings no fruit, but only falsified promise of fruit. If British interests and British prestige are really compromised by a recognition of the Imam's pretensions, the fact could most effectively be proved in the presence of Yamani delegates in London; if they are not so compromised, a Treaty of Friendship and Commerce could here be swiftly agreed upon. After all, such a step does not lack precedent. There is really no need for the British Government, having given to imagination a free run in Arabia during the Lawrence régime, now to hold it back altogether.

By Air to India.

The inauguration of a weekly air service in each direction between England and India is now promised for April, 1929, under the new agreement which has just been signed between the British Government and Imperial Airways, Ltd. The through service will terminate at Karachi; but the Government of India has under consideration proposals for civil air transport services operating from that port to connect with the Croydon-Karachi mail. Imperial Airways will, at the same time, maintain their European services, and the section to Egypt will be operated for the first time. In the light of experience gained under the former arrangement the Company's contract is extended from ten to fifteen years, as it has been found that the longer period is required to give commercial air transport an adequate chance of becoming self-supporting. The total subsidy which is to be paid to Imperial Airways amounts to £2,490,000, spread over ten years from next April, in addition to the sums that will have been paid under the old agreements. A noticeable feature of the new agreement is that the Company is encouraged to take advantage of improvements in the design of aircraft, with special attention to the ratio of paying load to running costs. Provision is made for the replacement of a quarter of the air fleet each year, unless in special circumstances the Secretary of State for Air shall otherwise determine; so that during the ten years for which the agreement holds good two complete replacements of types should have been introduced. At the end of that period it is hoped that, "given a reasonable increase in the volume of traffic, a fully paying type of machine, with consequent low obsolescence rate, will have been evolved" and subsidies from the Exchequer will no longer be required.

Troodos Church Fund.

Cyprus as a summer resort is making an increasing appeal to a large number of residents in the Near and Middle East, who either do not wish to go farther afield for a holiday or are satisfied that they might be much worse off in many other places. The time has, therefore, come for the erection of a permanent English Church at Troodos,

the popular hill-station, and on another page (page 77) we publish an appeal from the Committee appointed by the Bishop of the Diocese for funds for the construction of the new Church. As the amount asked for is so moderate—only some £500—it is to be hoped that the response to this appeal will be a wide and generous one, even if individual contributions are small. Already nearly £100 have been promised. If there is an early prospect of the balance being subscribed, a start can be made this year with the construction of the Church.

"THE MOSLEM WORLD."

The July issue of the missionary Quarterly, the *Moslem World*, contains many valuable articles. Of particular use to the general student of Islam will be found those on "New Developments in Moslem Lands," "The Turkish Press as a Mirror of Thought," and "Family Life in Shi'ah Islam." This is one of the periodicals with which no serious observer of events in Western Asia should be unacquainted.

Fethy Bey, Turkish Ambassador to France, is returning from Constantinople to Paris, where he will represent Turkey on the new Council of the Ottoman Debt.

The examiners at Oxford University have reported to the Vice-Chancellor that they have awarded the James Mew Arabic scholarship for 1928 to H. Doniach, B.A., Wadham.

General Pangalos, the former Dictator, who has been in prison since his fall from power in August, 1926, was released on July 10 by order of the Greek Cabinet, which is leaving it to the new Chamber to decide during its first session as to his penal prosecution.

It is stated that M. Juritch, Yugoslav Minister in London, has received an urgent message from the new Yugoslav Premier-designate General Hajitch, summoning him to Belgrade. It is suggested that M. Juritch will be offered the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for the duration of the transition Business Cabinet.

Alfred Berry Brewster Bey died on July 10 in Cairo, aged 71. Brewster Bey, who had previously served in the British Army, became a member of the Household of the Khedive Abbas Hilmi Pasha and remained for many years in his service as English Private Secretary. He was well known in Cairo and was a prominent Freemason.

Captain Angus McLeod Grieve, who had been relieving the President of the District Court, Jerusalem, died from dysentery in that city on July 11. Captain Grieve was transferred from a magistracy at Zanzibar three months ago. He was called to the Bar by the Inner Temple in May, 1911.

ISLAMIC LITERATURE.

ENGLISH TRANSLATION OF THE HOLY QURAN WITH NOTES. By Maulvi Muhammad Ali, M.A., LL.B., President, Ahmadiyya Anjuman Ishaat-i-Islam, Lahore. Leather Bound, 50s.; Plavinson, 40s.; Cloth Bound, 30s.

MUHAMMAD THE PROPHET: Life of the Holy Prophet. English, 6s.; Urdu, 4s.

MUHAMMAD AND CHRIST. Cloth Bound, 3s.; Paper Cover, 2s. 3d.

TEACHINGS OF ISLAM. Cloth Bound, 3s. 6d.; Paper Cover, 2s. 3d.

ISLAM THE RELIGION OF HUMANITY. 3d.

MUSLIM PRAYER BOOK. 3d.

AN NABUWWAT FIL ISLAM i.e., Prophethood in Islam (English), 9d.

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HOLY QURAN (Hamail Sharif). Pocket Edition, Arabic Text, 2s.

BAYAN-UL-QURAN i.e., Urdu Translation of and Commentary on the Holy Quran, by Maulvi Muhammad Ali, M.A., LL.B., in three volumes, 50s.

TASHIL-UL-QURAN (Arabic Primer): Easy Method of Learning the Holy Quran, 6d.

HOLY QURAN (Arabic Text) made easy to read, 4s

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TURKEY IN 1927.

Captain Harold Armstrong took as his subject "Turkey in 1927" for the address that he gave to the Central Asian Society at the Royal United Service Institution at 5 p.m. on July 11. He had spent a large part of that year in Anatolia on behalf of the Inter-Allied Commission for the Assessment of Damage suffered in Turkey, and set himself to describe to his audience only what he had seen, without attempting to fill in gaps from any other source. His route had taken him first to Cyprus and then to Syria. In a passing reference to the latter the lecturer drew attention to the rôle that the northern portion was playing as a buffer State. Northern Syria was largely Turkish; its money was Turkish, the Turkish language was understood, there were Turks in Syrian police posts. The frontier with its tariffs and regulations was gradually killing Aleppo and Alexandretta.

Continuing the rôle of a guide escorting his audience on a personally-conducted tour, Captain Armstrong confined his lecture to a series of pregnant utterances prompted by the various points reached in the tour, which, as far as Anatolia was concerned, began at Mersina and passed in turn through Adana, Eregli and Caesarea to Angora, thence back to the southern coast and up the western coast by Smyrna to Skutari.

It was a mistake, he pointed out, to regard the Turks as set upon Europeanising themselves. They were out to borrow from the West what they thought good, without sacrificing the advantages of their position in the Orient. He experienced no difficulties in travelling about Turkey; true, he had a diplomatic passport; everywhere he met with courtesy, but was conscious of being shadowed wherever he went. Anatolia was a country of large uncultivated tracts; the Turkish census gave it thirteen millions; it could quite well hold fifty millions. It was better for an Englishman to go about his business "on his own," than to rely on the help of diplomatists and Consuls, of whom the Turks were still suspicious lest they should arrogate old-time powers of interference. The country between Mersina and Adana grew a short-staple cotton, of inferior quality; if it were properly irrigated, it could grow the finest American long-staple cotton. Adana gave the impression of having failed in the great attempt made in 1926 to convert it into an important manufacturing and commercial centre, and to be suffering from reaction after the efforts which had been put forth on its behalf. There were numerous Germans in Adana and wherever money was to be made: they were highly skilled mechanics, content to work at their jobs and not seeking control. The villages of Turkey revealed for the most part incredible poverty. In the towns the Turks had done their best to take the place of the displaced Greeks and Armenians, but on the whole did not take kindly to the work of these people; they had failed in the way of small shops and as money-lenders, and the Armenians were back again; not so the Greeks. The country displayed a bewildering mixture of efficiency and inefficiency. The railways Captain Armstrong found well run; in other matters one was up against the inevitable procrastination. The whole country west of the Euphrates (of which alone he had experience) was absolutely safe for travellers. Caesarea, always a reactionary centre, was still

one; whether this aspect would survive the advent of the railway remained to be seen. Here the men wore caps with the flap over the left ear as a mark of their devotion to Islam, and a larger proportion of women than elsewhere still went veiled. As one approached Angora from Caesarea one was conscious of the military activity of the present Turkey; ammunition factories and barracks were prominent features. Angora could not possess the glamour of Stamboul; the Turk looked upon life in the capital as exile, but he was not going back to Constantinople. Captain Armstrong hoped that it would not be long before the British Embassy was moved to Angora.

Summing up his impressions, the lecturer said that he found Turkey run by two per cent., perhaps one per cent., of the population on sound and efficient lines, with good intentions. Of subordinate officials the same could not be said; they were called upon to do more work and received less money. The great mass of the Turks remained untouched. If Mustapha Kemal Pasha lived long enough, he might succeed in moving the great mass of inertia with which he was confronted. The country was poor, and the taxes were very heavy. An ominous tendency was the practice of multiplying monopolies. He thought the Turkish dislike of the British could be overcome. The Turks were still afraid of the capitalist, but could not do without capital. Whatever might be thought of Bolshevism it was almost certain that something would emerge out of it as a factor in world-development. Nothing promised to come out of what Turkey was doing, as far as any contribution to world tendencies was concerned; for the Turks were still bent on destroying, as their attitude to Islam witnessed. But they were undoubtedly set on improving their own country and they were entitled to the full sympathy of Great Britain, as their progress was of value to the British Empire.

Viscount Allenby presided. In the brief discussion that followed the lecture Colonel E. H. Keeling pointed out that, whereas the lecturer had been told in 1927 that the country east of the Euphrates was unsafe and exposed to brigandage, his own information of conditions to-day was emphatically that this part, including the formerly disturbed area of Kurdistan, was as safe and as peaceful as any other part of Anatolia.

THE EGYPTIAN ARMY (1883-1925) AND SUDAN DEFENCE FORCE.

The Egyptian Army (1883-1925) and Sudan Defence Force annual dinner took place on July 10 at Claridge's Hotel. General Sir Reginald Wingate presided. Those present included General Sir J. J. Asser, Lieutenant-Colonel C. R. K. Bacon, Major W. E. Bailey, Major E. A. T. Bayly, Major H. Beaumont, Major R. B. Black, Major G. C. S. Brander, Captain F. Burges, Captain G. A. H. Buxton, Dr. W. Byam, Captain P. K. Campbell, Colonel F. F. Carroll, Major-General C. E. C. G. Charlton, Captain J. I. Chrystall, Captain T. R. Colville, Lieutenant-Colonel A. Craufurd, Mr. E. S. Crispin, Colonel A. L. Clive-Davies, Major L. A. Deane, Colonel R. J. Done, Colonel W. H. Drake, Captain N. W. Eastwood, Lieutenant-Colonel R. W. Eaton, Major R. P. S. Elderton, Major S. K. Flint, Lieutenant-Colonel N. B. de L. Forth, Major-General Sir T. J. Gallwey, Major N. W. Gardner, Major-General Lord Edward Gleichen, Colonel A. McD. Gordon, Lieutenant-General Sir G. F. Gorrings, Major R. C. Greenwood, Lieutenant-Colonel A. L. Hadow, Major Viscount Hawarden, Engineer Rear-Admiral W. Scott-Hill, Major G. F. Hudson-Kinahan, Colonel P. C. Joyce, Major A. J. R. Lamb, Lieutenant G. C. R. Leacroft, Lieutenant-Colonel C. H. Leveson, Lieutenant-Colonel M. H. Logan, Major P. C. Lord, Colonel Sir H. Lyons, Colonel W. H. McCowan, Captain C. McKey, Mr. H. A. MacMichael, Sir John L. Maffey, Captain J. Menzies, Major H. C. Maydon, Captain Sir E. Midwinter, Lieutenant-Colonel J. P. L. Mostyn, Major C. S. Northcote, Captain F. G. Peake, Lieutenant-Colonel W. H. Persse, Major F. J. M. Postlethwaite, Brigadier-General R. I. Rawson, Lieutenant-Colonel H. V. Ravenscroft, Lieutenant-Colonel R. V. Savile, Mr. E. G. Sarsfield-Hall, General Sir H. L. Smith-Dorrien, Lieutenant-Colonel W. F. Stirling, Major J. J. M. Soutar, Lieutenant-Colonel L. D. Spencer, Colonel E. A. Stanton, Lieutenant-Colonel J. L. F. Tweedie, Major D. H. Thorburn, Captain A. F. Vingoe, Major R. H. Walsh, Major M. J. Wheatley, Lieutenant-Colonel R. S. Wilson, Major A. Wise, Major R. H. W. Worsley, and Major G. R. Worthington-Wilmer.

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SULAIMANI.

BY MARJORIE VERNON.

A small round brown pancake lying at the foot of smooth green hills is Sulaimani as seen from an aeroplane, with the open smiling valley stretching away from it on its other sides. Yet it is reputed to have 10,000 inhabitants. It certainly has three schools, a big bazaar and about twenty mosques (though only one minaret) together with two churches and a synagogue, and is, in short, a great centre of population. The road, as it enters the town from Kirkuk, is first-rate, wide and open, but once you are actually in the town, the European note vanishes and you are again in the East with narrow covered bazaars and the eternal coffee-shop at every corner. As a matter of fact in Sulaimani they are not coffee but tea shops or *chai khanah*, the Persian habit of drinking tea from small glasses having spread over the border to Kurdistan. The Kurd is a fine, upstanding fellow, a real mountaineer with strong nationalist feelings and a profound contempt, if not dislike, for the plain-bred Arab. He almost always wears his Kurdish dress, loose homespun brown Turkish trousers, a tunic with curious long loose white cotton sleeves which hang down over his hands or are twisted round his wrists, and over the top a short sleeveless padded felt jacket. A gaily-flowered sash wound several times round his waist and stuck across with a curved dagger completes the costume. On his head he wears an embroidered skull cap, and his *kafiyah* or scarf is twisted turban-wise round it, one end jauntily hanging down over his shoulder. On his feet he wears home-made shapeless woollen socks, usually of white wool, with either black or coloured embroidery round the ankle. His shoes are either of scarlet or black leather with curling toes, or else they are cleverly woven of string and rags with gay little tufts at the toe and heel. The women are harder to describe, being very shy. They are usually dressed in European materials, though designed for the Eastern market, their head-dress being the most distinctive thing about them. This consists of a high black turban, occasionally decorated with coloured beads, with the *aba* over it. They veil their faces very little, and rightly, for they are beautiful, with the beauty which comes from purity of race.

The bazaars are full of life and colour, though many of the goods sold are European. The bakers' shops have existed, I am sure, since bread was first baked. At the back of the shop is a great brick oven heated with wood. Once the oven is thoroughly hot the fire is pushed to one side and the thin flat slabs of unleavened bread are thrown in the middle. After a few minutes they are pushed on to the cool side to finish browning, whilst fresh ones take their place near the fire. There are usually three men at work; one moulds the dough into balls and throws them on a tray, the second flattens out the ball into a thin sheet, pressing it into a light pattern with his finger tips, while the third, with a long-handled shovel, throws the finished article into the oven, turns it and takes it out when it is fully baked.

Then there is the cheese and *lebban* seller. His wares are placed in rough earthenware bowls, locally made and glazed a lovely blue. The cheeses are usually made of skim milk, and are about the size of a man's fist, and quite as irregular in shape. What is here known as *lebban* is what we in England would call sour milk on its way to turning into cheese. It is a favourite dish throughout the Near and Middle East, either beaten up and mixed with water, so as to become a drink, known as *shanina*, or left rather like junket, and eaten with a wooden spoon. It is supposed to be extremely wholesome and to kill all typhoid and other germs.

The Kurds have few native handicrafts and those are of the simplest. They make wooden bowls and deeply hollowed wooden spoons, roughly decorated.

But their most glorious product is the sugar breaker, for use on the sugar cones which hang from the roof of every grocer's shop in Sulaimani. This sugar breaker

is shaped rather like a small axe, about fifteen inches long. It is made of some brass alloy, and the whole head is studded with every kind of garish stone sunk in the metal, while the head of a stag or the little figure of a cock usually decorates the end. It is roughly made and the materials are European, and shoddy at that—the stones being often coloured beads—but the general effect is very gay and amusing.

The Schools of "Sul" are fairly new institutions. The Girls' School has been in existence for some two years only and the Boys' not much longer. The Girls' headmistress is a very beautiful Turkish lady, and she has two assistants. Of course, all the children are strictly *purdah*, and so are the two assistants. My visit was rather an amusing one, because the charming Turk knew no European language, so we had to get a little Government clerk to lend a hand. Veils were immediately brought into play and the plain faces of the two assistants were covered at once, while only the radiant young Turk, tempting the world with her sparkling beauty, faced the young clerk unashamed. She told me that they had about 150 girls on the roll, but that not more than half put in a regular attendance. The education is still very elementary, as the School had been in existence for such a short time. They have only two classes, a very small top class and a very large bottom one!

The Boys' School is much bigger and more elaborate. There are about 500 boys on the roll and the attendance is good. The top classes all learn English, and very good they are. They have taken up the Boy Scout movement with almost terrifying enthusiasm, and charming Kurdish boys, beautiful in their native dress, are only happy when clad in khaki drill with red glengarries on their heads and a brass band braying beside them. I was specially requested to come on the following day and to photograph the whole school in Scout dress. This I did, only stipulating that I should be allowed to photograph a few boys in their full Kurdish clothes as well.

Such is Sulaimani to-day, still little touched by the disturbing West, though subsisting on its goods. But schools, though desirable in themselves, do tend to level everyone up—or down—and my gay Kurdish boys of to-day, still full of their own traditions and folklore, though they may remain strong Nationalists, will in all probability soon be clad in the shop clothing and cloth-topped boots of the Levantine West. Unfortunately the Government, no doubt largely for the sake of peace and order, does its best to Westernise the people. All clerks in Government offices have to wear European clothes, whilst the national dress is discouraged as much as possible.

Still, there is always more hope for a mountain race, and the Kurds are proud of their nationality, insist on speaking their own language, and the Government is bound by Treaty to teach it in the schools.

As I left the little town, lying so compactly on its mountain slopes, I sincerely wished it well, but prayed that its prosperity would not be bought at the price of its personality.

Colonel R. A. Steel, of Lye Mead, Ditchling, Sussex, elder brother of Sir Arthur Steel Maitland, M.P., who died suddenly on July 12, joined the 17th Cavalry, Indian Army, in 1896 and served on the North-West Frontier in 1897-8. He was Military Attaché in Teheran in 1913-14, and in the Great War he was in charge of the section of the Imperial General Staff dealing with operations in Mesopotamia, East Africa, and Russia, and was created C.M.G. and C.I.E., and awarded French, Russian, Belgian, Italian, Japanese, and Serbian Orders.

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THE SITUATION IN ROUMANIA.

To the Editor of THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA.

Sir,—In view of the interest that I find taken abroad in the affairs of the Near East, it will, I hope, serve a useful purpose, if I take advantage of my stay in England to give you in brief compass a statement, in my capacity as a former Roumanian Minister, regarding the actual situation in my country.

As is known, the economic relations between Great Britain and the Old Kingdom of Roumania were of considerable importance before the War. Since the creation of Greater Roumania these relations unfortunately have not expanded. Successive Roumanian Governments have devoted their attention in the first place to the re-organisation of the administration of the State within its greatly increased boundaries, and have endeavoured, at considerable sacrifice, to balance the country's Budgets in the hope that by so doing they would more easily be able to secure the co-operation of foreign capital. In the meantime, however, in spite of the high taxation imposed, Roumania found herself unable to meet her foreign obligations punctually, and this started that attitude of distrust towards her which later took so strong a hold in foreign financial circles. When further the Liberal leaders, overestimating the capital resources of their country, unwisely adopted an attitude adverse to foreign capital the interest of England in the Roumanian market naturally declined to a considerable extent. It need hardly be said that Roumania suffered greatly on this account, especially after the wave of inflation had been checked, when she was in the greatest need of foreign capital to revive her industries.

In view of the financial stringency and lack of credit now existing in Roumania and also of the prospective falling off of revenue from taxation, the Liberal Party now in power has at last come to see that it is only by means of loyal co-operation with foreign capital that both State and private enterprise can be adequately developed.

The loan negotiations now in progress show that their former errors will have to be paid for and can only be made good by grave sacrifices; and the willingness of the Liberal Party to accept the terms now offered proves that they have at last abandoned the attitude that they have hitherto held in spite of the opposition of all the other parties, particularly the National-Peasants.

Thus, the Liberal Party having now adopted a policy favourable to foreign capital, nothing more stands in the way of a further development of Roumania's economic relations with Great Britain.

It only remains for me to say a word on the internal political situation in Roumania, as this is, of course, of the greatest importance from the point of view of "safety" for foreign capital.

All reports tending to hint at insecurity are utterly unfounded. The Roumanian people desires nothing more than peace and quiet, law and order, good administration and economic development.

The tension that exists between the two main parties, the Liberal and the National-Peasants, and which is so often commented on in the foreign Press, has no other cause than the anxiety of the Nationalists to insist that the wishes of the Roumanian people in this respect shall be fulfilled to the greatest extent possible, and also that future Governments shall be elected by the free vote of the people.

It is generally expected that, after stabilisation has been effected, the National Peasants Party will be called to power, and there is no reason to believe that this change of Government will not come about in a peaceful con-

stitutional manner. As by this means the long desired balance of party power would at last be attained, it is clear a normal development of party politics can be reckoned on in the future.

In the light of these facts it is evident from every point of view that the necessary conditions exist in the internal political situation to enable foreign countries to regard all future developments in Roumania with the fullest confidence.—I am, etc.,

DORI POPOVICI.

[Dr. Dori Popovitch was, under the Austro-Hungarian régime, one of the Roumanian leaders in the Bukovina, and a deputy in the local Diet. After the incorporation of Bukovina in Greater Roumania Dr. Popovitch was at first a member of the People's Party and held office in the Government in 1921 and again in 1926-7. He is now a member of the National-Peasants' Party.—Ed.]

Book Review

"MODERN" ISLAM AND CHRISTIANITY.

"**MOSLEM MENTALITY.**" By L. Levonian. (London: Allen and Unwin, Ltd. 5s. net.)

The more considerable part of this very useful little book, the purpose of which is to discuss the presentation of Christianity to Muslims, is devoted to changes at work in the minds of Mussulmans, particularly of Mussulmans in the Near East. The author, Professor Levonian, an Armenian who taught Turkish Literature for fourteen years in the colleges of Asia Minor, and who is Dean of the School of Religion at Athens, has gone to Turkish, Arabic, and Persian sources for his text; with the result that there is here presented abundant material, not only for a real understanding of the "modern" or untraditional Muslim mind, but also for many speculations upon the future. Professor Levonian's chief object of speculation is the possibility of turning this awakening Muslim mind towards Christianity; but of that more in a minute.

The old attitude of Muslims towards non-Muslims (that is, Christians) was that they were inferior, infidels, slaves, whose property and lives should be at the disposal of the Muslims. Their ethical principles, made up out of inconsistencies, were set in a rigid mould, reflected in their legal system. "It is a significant thing," says Professor Levonian, "that there is not a moral code like the Ten Commandments in the Moslem Law or the Holy Books." But the new movements in Islam are thought to be changing all this. Mention has been made before in THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA of Abel Adam's book on Mustapha Kemal, and our author quotes freely from it in order to demonstrate the modern Turk's realisation that "the Asiatic mentality must be rejected totally, and the European mentality must be adopted totally; there is no other way for salvation." In this Turkish book the emphasis laid on the opinion that Western civilisation is by no means synonymous with Christian civilisation is remarkable: the modern Turks (and many other nominal Mussulmans) believe that it was the Roman, not the Christian idea of law which became dominant in Europe. This thought is developed in Jelal Nouri Bey's book on "The Turkish Revolution," in which a kind of paganism is implicitly advocated. Nouri Bey has spoken of the

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differences between Islam and Christianity, for in the latter religion great efforts had been made at reform. Of this he says:—

The Reformation under Martin Luther is a great epoch in the history of the Christian Church. Perhaps no one has served Christianity more than Luther. If this reform had not occurred, Christianity would have collapsed long ago, and would have gone into the records of past history like many other religions. In Islam we never see such an earnest fundamental effort for reform.

He says again:—

Fortunately humanity was not vanquished for ever by the barricades of the Apostle Paul. In our age humanity has been freed from the despotism of Christianity which Nietzsche called the chief cause of decline and degradation. Humanity is now turning back to the ancient Greek and Roman civilisation. Minds are becoming awakened from the slumber of the Middle Ages, and begin to aspire to the freedom they had before Christianity.

Now during the last century or so the Turks, who are considered to be the eventual leaders of a reformed Islam, have made several attempts at social reformation. To-day they base the justification of their actions on the fact that orthodox Islam is the product of the untutored Arab mind, and since they wish to be Westernised completely, everything savouring of Arab reactionaryism must go. This attitude, as the author points out, is "really unique in the whole history of Islam."

It has, however, its shortcomings, and Professor Levonian, whose book for the most part is sustained on a high level of impartiality, does well to emphasise them. These shortcomings derive from, or can be enumerated in accordance with, one's philosophy of civilisation. Is the basis of civilisation moral and spiritual or not? The Turks themselves, many Egyptians and Arabs, and other Muslims are inclined to answer in the negative. They are supported by writers who find merely in the statistics of a country—relating to population, railways, commerce, finance, education, and so forth—ample evidence for the existence or non-existence of civilisation. But Professor Levonian in our view is emphatically right when he says:—

Western civilisation contains much that is directly or indirectly due to the influence of the Christian religion and which is not found in non-Christian countries.

The Muslim Nationalist, unless he perceive that fundamental truth, will find disappointment in the process of his "Westernisation." To believe, as he seems too often inclined to believe, that human nature is essentially selfish and must always be so, that the law of the jungle must govern international relationships, that this dictum, however lamentable, is the only working basis for action, can lead, in the reviewer's opinion, only to a militant Nationalism far less beneficial to the world than the old ideal of a democratic Islam. These things are, however, matters of opinion; and it must be admitted that Muslim Nationalists can find abundant support in the West for their view, which is informing all their present actions, that Western civilisation is but Science applied to life. Courage and open-mindedness are great virtues, conspicuous particularly in the reformers of modern Turkey; but is it not a new moral conscience that is mostly wanting? Perhaps it was some such conviction that made the Editor of the *Iqdam* write in 1925: "To change our habits, we shall need perhaps a century still."

There are, of course, real, disinterested scholars among "modern" Muslims, whose one aim is to bring Islam into conformity with present necessities and realities; such men are notable in Egypt. But a more raucous voice is heard elsewhere; and here the menacing hand of militant Nationalism is raised. Again and again the cry is heard that during this process of Westernisation Christianity must be opposed. For instance, Ibrahim Hilmi Bey is quoted as having written in his book, "Europeanisation":—

European civilisation is not a Christian civilisation. . . It is a conglomerate of the old European and Greek and Roman and Arab

civilisations, and has taken its present form from the activities of the enlightened minds in Europe. Thus its technical part is quite applicable to all countries; in fact, this civilisation has been produced about fifteen centuries after the introduction of Christianity into Europe. It has been obliged to fight against Christianity and the Christian Church and the clergy, and only by overpowering their resistance has it established itself in Europe.

The latter part of Professor Levonian's book, which deals with the contact of the Muslim Near East with Oriental and Occidental Christians may be more controversial than the first, but there is no question of his sincerity. He does not hesitate to criticise the former work of Protestant missionaries in Near Eastern lands—"many missionaries," he says, "have forfeited their usefulness through an awkward temperament of unsociability and a spirit of non-co-operation." The missionary service, he says, has been too much dominated by the business spirit. And he makes various practical suggestions for the undogmatic presentation of Christianity to Muslims.

This little book then, quite apart from its evangelical purpose, is to be heartily welcomed, as supplying first-hand information upon the way in which Muslims of the present day are regarding the problems of life. It may be that Professor Levonian is apt to under-rate the services performed by Islam to humanity, but he might defend himself by saying that he deals primarily with a region of the Muslim Near East which has not contributed, from the Muslim stock, very conspicuously to the resources of civilisation. It may be that certain parts of his evidence are of trivial importance compared with others, but he might say that since significant tallies with insignificant testimony, the diagnosis is doubly correct. In any case, students of the Near East are under a debt to him for uncovering the workings of the mind in an important section of Mussulmans.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

- "The Care of the Dog in India." By I. Alston. (London: Messrs. Humphrey Milford. 3s. 6d. net.)
 "A History of Village Communities in Western India." By A. S. Altekar. (London: Messrs. Humphrey Milford. 4s. 6d. net.)
 "Bulbulla." By John Eyton. (London: J. W. Arrowsmith (London), Ltd. 7s. 6d. net.)
 "The Death of a Diplomat." By Peter Oldfield. (London: Constable and Co. 6s. net.)
 "Chinese Ghouls and Goblins." By Willoughby Meade. (London: Constable and Co. 24s. net.)
 "Problems of Peace." Second Series: Lectures delivered at the Geneva Institute of International Relations. August, 1927. (London: Humphrey Milford. 10s. 6d. net.)
 "Indian Architecture." By P. K. Acharya. (London: Humphrey Milford. 15s. net.)

Tuirakuloff, the newly-appointed Soviet Consul-General at Jidda, has left Moscow to take up the duties of his post.



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THE WEEK AT HOME

London, Tuesday Morning.

Labour's Progress.

Conservatives affect to regard with equanimity the Labour gain at the Halifax by-election. Actually the seat was well won from the Liberals, and the Labour people have every reason to be pleased with themselves. True, the combined anti-Socialist vote was nearly 6,000 more than the winning candidate obtained, but in that argument there is nowadays nothing of real comfort to either the Liberals or the Conservatives, who are really as bent on defeating each other as they are on eliminating the Socialist.

The Savidge Report.

It was, I think, generally expected that there would be a Majority and a Minority Report upon the Savidge case, to which I have referred in these columns. But why such differences should have taken seven weeks to be published is one of those puzzling things explicable only to the official mind.

The ordinary man has no means of judging between the merits of the two Reports, and would certainly have preferred unanimity, in whatever sense. Those who zealously espouse either Report have, generally, nothing but prejudice in support of their choice.

This particular case has, however, to some extent been overshadowed by the appointment of General Byng to succeed Sir William Horwood and by the charge of corruption among the police force. It may be taken for granted that, as a result of the Hyde Park case and of its developments, the liberty of the subject in England will be much more carefully guarded in the future. Interest is now directed to (and possibly a Royal Commission is to inquire into) the question of corruption, which Mr. O'Connor so strikingly brought up in the House of Commons. This, again, is a problem on which many people are ready with an opinion, but few with indisputable facts. It is precisely the facts of the case, however, which are worth having and so hard to come by. Even the Savidge Tribunal could not agree upon the facts. How then can the man-in-the-street, who is even less likely to be partisan than the Judge, the Conservative, and the Labour man who composed that Tribunal?

Uninvited Guests.

As we always have been, we are now going to the dogs. Manners are not as they were. Ladies are no longer ladies, nor gentlemen gentlemen. Colossal ignorance is shamelessly displayed upon things that are and things that are not "done."

Last week a mild storm of publicity burst about the actions of two conspicuous young men who took to a Ball uninvited partners. For such an action the post-War slackness of hostesses is partly responsible, but also the impudence of the modern youth. Heaven above knows what amusement hostesses find in entertaining hundreds of people half of whom they do not know, or what entertainment-jaded young men and girls find in "blowing in" for an hour or so to a ball to which they have received but a semi-invitation. There are, of course, some people whose sense of decorum is guided by formal code; there are others whose amusement consists in the bored ignoring of such a code. But for neither of these classes and their little worries do those who are ladies and gentlemen by instinct really care a button, a hair-pin, or anything else that is as old-fashioned as they themselves.

Heat.

When Summer began with the week-end before last, the hearts of all of us leaped for joy. The sun for which we had waited so patiently beamed on us his apologies for turning up so late, and the breezes, by no means "gate-crashers," combined with him most harmoniously. But as the week went on, the harmony dropped out, and the sun, having come in meekness, stayed on to abuse his power.

Really last week-end was something to which we in England are not accustomed, and for which we (at least the male section of us) are quite unprepared. When deaths are caused by the heat, it is time to wish for the autumn.

It was trying in the country, but in London the artificial conditions imposed made things extremely uncomfortable. To have to travel home in a crowded train which has been standing out in a baking sun all day is at least one of those things which those who have to endure higher temperatures in the East have the pleasure of missing.

Crowding the British Museum.

One has recently heard many complaints that the reading-room in the British Museum was becoming uncomfortably crowded, and that this is so is proved by the annual report of the Museum. For last year there were nearly 10,000 more entries of the reading-room than in 1926. The whole Museum is becoming increasingly popular, but this particular crowding of the reading-room does not appear to be due to increase of the national desire for edification.

It is due simply to the fact that students have at last found out that the Museum contains the ordinary textbooks, which they read at the desks, and so debar the genuine research-student from fulfilling the real purpose of the reading-room. This sort of conduct on the part of the ordinary student argues a serious decline either in financial standing or in morals: in any case, it should be stopped. It is quite intolerable that specialists should be ousted by the unimportant and out-of-place student reading for examinations.

England, Art and Sport.

It is the English fashion, it is a very healthy fashion, to distrust the man who advertises himself. This applies in every sphere of life—except, possibly, in business. Certainly it is true of the Arts. Hence, for instance, the unpopularity or dislike of the Sitwells.

But these public-baiters sometimes speak the truth. For example, Mr. Osbert Sitwell, in opening an art exhibition at Liverpool recently, said that the causes of the widespread hatred of beauty in England were three: mistaken religious zeal, commercial greed of the people, and the insane love of sport. And he told a story of a painter,



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the one member of a family of eleven to show any ability, who explained the matter by the fact that as a child he was never allowed to play games.

Why this should be so it is not easy to say. Prowess in games often enough, of course, goes with mediocrity in art, and vice versa. One supposes that the conception of a team game could not be tolerated by the individualistic, creative artist.

Cricket.

There was at Lords last week cricket which will live for ever in the memory of those who saw it. The very sporting victory of Eton over Harrow by 28 runs came probably as a general disappointment—for it was decidedly Harrow's turn, and they had the chance, to win. But without question Eton played fine cricket to win after being skittled out in the first innings.

Even more ungrudgingly must praise be given to Oxford for the most magnificent draw that I have seen. The cricket on the first two days was of poor enough quality; all sorts of balls on the off were repeatedly left alone; no batsman, in fact, except Robins and Garland-Wells played winning cricket. But in the second knock, what a change! Robins' century was brilliantly unselfish and skilful, and while he and his partners were in we had real 'Varsity cricket.

The early fall of Oxford's wickets brought gloating jubilation to the hearts of the Cambridge men, and even Garland-Wells' most admirable 70 seemed merely to be delaying the inevitable. But as the clock crept round inexorably to seven o'clock, the red-haired Hill-Wood seemed to take on the shape of diabolical permanence; nor did, first Macintosh, and then Benson, fail to shine with Satanic brightness. As the precious minutes sped by, shadows cast across the pitch seemed full of foreboding. In vain the Light Blue fast or medium bowlers hurled the bolts of righteousness at them; in vain did the fielders crowd around the wickets in an optimistic attempt to support the slow bowlers. The Lost Cause triumphed in the end: and the Oxford tail entered into the most deserved immortality ever given to non-scoring batsmen.

ALTER EGO.

It is stated from Bucharest that, in response to invitations, Queen Marie proposes to pay a visit to the United States and Canada towards the end of the year. She will be accompanied by Princess Ileana, and the trip is expected to last about three months.

Contracts are reported to have been signed at Teheran on July 10 with a German-American group for the construction of two ports, one on the Caspian and the other on the Persian Gulf, and for the construction of a dam at Ahwaz.

M. Venizelos visited Corinth on July 15, and declared that the first care of the Greek Government would be to rebuild the city. It is considered probable that after his visit to Geneva, M. Venizelos will go to Paris, London, and Rome in September.

President Koundouriotis has agreed to the proposal, urged by M. Venizelos, that the General Election in Greece should be held on the "majority" system (practically equivalent to the English system) instead of the proportional system introduced some time ago, which, it is contended, leads to confusion by not producing clear-cut majorities. The decree providing for the change was duly signed by the President on July 10.

PROPOSED CHURCH AT TROODOS, CYPRUS.

To meet the needs not only of residents (military and civilian) at Troodos, Cyprus, but also of visitors who are coming in increasing numbers each year to this attractive hill-station, it has been decided to build a permanent Church on a site to be allocated by the War Office, near the Parade Ground.

A Special Committee has been appointed by Bishop MacInnes, English Bishop in Jerusalem, to collect funds and to make as soon as possible the necessary arrangements for the building of the Church, the cost of which should not greatly exceed £500.

To obtain this sum the Committee makes an urgent appeal for help.

All contributions should be sent to TROODOS CHURCH FUND, c/o H. L. Jones, Esq., Ottoman Bank, Nicosia.

PERSONAL AND GENERAL

TO-DAY

July 19, 1928 (New Style).

July 6, 1928 (Old Style).

Muharram 30, 1347 A.H., of the Muslim Calendar.

Ab 2, 5689, of the Jewish Calendar.

Princess Bibesco has arrived in London from Athens.

Taher Pasha has arrived at the Carlton Hotel from Cairo.

The Rani of Pudukota has arrived at Claridge's from Paris.

The Court of King Fuad of Egypt has now been moved from Cairo to Alexandria.

The Nawab of Palanpur has left the Hotel Cecil for a month's tour on the Continent.

Sir Kay and Lady Muir have returned from the Continent to Blair Drummond, Perthshire.

The Maharaja of Nawanagar has returned to Jamnagar House, Staines, from Ballynahinch Castle, Co. Galway.

Prince Habib Lotfallah, who has been on a visit to London, left Claridge's Hotel last week for the Continent.

Princess Aspasia of Greece honoured Mr. George A. Pirelli with her presence at luncheon at Claridge's on July 12.

The Maharaja of Kapurthala is staying at the May Fair Hotel. The Maharani of Kapurthala is remaining in India, and will not be visiting Europe this season.

H.H. the Maharaja of Jammu and Kashmir had the honour of being invited to luncheon with the King and Queen at Buckingham Palace on July 15.

The Burton Memorial Triennial Medal of the Royal Asiatic Society is to be presented to Mr. H. A. MacMichael, Civil Secretary of the Sudan Government, by the President of the Society, the Earl of Ronaldshay.

The archaeological objects found by Miss G. Caton-Thompson during the 1927-28 expedition of the Royal Anthropological Institute to the Fayum will remain on view at 52, Upper Bedford Place, W.C.1. until next Saturday (July 21).

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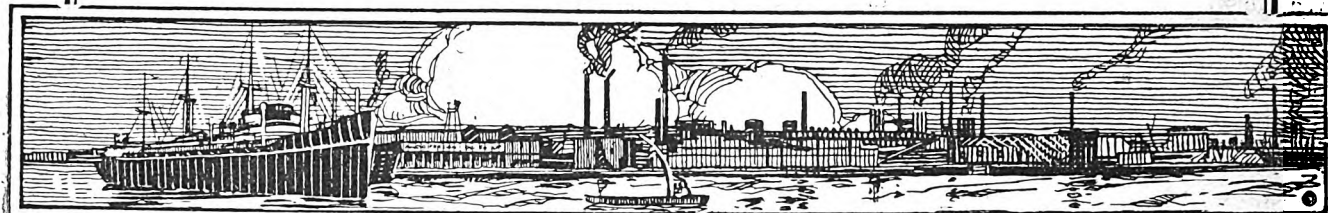
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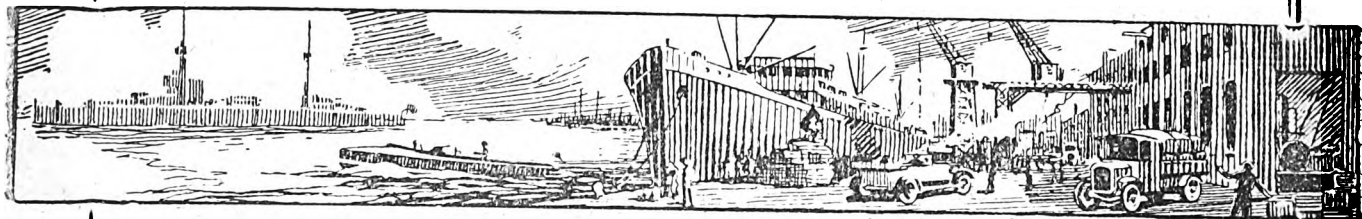
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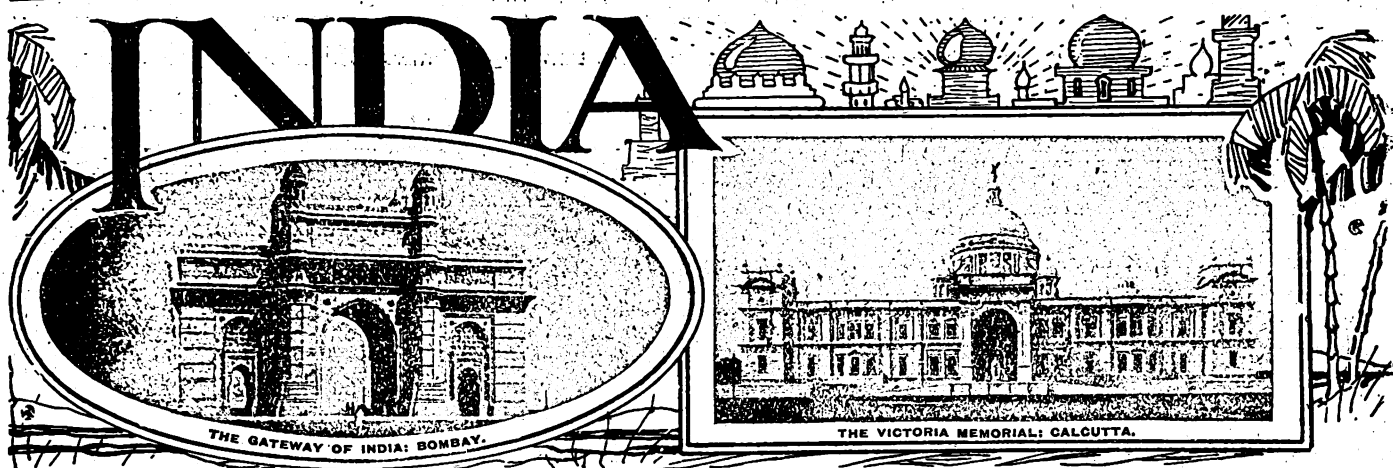
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THE COMMISSION AND THE INDIAN LEGISLATURES.

The Swaraj party in Bengal has been in a bad way for some time, and now that the provincial Legislative Council has resolved to co-operate with the Statutory Commission its position must be distinctly precarious. Its recent failure to retain its hold on the Municipal Corporation of Calcutta suggested that its popularity was on the downgrade; and the vote of the Bengal Council is clear evidence that this downward movement is still very much in progress. But what else is to be expected of any party that is pledged to so hopeless a policy as non-co-operation? Not in Bengal only but throughout India the record of the non-co-operators is simply a record of failure. They at first refused to enter the new legislatures, and when that policy failed they decided to enter them merely in order to destroy them. But the new Councils, far from having been destroyed, are now firmly established; and, as we have said on more than one occasion, it is in them that the political life of India is now really centred. Last year the non-co-operators loudly proclaimed, for an altogether inadequate reason, a complete boycott of the Statutory Commission; and they succeeded in persuading the Legislative Assembly to endorse this foolish policy. Three of the provincial legislatures, namely, the United Provinces, the Central Provinces and Madras, took the same line, although, as regards Madras, it must be remembered that Sir John Simon and his colleagues were cordially welcomed when, at a later date, they visited the presidency. Of the six other provinces, three—Assam, Burma, and the Punjab—decided to co-operate with the Commission, while the remaining three—Bengal, Bombay, and Bihar and Orissa—kept the question pending. The Bengal Council came to a decision last week, resolving by a large majority—seventy-two votes to fifty—to appoint a Committee to co-operate with the Commission.

This is distinctly a step in the right direction, and it supports the view that the boycott movement, like all the other movements started by the non-co-operators, will end in failure. It now remains for Bombay and Bihar and Orissa to come to a decision on the question of appointing Committees; and it is greatly to be hoped that they will follow Bengal's wise lead. Should they do so, then it will not be easy for Madras, the Central Provinces and the United Provinces to refuse to reconsider their previous adverse votes. And anything approaching to unanimity in the provinces ought to lead the Assembly to rescind its resolution—which was carried by only a small majority—and to co-operate with the Commission. The concession which was wisely made by Sir John Simon the other day, at the instance of the Punjab Committee, doubtless to some extent influenced moderate opinion in Bengal; and, if so, then it may be expected similarly to influence opinion in other provinces. It is, as we remarked at the time, a concession of importance, for it means that the Indian Committees, whether central or provincial, will be treated by the Commission as being in all respects on equal terms with itself. According to the original proposal the Com-

mission and the Committees were to meet in "joint free conference," and to receive evidence from public bodies and from individuals. But the Commission reserved to itself the right to hold separate sittings for the examination of witnesses who might not be prepared to give evidence otherwise. The idea underlying the proposal was that such an arrangement would be necessary for the protection of representatives of the depressed classes and other minorities. The same right of holding separate sittings was, of course, to be given to the Committees. But, as the Punjab Committee pointed out, the proposal really meant that there would be a distinction drawn between the members of the Commission and their members. This contention was not without force, and the Commission accordingly decided to withdraw the proposal and to make no distinction. They think that the reservation which they had in view can be secured by the power which rests with the Chairman to protect any witness and by his discretionary power to exclude the Press from joint sittings where necessary.

On the whole it seems to us that the position in India to-day is distinctly more favourable to the Commission than it was a few months ago. This improvement is largely attributable, no doubt, to the tactful handling of the situation by the Commissioners during their recent preliminary visit; and it should be maintained and extended by the concession which they have now made. It has always been very difficult to believe that the boycott movement would be persisted in by the moderate politicians when they came more clearly to understand the aims and objects of the Commission. For they cannot fail to realise that the Commission gives them an unexampled opportunity of advancing India on the road to self-government, which is the goal that they have in view. No such chance of influencing Parliament as is afforded by the Commission has ever been offered before to the Indians, and we cannot believe that they will let it escape them. Those communities that are in a minority certainly appear to be alive to the importance of co-operation with the Commission. For we gather that most of them have already framed, or are framing, their statements. Muhammadan opinion seems to be still divided, but we notice that an elaborate memorandum has been prepared, chiefly it is understood by Sir Mahomed Shafi, on behalf of the All-India Muslim League. The retention of the system of communal electorates is deemed, by the League, to be essential. It does not admit that the system is the cause of the tension between Hindus and Muslims: on the contrary, it holds that the system has removed periodically recurring causes of friction between them. Responsible government within the Empire is accepted by the League as the goal of its policy. It recognises that the ultimate Constitution of India, when full responsible government is granted, must be framed on democratic lines. But it expresses the opinion that, unless all the principal communities into which the population is divided are adequately represented, the result will not be a representative government but an oligarchy. With this view most impartial students of the political situation in India will be, we think, in cordial agreement.

CURRENT TOPICS.

The Country League.

Latest advices from India show that the Country League, the formation of which was announced in THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA of June 7, continues to attract considerable attention to that country. Applications for membership, congratulatory messages and promises of active support have, it is understood, reached the organisers of the movement from nearly every corner of India. The general trend of newspaper comment and criticism was indicated in our issue of June 28, but even more reliable indications of the interest aroused, and of the extent to which the objects of the League, as set out in the original Manifesto, have found favour with responsible Indian moderate opinion is probably provided by the Correspondence Columns of the same journals.

Alone, among the Anglo-Indian Press, the *Pioneer*, which has temporarily forsaken its self-imposed task of "Bridging the Gulf" for the easier but less laudable pastime of attacking one of the most capable of all the Provincial Governors, refrains from editorial comment, favourable or otherwise. Fortunately for the sake of its readers the gap to some extent is filled by the particularly well-informed contributor who writes under the nom de plume of "A Student of Indian Politics." Writing in the same columns in January last he observed: "The anti-boycott groups—they are not coherent enough to be called a party—are strong in numbers and the immensity of their stake in the country. The *vis inertiae* characteristic of the race will be their undoing, unless the new Party, so long in the dawning, is formally inaugurated and places before the lethargic electorate the vital nature of the issues that confront the country."

In welcoming the advent of the Country League the same writer reiterates a warning which is not likely to be ignored by its energetic sponsors. "The organisers, however, will be wise in their generation," he remarks, "if they take warning from the fate of the old Moderate Party. That Party began, and was always a party of gentlemen, who had not the courage of the faith in them, but meekly paved the way for their political adversaries who made up in energy what they lacked in the graces of the drawing room. If the Country League will have the courage of its faith and go forth with an evangelical zeal, it will find that conservatism, a deep-rooted respect for law and order are quite as inborn in the horny handed sons of toil as in those who boast of purple blood."

"Already the Extremist batteries are uncovered. The distinguished Swarajist leader of Allahabad has come out with what is perhaps the most inept comment on the new League. Even vituperative elegance is no compensation for the ignorance and smug self-righteousness which have dictated the Pandit Motilal's pontifical pronouncement that the League enables one to fix without much ado on the enemies of the country."

In a letter to the Editor of the *Karachi Daily Gazette*, Mr. E. L. Price, whose work as a member of the Legislative Assembly is familiar to all students of contemporary Indian politics, writes enthusiastically in support of a movement, the need of which he was among the first to foresee. "The Country League's objection to the type of men," he recalls, "who have now become legislators is exactly what any student of history would expect. The same thing has always happened East and West when great political changes have been in course of hatching. Always noisy fellows of no particular capacity or standing, who tend to adopt *doctrinaire* methods as a cloak for the bareness of their minds, get in first. Then men of substance and standing wake up and take their places. And the Country League is obviously this awakening in India. When the League gets going no longer will demagogues, agitators, four-anna mystic Congresswalas and cadgers for political funds that mysteriously disappear have a monopoly of putative patriotism. Standing and reputation will again be political assets."

The Indian High Courts Bill.

The relatively small amount of interest taken in the Indian High Courts Bill during its passage through the House of Lords, whence it has now been sent to the Commons, is in striking contrast to the wide divergence of opinion to which the measure appears to have given rise in India. The opposition to the Bill, as we have indicated, is by no means united. On the contrary, a great deal of it appears to be mutually destructive. The only common ground is, seemingly, that the provisions of the Bill go very much further than the situation demands. On the Bombay side the decision to throw open the office of Chief Justice not only to pleaders and vakils but also to members of the Indian Civil Service is the chief bone of contention. In Bengal, judging from the cable of protest which has been received from the Advocate-General, it is the proposal to make a practising vakil eligible for the office, which has aroused the greatest opposition. In neither case was the opposition entirely unexpected, and although Lord Birkenhead assured the Upper House that the Bill had received the support of his predecessor, Lord Olivier, as Secretary of State, of Lord Reading and his Government, and that "it has equally received the support of myself, of Lord Irwin, and the Government of India as at present constituted," we are inclined to agree with an Indian contemporary's contention that the omission to consult public opinion in India upon the actual changes proposed was a mistake.

The constitution of the High Courts in India is now governed by section 101 of the Government of India Act, which is practically the same as Section 2 of the High Courts Act or Charter Act of 1861, except for the power given in the Act of 1915 to the Governor-General in Council to appoint additional judges. The judges must have been either barristers called to the Bar in this country or members of the Indian Civil Service with not less than three years' experience in the judicial branch, or members of the Provincial Judicial service, with equally long judicial experience, or lastly pleaders practising for an aggregate period of not less than ten years at a High Court Bar in India. It is enacted by a proviso to the foregoing section that "not less than one-third of the judges of a High Court, including the Chief Justice but excluding additional judges, must be such barristers or advocates as aforesaid, and that not less than one-third must be members of the Indian Civil Service." This proviso has always been understood to debar any person who has not the qualification of a barrister from eligibility for the post of Chief Justice, and in practice hitherto none other than a barrister has ever been appointed to be the Chief Justice of any of the High Courts in India. A succession of authorities for many years past has contended that it is no longer defensible or logical that any class of men capable of being elected to the puisnes in a court of first instance should be excluded if recommended on their merits for the senior post. The principal change effected by the Bill is therefore the removal of this restriction by enabling any person qualified to be a puisne judge to be appointed Chief Justice.

The existing proviso has also tended to result in the necessity for selecting a barrister for a vacancy in preference to a vakil whose qualification may be markedly superior. It is the purpose of the Bill now to assimilate the position of the two, at the same time increasing the pre-judicial qualifying period from five to ten years and making it the same in both cases. Whether the removal of this anomaly will, as Sir Brojendra Mitter and the numerous members of the English Bar in India who agree with him contend, bring about a decline in the personnel and tradition of the Indian High Courts, time alone will reveal. But neither in this matter nor in regard to the consequent opening of the door also to members of the Indian Civil Service should it be impossible to find a *via media* inconsistent with the primary purpose of the Bill—to permit the selection for the office of Chief Justice of any person who is best fitted to hold it.

CALCUTTA LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Calcutta, June 28.

The Statutory Commission.

The text of the telegram from the Secretary of State for India to the Viceroy, conveying the decision of the Statutory Commission to accept the proposals of the Punjab Council Committee regarding the taking of evidence *in camera*, published in India last Saturday, will have been published that same day in England, and need not, therefore, be repeated here. "I think Your Excellency," the message said, "will share my satisfaction at this decision." All that need be said here is that that satisfaction is shared by all classes in India, if it is not shared by those individual persons whose book the decision does not quite suit. That there are such cannot be denied. Mr. S. Srinivasa Iyengar is one of them; his pronouncement that this last decision of Sir John Simon and his colleagues changed nothing fundamentally, having been made in London, needs but a bare mention here; his further pronouncement also, that the boycott must be stiffened. Our interest is not in any "must be" of Mr. Iyengar, but in what good men judge will be, and they are rather of Sir Mohamed Shafi's way of regarding the situation, and share his expressed hope "that all sincere well-wishers of India's constitutional progress towards the goal of full responsible Government would now be satisfied and take active steps to help the Commission."

The Old Constitution.

By the old Constitution is meant the existing dyarchy, which in truth is not old, but very young, but is the old Constitution in so far that there is a new one on the anvil. The Governments of Bengal, Bombay, the Punjab, and Bihar and Orissa followed, a day later, by other Governments, have published reports on the working of the Montagu-Chelmsford Reforms. There has not been time yet for a study of these reports in full. The report of the Bengal Government is naturally the one that has had the greatest attention paid it in Calcutta, and the passages dealing with our Corporation, and its deeds and misdeeds, are those that we feel concern us most. We have had so far to be content with summaries. In the *Statesman* of yesterday the summary began with these disquieting words: "There is little check on the extravagance of the Calcutta Corporation consequent upon the authority of the Chief Executive Officer having been reduced to a mere shadow. There is a growing indiscipline among the staff. No progress has been made with the solution of the pressing drainage problems of water supply [*sic*]. There has been a most objectionable relaxation of building rules and unpaid taxes [*sic*] with the result that the Corporation's balances are depleted, and borrowing capacity reduced. Until the administration is conducted in the interest of the inhabitants of Calcutta and not a political party, chances of improved administration are small." Bad buildings, unpaid taxes, indiscipline, political manipulation—it does not make a story that reads well exactly, unless for those who like their colours to be lurid. The picture (for all that is the outcome of a few years' administration on those particular lines) shows up the kind of grist that the mill of the Statutory Commission has been set to grind.

In the same issue of the *Statesman* there was published the current year's Loan Statement of the Calcutta Corporation, the writer being the Second Deputy Executive Officer. The Corporation has in mind to borrow this year a crore and more of rupees, a sum that, after the publication of the Government Report, it may not find lenders enough to give. Whether it would or would not was not, however, the question that the Second Deputy Executive Officer set himself to answer, but whether the Corporation ought not to borrow less and reserve some

borrowing capacity for the future. The conclusion he came to, after analysing the situation, was that no more than 85 lakhs should be borrowed this year. The Chief Executive Officer is reported to dissent from the view of his subordinate. What we are concerned with is not, however, so much that, but that, if his authority has been reduced to "a mere shadow," he should regain it. He might do that all the quicker by agreeing with the Second Deputy.

BOMBAY LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Bombay, June 30.

An Attempt at Conciliation.

On June 2 the Committee of the Punjab Legislative Council issued a statement to the effect that they should have access to all the materials placed before the Simon Commission and that they strongly objected to the reservation made in Sir John Simon's letter to the Viceroy that the Statutory Commission would in some cases receive evidence *in camera* and that on these occasions the Indian Members of the Joint Free Conference would have to content themselves with an account of the matter from Sir John. Indian politicians objected to the idea of *in camera* evidence on the grounds that it encouraged reactionary witnesses—both Indian and English—by affording them protection. Lord Birkenhead in a telegram to the Viceroy, communicated through him to the Punjab Government, now states that "the Commission has decided to draw no distinction between its own members and the members of the Indian Committees. It considers that the reservation made by Sir John which, in any event, would have been put into effect very rarely, if at all, can be adequately secured by the power which rests with the Chairman to protect any witness and by his discretionary power to exclude the Press from the joint sittings when necessary." So far as Indian leaders are concerned, the situation has not been affected at all by this announcement. Those who were opposed to the boycott welcome it as an important concession, whilst the leaders of the boycott movement hold that "the so-called concession merely removes a glaring defect in the procedure."

The Working of the Reformed Constitution.

The reports of the working of the Reforms in the various provinces are issued at last. Although the problems confronting the Executive—for these reports are, it is believed, drafted by the Executive alone—are the same in all the provinces, each province has emphasised a particular aspect of the position. Moreover, in the Presidencies, where the Governor is a man from English public life, the reports have a more detached and impartial outlook than in the provinces where the head of the executive is generally an I.C.S. man, who finds it difficult to shake off his old prejudices. The reports were prepared, we are informed, prior to the constitution of the Statutory Commission and are not to be confused with the memoranda submitted by the various provinces to that body. It will be interested to compare the memoranda with the reports, as we can then have a rough idea of how far the members of the Executive agree with the Ministers, who will also have a share in drafting the memoranda. The reports were ready in last December, but were not issued then, as it was feared that the people would be prejudiced against the Commission.

Of the provincial reports the two most important are those of the Punjab and the United Provinces, which represent two very different points of view. The Punjab reports the communal bitterness existing in that province and seems to be opposed to a policy of Indianisation at even a moderate pace. The U.P. report takes a less pessimistic view of the situation. It holds that Ministers have gained an insight into public problems and that there has been a general quickening of interest in public affairs.

WHAT THE INDIAN PRINCES WANT.

(From a Correspondent.)

The Simon Commission has attracted so much attention, both from the importance of its task and from the controversies to which its appointment gave rise, that the parallel inquiry conducted by Sir Harcourt Butler has aroused, relatively speaking, little interest. To say that the one is a Statutory Commission, containing a large number of public men, while the latter is a small departmental committee, consisting of a few specialists, is by no means a complete explanation: the real fact probably is that while many people in England are interested in, and know something of, the problems of British India, very few indeed are aware that there are problems connected with the Indian States at all. Yet the task of Sir John Simon and his colleagues, formidable though it is, is certainly no more important than the work which lies before the Indian States Committee: for while the Statutory Commission is inquiring into the progress of what is, after all, an experiment, Sir Harcourt Butler is examining problems which lie at the very heart of the whole system of British rule in India.

To the truth of this statement the facts of political geography bear witness. It is said that the Indian States occupy only one-third of the area of the Indian Empire: but in this calculation Burma is included. Leaving out Burma, a glance at the map of India itself will show that the States occupy almost half the total area of the peninsula proper. They lie in great blocks across the vertical and lateral communications: solid islands round which British territory flows like a stream—and frequently a very narrow stream at that. Thus viewed, the States appear what in fact they are—the pillars upon which British power in India was originally founded and still largely depends. For it must not be forgotten that only by our alliances with some States, and our agreements with others, did we ultimately crush those who would not enter our system. We think of British India, and our achievements therein, with legitimate pride. We sometimes forget those trusty friends, the Indian Princes, who stood by us so staunchly in our weakness as well as in our strength. We forgot them before the Mutiny: but when that terrible conflagration broke out, they did not forget us. If we did not altogether forget them in the days before the Great War, at least we underrated their influence. Yet their unanimous rally to the King-Emperor's call steadied the whole of Britain's possessions in the East. Are we going to forget them again? They, at least, believe that we shall not do so.

That we did not remember them sufficiently in 1919, when the last Government of India Act was passed, seems to-day clear enough. This remarkable piece of legislation, which is the genesis of the Simon Commission, may be said also to have originated Sir Harcourt Butler's Committee. For those who were in India in 1918 will recall that when Mr. Montagu and Lord Chelmsford were engaged in the rather difficult task of finding out what British India wanted, they also devoted some time—if not very much—to the much easier task of finding out what the Princes wanted. British India—or rather that portion of British India which is interested in politics—wanted some form of Home Rule. Just what form was not quite clear either to themselves or to other people. The form they got did not satisfy them; but at least it was a beginning. The Princes, who take no particular stock of catchwords, wanted three quite distinct things, which experience had convinced them were indispensable. They wanted some machinery that would give them a voice in shaping those aspects of all-India policy which concerned them in common with British India: they wanted a share in shaping those executive decisions of the Political Department upon which their fate frequently hung: and they wanted matters in dispute between the Government of India and themselves referred for decision to a third—and disinterested—party. Mr. Montagu and Lord Chelmsford admitted, with some reservations, the

reasonable character of these requests. But in the event, not one single item did the Princes get, at least in the shape in which it would function as they had hoped. The Chamber of Princes, which they designed as the basis of the machinery for joint discussion of matters of common concern with British India, became a mere Diet, whose stereotyped agenda and hidebound rules—neither shaped by the Princes—disgusted some of the most powerful and progressive Rulers in India. The Permanent Advisory Committee, which was to have been associated with the Political Secretary in the management of daily relations between the Crown and the States, became the Standing Committee of the Chamber, with little initiative, less power, and no control of policy. The arbitral machinery was represented by a Government Resolution, providing for a form of reference at the pleasure of Government, and leaving it open to Government to accept or refuse the results.

But while the proposals of the Princes, which after all were purely defensive, came to nothing, the new Constitution of British India assumed just the form which made these proposals essential, if there was to be fair play between the two parts of India. For mark what has happened since 1919. India has become a protectionist country with a high tariff. Why? "Because powerful interests in British India wanted this. Were the Princes consulted? No. This instance is typical of what has occurred in many other directions, which is, that British India has settled all-India matters, without consulting the Princes at all. Is this fair? The Princes at least do not think so. And that is why they have pressed for the inquiry that Sir Harcourt Butler is conducting.

Broadly speaking, what they wanted—and did not get—in 1918, they want—and hope to get—in 1928. Only their ideas have become more precise, and their determination greater, for their experience of the new régime in India has revealed much to them. They realise more clearly than ever that, unless they bestir themselves, their treaties alone will not protect them, as times change. They are modernising their administrations: they are combining for their common defence. Further, they are convinced that unless there is a radical change in the present system by which their relations with the Crown are conducted, it will shortly be out of their power to help either themselves or their British allies when need arises. They believe that, if they should come to such a pass, it would be unfortunate alike for the Empire, for India, and for themselves. They stand firm for the British connexion, for peace, and for ordered progress. They have no desire to interfere with British India: but they have every sort of objection to being dragged at the heels of British India. They offer co-operation: they desire to foster in every way the advance of the whole country. But they object profoundly to a system which places them, contrary to what they believe are their rights secured by Treaty, at the mercy of a machine whose movements are directed more and more openly by British India—whom they will welcome as a partner but cannot tolerate as a dictator.

By 72 votes to 50 the Bengal Legislative Council on July 10 adopted the Government motion to appoint a committee of the Council to co-operate with the Simon Commission.

The Royal Commission on Agriculture in India has presented its 15th Interim Report (Cmd. 3139, price 1d.) together with vol. xi., evidence taken in Sind (70-186-11, price 3s. 9d.).

At Chittagong session on July 10 a young Muslim, Kazi Buzlar Rahman, was found guilty of murdering Mr. G. H. W. Davies, District Magistrate and Collector, Chittagong, in April last, and was sentenced to death.

A suggested change in the organisation of the Light Horse regiments is being put forward by Auxiliary Force officers for the consideration of Army Headquarters. The proposal is partially to mechanise these units on a motor car and cycle basis for use as patrols. Many of the men have given up horses in favour of cars and cycles, and some of the regiments could mechanise at once into light motor units for local emergency work.

THE REPORT OF THE ROYAL COMMISSION ON AGRICULTURE.

BY P. R. CADELL, C.S.I., C.I.E.

The appointment of Commissions and Committees to consider problems affecting the welfare of the people has been a recurring and possibly an inevitable feature of the administration of India. It is a somewhat saddening reflection to consider how few of the proposals which they recommended have been brought into effective working : and to what even smaller an extent the expectations based on these proposals have been realised. The Report which we are now examining contains numerous references to the work of previous Committees, or of Commissions which were but Committees writ large. Many of these special bodies are forgotten, and little trace remains of their labours, and little result of the money they cost. For example, the Royal Commission on Horsebreeding, though dealing with a subject in which the landholder is interested, especially as considerable areas of land in the Punjab were granted, and are still held, on condition that equine stock is reared, is not even mentioned in this comprehensive report on the welfare of the countryside. It is perhaps natural, therefore, that the Report should at the outset lay particular stress on the practical results which followed from the appointment of various Famine Commissions and of the Irrigation Commission of 1903. These Commissions dealt with problems of enormous importance indeed, but of an interest and diversity which can only be called fractional when compared with the complex task which has faced the present Commission.

The members of the Commission are entitled to hope that their Report will form at least as prominent a landmark in the history of Indian Administration as has been attained by the report of any Commission that has preceded them. We may readily share in that hope. When, however, we consider the possibility of practical results, we must remember that the task of the Irrigation and Famine Commissions, and of the officials who had to consider and execute their recommendations, was infinitely more simple. The evils and defects that caused famine or prevented the spread of cultivation could for the most be removed by concrete action. The works that were necessary depended naturally for their execution on the departments of Government, on which with equal propriety fell the burden of providing the funds. In the case of irrigation, moreover, the expenditure was for the most part of the nature of an extremely remunerative investment. Far more difficult and complex is the regeneration and improvement of agriculture. While the Commission's Report insists that the ultimate responsibility rests upon the various Governments, it realises that the chief task is to remove the inertia of ages : to change the whole outlook of the agriculturist, and to induce in him a change of heart. *Hic labor, hoc opus est.* To attain this object, the Report appeals to the patriotism of the Universities, and to the public spirit of social workers. While it is not always clear as to the agency by which improvements are to be carried out, it is still more indefinite as to the expenditure involved and the allotment of its burden.

The difficulty of the task of the Commission, however, and the apparently remote fruition of its proposals, must not be allowed to obscure the good qualities of the Report. As might be expected from the character of its distinguished Chairman, it is eminently sensible and free from "hot air." It is no mean performance in these days to have obtained a unanimous report : and this unanimity should have much weight towards the acceptance of its recommendations by the Indian Legislatures. It must, however, be recognised that this result has been reached only by a spirit of compromise and an absence of definite, or at least drastic, recommendations which will be regarded

by many as a weakness in the Report. No one will be prepared to underrate the difficulties of the signatories or to condemn their spirit of moderation. Any hesitancy in their recommendations, or postponement of the execution of them to an unspecified future, will, however, obviously give a handle to those to whom, for whatever reason, the recommendations are unpleasing.

The more, indeed, one considers the problems of Indian agriculture, the more one regrets the absence of the drastic power to remove admitted evils or anachronisms, which has been exercised in the only other Asiatic countries which have attempted to reach Western standards. In Japan the action of an efficient oligarchy swept away a weight of custom and inertia at least comparable with that of India. In Turkey ancient habits which interfered with modern developments have been wiped out with a ruthlessness which, however excessive, has at least left a *tabula rasa* for development. India, however, has no Council of Elder Statesmen, no Ghazi Kemal Pasha. On the contrary, the difficulties already inherent in the problems of agriculture have been enormously increased by recent political changes. With the exception of the control of a Central Research Institute, the Government of India has been practically divorced from the administration of agriculture, which has been entirely entrusted to local administrations. Unkind critics may suggest that this separation from the Government of India does not imply any great loss to agriculture, while no branch of the administration could be more suitable for transfer to the control of Ministers drawn from the people. The introduction of the methods and changes recommended by the Commission, however, inevitably involve heavy expenditure, which must be met by increased provincial taxation and by local rates. Rates and taxes are, unfortunately, the point on which Provincial Ministers, and their constituents, are most sensitive : and though we may hope that the democratic changes in the Provinces will justify themselves by providing the money required for the measures involved, the hope cannot be entertained with great confidence.

It was at least unfortunate that the transfer to Provincial control should have taken place when agricultural research was yet in its infancy. The Pusa Institute only remained with the Government of India : and that Institute, it would appear, was notoriously out of touch with the departments, and the Agricultural Colleges of the Provinces. In order to co-ordinate research work throughout India and presumably to keep the Government of India in touch with such work, the Commission has made the most definite of its recommendations in its proposal for an Imperial Council of Agricultural Research, and has in this case alone fixed a sum as the definite minimum contribution of Government towards the expense involved. Much could doubtless be said in support of the proposal, but it is open to obvious attack. The Council is to be purely advisory : it is to have no voice in the administration even of the Pusa Institute, still less in the Colleges in the Provinces. Its somewhat unwieldy numbers are to meet only twice in the year : the main direction of affairs must clearly remain with the three permanent officials, the head of whom is to be an administrator of recognised standing, and proportionate expense. It may well be suggested that, if such a body is required for co-ordination of Provincial experience and maintenance of touch with the Government of India, its work should not be confined to research only : and that a reorganisation of the Board of Agriculture and its development into an advisory Agricultural Council might be preferable, more especially as that Board has recognised relations with the Indian States.

In dealing with the subject of agriculture in general, the Commission has naturally divided the subject into the technical improvement of cultivation, the improvement of the machinery necessary to make such cultivation profitable, such as capital, credit, communications and marketing, and finally the general social uplift and change of outlook of the cultivator himself. It would not appear unfair to say that the main object of the Commission is to sug-

gest that the cultivator should realise the necessity for a fuller life. The suggestions for improvement in the actual methods of cultivation are few and eminently cautious.

Considerable disappointment will probably be felt that a stronger line has not been taken regarding the admitted evils of sub-division and fragmentation. The Commission states that much evidence has been offered to it in favour of drastic legislation, and recognises that an element of compulsion may be inevitable in dealing with it. Yet when a constructive scheme is produced by so experienced an officer as Mr. Keatinge, the Report quotes, with apparent approval, the objections to that scheme formulated by the Madras Government. That these objections exist, no one will deny; but the question is whether they are more serious than the evils which, as observers so different as Dr. Slater and Dr. Mann point out, render remunerative cultivation by the peasant proprietor impossible. The Commission refers to the success attained in the arrest of fragmentation through co-operative effort in the Punjab. That success is indeed remarkable, but it can apply only to one part of the evil. It can have no effect on sub-division, the evils of which, when carried beyond a certain point, no consolidation can check. Moreover, as the Report itself indicates, co-operation has been far less successful in some other parts of India than it has been in the Punjab.

The Report emphasises the importance to the cultivator of his cattle, and points out the increasing deterioration which most people believe to exist. If the cattle are not, as a whole, deteriorating, it is at least becoming increasingly difficult for the cultivator to obtain his requirements at a price within his means. The Report points out the necessity for reducing the number of plough cattle by increasing the efficiency of those that have to be retained. It does not, however, give any very clear indication how the limitation of numbers, and the required efficiency are to be attained. Among the reasons given for the present unsatisfactory conditions are the Hindu veneration for cattle in general, and the objections to, and the carelessness concerning, early castration; but no suggestion is made for action whereby the second, at least, of these difficulties could be overcome. A similar caution marks the proposals for the check of cattle disease. It is stated that the adoption of western methods is impracticable in India, and that even compulsory inoculation is at present undesirable. It is difficult to understand why measures that have been successfully applied in Egypt should be impossible in India; more especially when the experience of the Mysore State shows that they are readily accepted by the cultivator. The Commission urges the necessity for an enormous increase in the number of veterinary officers, both for dispensaries and for combating outbreaks of disease. The main burden of their cost is to fall, however, on the Local Boards, and it is difficult to see how these will find the money. It is satisfactory to find that the Commission has found little subject of complaint in the management of the forests. The Report recommends the increase of village forests. Experience in the past has hardly been encouraging, but this has been largely due to lack of knowledge and lack of control. The proposal to place forest officers definitely in charge of such village forests appears excellent, if panchayets can be formed for the control of grazing, and the collection of fees.

Perhaps in no respect has the British administration in India been more open to reproach than in the failure to create and maintain roads. The Commission believes the roads to have deteriorated of late years; but it is the increased use that is sought to be made of them, especially for motor traffic, that has brought their deficiencies into such prominence. In the British Colonies in Africa, with a rainfall at least as destructive as that of India, it is found possible to make up "dirt roads" capable of carrying fair weather traffic. Such roads would be equally possible in India, if the co-operative spirit were forthcoming. Here again, however, it must be recognised that the Local Boards must receive far greater financial aid from

Government than has been afforded in the past.

On the very important subject of agricultural finance the Commission recognises generally that legislative measures designed to deal with rural indebtedness have proved a failure. In some cases they have even strengthened the position of the moneylender. Restrictions on the alienation of land have on the other hand been on the whole successful. This has been particularly the case, by practically unanimous testimony, in the Punjab. In spite of this, it is unlikely that a similar measure asked for by the cultivators of the neighbouring Province of Sind will be successful, owing to the objection of the Hindu minority. The Commission recommends, though somewhat haltingly, the automatic redemption of usufructuary mortgages of agricultural land. Their principal reliance for the redemption of debt is, however, on the co-operative movement. Their attitude towards that movement appears somewhat mixed. The value of the rural credit society is fully admitted. Much doubt is, however, expressed as to the continuing value of the assistance of the honorary workers; and a strong recommendation is made for the building up of an official staff, and, in addition, for the continuance of the control and guidance of the Registrar. Nor is the Report more than luke-warm regarding the activities of the movement, apart from the credit societies. The usefulness of the co-operators is regarded as consisting principally in their being suitable *media* for useful propaganda and as a link between Government Departments and the cultivators. The usefulness of the rôle thus allotted to the co-operative movement is indisputable; but it may be questioned whether it will be sufficient to maintain the enthusiasm for work which is probably necessary, if the success of the movement is to be maintained.

(To be concluded.)

NEWS IN BRIEF.

The Indian Council of State will meet on September 11 next, and the Assembly on September 4. Both sessions are likely to be short.

A "Report on Labour Conditions in India," by Mr. A. A. Purcell, M.P., and Mr. J. Hallsworth, who recently made a tour in India as a T.U.C. delegation, has been published by the Trades Union Congress General Council, price 1s.

The King has been pleased to approve the appointment of Sir Ghulam Husain Hidayatallah to be a Member of the Executive Council of the Governor of Bombay, in succession to Sir Cowasji Jehangir, K.C.I.E., O.B.E., whose period of office will expire on June 22.

His Majesty has also been pleased to approve the extension of the term of appointment of Sir Chunilal Mehta, K.C.S.I., as Member of the Executive Council of the Governor of Bombay for a period of three months with effect from June 22.

The Indian Army Service Corps is to be further strengthened by the enrolment of 410 bakers, kneaders, and weighmen and by a reserve of 144 butchers on terms prescribed by Lieutenant-General Sir Cyril J. Deverell, the Quartermaster-General. Transfers from the British Service to the Indian Army Service Corps continue to be made, and the development of the mechanical transport branch is well advanced towards a sufficiency of units for field service.

The fourth annual Indian Empire garden party was held at Ranelagh on June 27. The Kneller Hall band and string orchestra played, and a polo match was played between India and the Royal Artillery. The guests were received by the Marquess of Reading, the Countess Dowager of Minto, Field-Marshal Sir William and Lady Robertson, Field-Marshal Sir Claud Jacob, Vice-Admiral Sir Herbert and Lady Richmond, and Air Vice-Marshal Sir John and Lady Higgins. Among those who accepted invitations to be present were:—The Maharaja of Jammu and Kashmir, the Nawab of Cambay, the Rane of Sarawak, the Maharaja of Burdwan, the Persian Minister, the Chinese Chargé d'Affaires, the Earl and Countess of Birkenhead, Lady Eleanor and Lady Pamela Smith, Lady Irwin and the Hon. Anne Wood, Sir Laming and Lady Worthington-Evans, Viscount and Viscountess Burnham, Lord and Lady Strathcona, Sir John and Lady Simon, the Hon. Edward Cadogan, Colonel and the Hon. Mrs. Lane-Fox, Mr. and Mrs. C. R. Attlee, Sir Thomas and Lady Middleton, and Countess Roberts.

Commercial and Financial Section.

NOTES AND NEWS

170, Strand, London, W.C.2,
Tuesday Morning.

The 1929 Fair.

One British Industries Fair is no sooner over before preparations are made for its successor, and judging from the reports already made with regard to the next Fair the 1929 event promises to be a record both from the point of view of size and the number of firms exhibiting. At the White City there is to be an additional 100,000 square feet of exhibiting space while a further area of 40,000 to 80,000 square feet is to be provided at Birmingham. As the Fair has now an established place in the annual events of world commerce it is only natural to anticipate even greater interest in it abroad, and consequently a new record in the business done. The conditions are set fair for that, for there is no question that the position abroad is steadily improving whatever may be the situation at home where we have problems to deal with which are peculiarly our own.

Roumanian Loan Negotiations.

In the past week there have been interesting developments with regard to the Roumanian Loan. The scene of the negotiations has been transferred to Bucharest, where are at present representatives of four leading financial houses representing Great Britain, France, and the United States. France, as was to be expected, is playing a prominent part in the negotiations, and the report that the Bank of France has offered Roumania a substantial advance on the loan suggests that French houses will take the leading part in the issuing of the loan. In any case it is not thought likely that the British share of the loan will be very large. This turn in the negotiations encourages the expectation that, despite the opposition to a loan in certain quarters on account of the Hungarian question, the loan will be a *fait accompli* by the autumn. The importance of the issue to Roumania scarcely needs any further emphasis in these columns. Money is urgently needed by Roumania not merely for the stabilisation of the currency but for the improvement of the transport position, which, as I pointed out last week, is impeding the country's progress and promises to grow worse in default of speedy remedial measures. As regards the stabilisation question it is understood that an endeavour will be made to fix the rate of the leu at 800 which is 32 times the pre-War parity and indicates very plainly how little progress Roumania has been able to make since the War. As in the case of other countries the measure will no doubt be followed by the adoption of a new unit of currency.

The Position in the Sudan.

On the whole it may, I think, be taken for granted that the outlook for the Sudan is now more hopeful than it has been for a considerable period. The index to conditions in a country situated as the Sudan is, is the develop-

ment of the import trade, and as I had occasion to point out recently the public imports of the Sudan have shown a marked tendency to increase, a feature of the trade being the buying of cotton piece-goods. That tendency points to the fact that money is now circulating freely, and that the natives generally are beginning to enjoy a greater measure of prosperity. The dura position, a key to the situation in the country, is no longer a problem owing to the good harvest last year which it is anticipated will be repeated again. Again cotton, so important a factor for the country, may be expected to make a more important contribution to the Sudan's resources in the next twelve months, especially if, as will probably be the case in view of the American crop situation, fairly high prices are realised. It is important to note that the growing of American cotton in the Southern Sudan continues to make steady headway. The natives are coming more and more to appreciate the value of cotton as a crop, and it is now obvious that given the development of communications in that region and adequate marketing facilities, in both of which directions the Government is making most praiseworthy progress, the Sudan American cotton crop will soon be of considerable importance. If one takes into consideration also the various works of development which are going on throughout the country—works which will ultimately make their contribution in one way or another to the prosperity of the region—it is impossible not to be hopeful about the future of the Sudan. Undue optimism would be misplaced, but now that the foundations of the country are being well and truly laid, it is possible to look forward to a period of steady, and, it may be hoped, continuous, progress.

Egyptian Delta Light Railways.

The report of the Egyptian Delta Light Railways for the past year makes an unsatisfactory showing. The traffic receipts show a considerable decrease while the proportion of working expenses to gross earnings has risen to 82.71 per cent. Since the close of the year, as will have been noticed from the figures given in these columns,

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the traffic receipts have continued to fall. In the past year the company was affected in the main by two factors—cotton and road competition. The Egyptian Government restricted the cotton acreage, and the result naturally was less tonnage from this source. It was, however, the increasing road competition which was the principal factor in the reduced receipts, and it is noteworthy that this competition is now affecting not only passenger traffic but also goods traffic. It is stated in the report that no adequate regulations appear to exist in Egypt for the control of motor vehicles and that representations have been made to the Egyptian Government on the subject. Clearly the solution for the line is that which is being adopted elsewhere, namely, for the Egyptian Delta Light Railways to meet this competition by running its own motor services, and it is interesting to note that the company is inaugurating experimental services in certain selected districts.

Motors v. Railways.

The experience of the Egyptian Delta Light Railways adds one more to the long list of instances which show the advantage the motor has over the railway in certain circumstances. As a matter of fact, the countries in which this condition obtains present very varied conditions. In Great Britain which has the most highly-organised railway system in the world competition by motors has been most severe on account, in the first place, of the high fares. The position is the same in Roumania, where the high charges have given the motor a considerable field for enterprise. Naturally where the railways are few the scope for the motor is greatest, and it is obvious, as I have pointed out, that where communications have still to be developed the construction of railways will present very great difficulties, for capital can only be obtained if there is an assurance of an adequate return on it, and the advent of the motor age has made such a prospect at least extremely doubtful. But there must be railways, for while railways and motors clash in many directions the railways perform functions with regard to heavy traffic which it is difficult to see how motors can ever carry out. As regards all but the heaviest goods, however, the motor can obviously offer most serious competition, provided, of course, that the roads are adequate. One visualises, indeed, the opening up of undeveloped countries by a series of main highways along which will

pass the heavy lorries to take up or set down their loads at conveniently situated smaller roads leading to the interior of the country.

Furness Withy's Results.

A further improvement is shown in the results obtained by Furness Withy and Co. for the past year. The profits amounted to £627,750 as compared with £603,511 for the year ended April 30, 1927, and £523,044 for the previous twelve months. The dividend for the year is 10 per cent. less tax which represents a slight increase on the previous distribution of 7½ per cent., tax free. To what extent shipping receipts contributed to the increased profits must remain to be seen. It may be pointed out that a large part of the assets of the company consist of British Government and other securities, and this item figures in the balance sheet for £125,000 more than a year ago.

COMMENTATOR.

NEWS FROM ALL SOURCES.

It is reported that Bulgarian tobacco growers are negotiating for the formation of a cartel.

The Greek Budget for the financial year 1928-29, totals 11,114,652,333 drachmæ for both revenue and expenditure.

The Attock Oil Company, Ltd., announces that a well has been drilled into the 3,300 ft. sand, giving satisfactory initial production.

The traffic receipts of the South Indian Railway Company for the week ended June 16 amounted to Rs.12,54,382, making the total from April 1 Rs.1,38,98,756.

The Eastern Telegraph Company, Ltd., announce that the annual general meeting of the company will be held at Electra House, Moorgate, E.C., on July 24.

The production of crude oil by the British Burmah Petroleum Company and the Rangoon Oil Company for June amounted to 42,744 barrels.

The number of immigrants who entered Palestine in April was 179, while 138 emigrants and 102 returning immigrants left the country permanently during the month.

The Government of India has referred to the Tariff Board the question of protection for sulphuric, hydrochloric, and nitric acids, and other chemicals manufactured in India.

Roumania's Customs receipts for the first four months of the year were as follows:—Import taxes, 2,116,886,128 lei; export taxes, 233,564,702; various taxes, 109,291,567; total, 2,459,742,397.

Sir W. G. Armstrong Whitworth and Co. have been awarded a contract for the construction of a large number of super-heated locomotive boilers and other locomotive details for the Indian State Railways.

The traffic receipts of the Egyptian Delta Light Railways for the ten days ended June 20 amounted to £E6,870, making the total from April 1 £E54,621 as compared with £E58,743 for the corresponding period of the previous year.

There is a favourable market for corset materials, trimmings, and accessories used in the corset industry in Greece (says an American Consular Report). Imports of the finished article have been negligible during recent years because of the high protective tariff.

The directors of the Westminster Bank, Ltd., have declared an interim dividend of 10 per cent. for the half-year ended June 30 on the £20 shares, and the maximum dividend of 6½ per cent. on the £1 shares for the same period. The dividends, 10s. per share and 1s. 3d. per share respectively (both less income tax), will be payable on August 1.

The traffic receipts of the Manchester Ship Canal for the half-year ended June 30 amount to £729,025, as compared with £759,052 for the corresponding period of last year, a decrease of £30,027. The revenue of the whole of the undertaking for the half-year (after providing for interest and fixed charges, including £18,373 increased interest payments in respect of new capital works) was £138,939, as compared with £187,232 in the corresponding period of 1927. The traffic receipts for June amounted to £121,779, against £140,240 in June last year, a decrease of £18,461.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

Country.	Method of Quoting.	Parity of Exchange.	Latest Quotations.
Alexandria.....	Piastre to £	97½	97½
Amsterdam ...	Florins to £	12.107	12.08½
Athens	Drachmæ to £	25.22½	375
Belgrade.....	Dinars to £	25.22½	276½
Berlin	Marks to £	20.43	20.39½
Berne	Francs to £	25.32½	25.25½
Bombay	Sterling to Rupee	18d.	17½—15 16
Brussels	Belga to £	35	34.90
Bucharest	Lei to £	25.22½	795
Budapest	Peu to £	27.82	27.90
Calcutta	Sterling to Rupee	18d.	17½—15/16
Constantinople	Piastres to £	110	957½
New York	Dollars to £	4.86 2-3	4.86½
Paris	Francs to £	25.22½	124.23
Prague	Kronen to £	24.02	164 1/16
Rome	Lire to £	25.22½	92.81
Sofia	Leva to £	25.22½	873
Teheran	Krans to £	47	47
Vienna	Sch to £	34.58	34.47
Warsaw	Zlotv to £	25.22½	43½

Engineering Topics.

By G. B. B.

The question has been asked as to the steps taken to prevent, in the new Mersey Tunnel, a pollution of the atmosphere similar to that which gave such trouble in the case of the Thames Tunnel. The official view is that there is no need for uneasiness regarding the ventilation, as exceptional measures have been taken to prevent vitiation of the atmosphere and powerful fans will force in, underneath the roadway level, fresh air from the river, through openings close to the street walks of the tunnel and above the carriage ways. I am informed that there is also to be an upper casing which will in turn, through the media of exhaust fans, take the products of combustion and the vitiated atmosphere and deliver them in the open air over the river. The whole question of the ventilation of tunnels of this kind has been gone into carefully in connexion with the new tunnels which have just been completed under the river at New York, and Liverpool is naturally taking advantage of the information placed at its disposal by the engineers of the American undertaking. It must not be forgotten that proposals are afoot in regard to the construction of an Everton Tunnel as a link between the East Lancashire road and the Mersey Tunnel. I understand that the Corporation have been acquiring such property as has come into the market along that line, but the actual construction of the tunnel is dependent upon the final decision of the Council, when the complete scheme is made public. The tunnel will be cut through the solid rock, and the more optimistic hope that it will be completed by the time that the new roadway under the Mersey is ready, so as to allow of the transport of goods from East Lancashire to the Birkenhead Docks without transshipment or delay. Liverpool, as Mr. J. A. Brodie told us the other day, is fortunate in having a series of fairly wide roads leading from the line of the new road within the city down to the docks at distances of approximately one mile apart, so that, with the exception of the one main road by itself down to the end of the new tunnel, no very heavy expenditure will be necessary on these streets.

Roadless Traction.

I have just been reading some information regarding the progress of roadless traction, which, as I suppose all readers are aware, is a method by which wheeled vehicles

are provided with their own tracks, rotating in the form of an endless band round the wheels and so allowing the weight to be well distributed whilst at the same time road obstacles are overcome. The system was familiar to us all during the later phases of the War, in connexion with tanks and heavy tractors, and I see there are those who are convinced that the next big step in the material development of the world is the introduction into its sparsely populated and agricultural areas, of a means of mechanical movement, such as this, which meets fully the conditions under which it has to operate. These conditions are, of course, infinitely varied in detail, but in the main it is true that in the absence of a hard, well-made roadway or railway the prime necessity for any vehicle operating over the earth surface is a low pressure per square inch transmitted to the ground. The way in which these low pressures can be obtained, the effect of them in practice, and the many other considerations which have to be borne in mind in mechanical vehicles of this nature are all matters for consideration on the part of both engineers and prospective users. It seems certain that this form of traction has come to stay, and it would seem that the Near and Middle Easts offer a wide field for its development.

Flood Protection Works.

Some interesting information is to hand regarding the construction of the flood protection works near Beira, on the flats of the Pungwe Valley. The catchment of the area drained by the Pungwe and its tributaries is estimated at about 3,000,000,000 tons of water, and the eight viaducts are being built to provide for the passage of water which, during the rainy season, converts the flats into an inland sea. The viaducts have a total length of 2,553 yards, and the old bridge across the river is to be replaced, the new structure being a five-span girder bridge. The spans are to be carried on six piers, sunk to from 75 to 90 feet below the bed of the river. The viaducts will be carried on concrete trestles and piles on the Vibro system, cast at the site of the works. The piling plant consists of a 20-ton piling frame, 60 ft. high, on a carriage which also carries the boiler, engine, and winches. The raising of the necessary earth embankment will mean moving 500,000 cubic yards of soil, and about 60,000 cubic yards of stone, for pitching the embankment, will have to be brought over 40 miles. About 2,000 men are employed on the work, which is being carried out by Messrs. Dorman and Long, Ltd.

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DULL TRADE AT BRAILA AND SULINA IN 1927.

H.M. Vice-Consul at Braila reports that the port of Braila has experienced a dull year, as regards the export trade, owing to the fact that grain, especially maize, has mostly been exported from other ports up-river by lighters direct to Central European destinations. Imports, on the other hand, greatly increased in 1927, thanks to the installation of a rice-shelling factory, "Orezul" S.A.R., which imported 10,000 tons of raw rice.

Some cargoes of phosphates were also imported, and several hundred tons of British coal were shipped to Braila during the year. There was a slight increase in the quantities of goods arriving via the Danube from Central Europe, viz., 16,319 metric tons in 1927 as against 14,305 metric tons in 1926.

The port of Sulina is controlled by the European Commission of the Danube, which guarantees absolute equality of treatment to the vessels of all nations. H.M. Vice-Consul at Sulina reports that this port has not yet regained its pre-War status, and shippers of grain, notwithstanding the improved bar-depth conditions, have not made full use of the advantages which the port presents to the shipping community. The labour question has proved a serious obstacle, and the main reason why practically no loading operations were carried out during the last eight months of the year—the cheaper labour tariffs in force at Galatz and Braila competing with Sulina prices, which showed an excess of 20 per cent. over the up-river figures. Continued attempts to reduce the rates for port and roads work have met with success, inasmuch as reductions of 25 per cent. for loading effected during the winter months (December to March) and 35 per cent. for the summer months (April to November) have been agreed to. These substantial reductions are a step in the right direction towards inducing grain shippers to use Sulina as a loading port, but a stable bar-depth is required to convince merchants that the advantages are real and that steamers with a tonnage of over 8,000 tons can load full cargoes in the port without questions of lighterage over the bar.

The depth of water on the bar has fluctuated between 22 feet and 24 feet, though it was maintained at the latter figure during the greater part of the year. With the opening of the new channel, which is curved south, it is expected that a stable depth of 24 feet will shortly be obtained.

The improved conditions in comparison with 1926 were felt and appreciated by navigation, for while in 1926 33 ships lightening 41,578 tons completed their cargoes in Sulina Roads, only 11 ships lightening 6,511 tons finished outside the bar in 1927.

The length of the pier prolongation work at the present time is 6,890 feet on the north side and about 9,350 feet on the south side, seawards of the old pier ends. It is intended to prolong the North Pier approximately a further 2,500 feet.

NEW KHEDIVIAL MAIL STEAMER.

The steamer Taif which has been built by Messrs. Alexander Stephen and Sons, Ltd., for the Khedivial Mail Steamship and Graving Dock Co., Ltd., for their cargo and passenger service in the Red Sea and the Eastern Mediterranean, has just completed her speed trials. Her dimensions are 250ft. length overall; 39ft. breadth; and speed of 11 knots. Accommodation has been provided for 50 first and second-class passengers, and 500 deck passengers. The propelling machinery consists of one set of triple expansion engines, with two single-ended boilers, and with the Clyde oil fuel system of oil burners.

A sister ship, the Tadoli, is being constructed by Messrs. Stephen and will be completed shortly.

FORTHCOMING SAILINGS.

The following are the sailings for the Near East and India, the ports of departure and closing dates for cargo being given in parentheses:—

Anchor Line.—S.s. Tarantia for Bombay (Birkenhead, July 23); s.s. Elysia for Bombay (Birkenhead, August 7). (For passenger sailings and dates see advertisement.)

Anchor Brocklebank Line.—S.s. Mangalore for Calcutta (Birkenhead, July 24); s.s. Malancha (Birkenhead, August 2).

Bibby Line.—S.s. Derbyshire for Port Said, Port Sudan, Colombo, and Rangoon (Birkenhead, July 26).

British India Line.—S.s. Mundra for Bombay and Karachi (London, July 21); s.s. Morvada for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, July 28); s.s. Hatimura for Bombay and Karachi (London, August 11); s.s. Masula for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, August 11).

Cunard Line.—S.s. Brescia for Gibraltar, Genoa, Leghorn, Naples, Palermo, Messina, Catania, Bari, Venice, Trieste, and Fiume Liverpool July 21, and in Swansea July 24; followed by s.s. Bothnia, Liverpool August 18 and Swansea 21; s.s. Bactria for Malta, Patras, Piræus, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, and Constantza (Glasgow July 20, and Liverpool and Swansea July 21; followed by s.s. Bosnia, Liverpool, Glasgow and Swansea, August 25).

Johnston Line.—S.s. Aviemore for Smyrna and Constantinople (Liverpool, July 28); s.s. Aviemore for Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, August 4); s.s. Dromore for Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, September 1).

P. and O. Line.—S.s. Malwa for Bombay (London, July 20); s.s. Mantua for Bombay (London, August 3); s.s. Ranpura for Bombay (London, August 17).

Prince Line.—S.s. Soldier Prince for Tunis, Malta, Alexandria, Jaffa, Haifa, Beyrout, and Cyprus (Manchester, July 21); s.s. Scottish Prince for Tunis, Malta, Alexandria, Jaffa, Haifa, Beyrout, Tripoli, Alexandretta, Mersina, and Cyprus (London, August 1); s.s. Lancastrian Prince for Tunis, Malta, Alexandria, Jaffa, Haifa, Beyrout, and Cyprus (Manchester, August 4).

Ellerman and Papayanni Lines.—S.s. Fabian for Malta, Alexandria, Jaffa*, and Haifa* (Liverpool, July 28); s.s. Polo for Algiers*, Patras, Smyrna, and Constantinople (Liverpool, August 4); s.s. Egyptian for Gibraltar, Malta, Alexandria, Jaffa*, and Haifa* (Liverpool, August 4); s.s. Manchurian for Genoa, Leghorn, Naples, Palermo, Messina, Catania, Bari, Gruz*, Ancona*, Venice, Trieste, and Fiume (Liverpool August 4, Swansea August 9); s.s. Mardinian for Oran*, Algiers*, Malta, Piræus, Volo*, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, and Constantza (Liverpool, August 18). *Subject to sufficient inducement. Cargo taken on through Bills of Lading to:—Algerian ports via Algiers; Moroccan ports via Gibraltar; Tripoli (Barbary) via Malta; Syria and Cyprus via Alexandria; Greek outports via Piræus or other convenient port.

It is proposed to form a Roumano-Hungarian Chamber of Commerce at Bucharest.

The Egyptian market for cotton, silk, rayon, and linen handkerchiefs is large (says an American Consular report). The native demand is for highly coloured plaid patterns, most of which are imported. The local hand-loom weavers are supplying a portion of the rayon handkerchiefs for the domestic market. Fine linen and silk handkerchiefs with a woven pattern border, either two tone or plain colour, are sold to the better class of the population. The cheap-quality coloured patterns find a market among the native trade. Fringe handkerchiefs are used by men for wrapping around the head.

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SPECIAL NOTICE.

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THE WEEK'S FINANCE.

(By Our Financial Expert.)

London, July 17.

Although the general tone of the London Stock Markets has remained weak, partly as a result of the after effect of the Loewenstein tragedy, which incidentally found the markets none too cheerful, the settlement has passed off without any untoward incidents. There was certainly nothing to justify the placards of an enterprising journal to the effect that a heavy slump had taken place on the Stock Exchange. All the same the immediate outlook for various securities is not too bright. The holiday season is rapidly approaching and company promoters are busily flooding the market with prospectuses before the quiet months arrive. One of the prospectuses of the past week is of special interest to readers of the financial Press, since it amalgamated several well-known financial journals, though it is interesting to observe that the *Economist*, following the example of *The Times* and the *Spectator*, preserves its independence under a separate charter.

The raising of the New York Federal Reserve Rate to 5 per cent. at the end of the week does not improve the monetary outlook, although the Bank of England, after the recent accretions to its stock of gold, should be able to face the autumnal strain without resort to a 5 per cent. rate here.

The Plain Man and his Money.

During recent years there has been a notable spread of the investing habit. Many who before the War were content to place their money in the Post Office Savings Bank are now the holders of Stock Exchange securities. A large number of these investors are, of course, unfamiliar with the ways of the new world which they have entered, and experience shows that they have made numerous mistakes. This is unfortunate, but perhaps largely un-

avoidable. But since the spread of the investing habit is desirable, any honest attempt to smooth the past of the new investor is welcome. For this reason we draw attention to a helpful new book specially written for such investors. It is called "The Plain Man and his Money" (published by Nisbet, 2s. 6d.) the author being Mr. A. S. Wade, a well-known Financial Editor. It assumes little technical knowledge and in simple language describes the various classes of securities, points of procedure, and indicates the many pitfalls to be avoided. We notice, however, that the author devotes a chapter to the "Gold Standard and the Plain Man," while the jacket of the book tells us that the "plain man" and "his wife" want to know "what the gold standard means." We seriously doubt whether this estimable pair think about the gold standard very much; and in any case so technical and contentious a subject could easily have been avoided.

The Bank Dividends.

The leading British banks have now announced their interim dividends for the first half of the present year. In every case the dividends are maintained at the same rate as for last year. This is, of course, in accordance with expectations, but it does not follow that the past six months have been as profitable as the corresponding period of 1927. Indeed, the known facts point to the possibility of profits being at a slightly lower level. For instance, the level of Bank Rate, which governs other money rates, has been lower, the average rate for 1927 being £4 16s. per cent., as compared with £4 10s. per cent. for this year. Again, trade has been less active, as is shown by the decline of £4½ millions in the gross receipts of the four leading railways. It is true that a larger volume of funds has been available, but it is unlikely that this has been sufficient to off-set completely the other adverse factors. These minor fluctuations in earnings, however, are of little practical importance, for the financial position of the banks is extremely strong. The shares of the leading British banks can be confidently recommended as investments. The yields, admittedly, are not generous, often being on the same level as those given by British Government stocks. But from time to time the banks make a present to their shareholders by raising new capital on bonus terms.

Australian Finances.

Australia is once again making an appeal to the British investor, subscription lists for a £7,000,000 loan, redeemable 1945-75 and issued at £98 per cent., having been opened. Australia has recently been a heavy borrower in London, but the prospects of the loan are improved by the news, received this week, that Western Australia has given a second reading to the Bill which aims at regularising and co-ordinating the finances of the States and the Commonwealth. This brings it within measurable distance of the Statute Book. The Bill has, of course, still to pass through other stages, but apparently there are expectations that from now onwards it will have a fairly smooth course. Had Western Australia failed to give the second reading to the Bill the whole scheme would have been jeopardised. This would certainly have been deplorable and would have damaged Australia's credit in London. In recent years certain quarters in the City have viewed with some apprehension the rising tide of Australian indebtedness. Their view is that, if a halt is not necessary, at least the whole position should be placed upon a more satisfactory footing, especially with regard to provision for sinking funds. It is realised that the Bill now under discussion will go a long way towards achieving this purpose.

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EAST LONDON—Messrs. Dunn & Co.
PT. ELIZABETH—Mackie, Dunn & Co.

MOSSEL BAY—Messrs. E. Searle & Co.
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Near East Markets

INCREASED CYPRUS EXPORTS.

The value of Cyprus imports continues above the average, the total for May, £143,342, being about £9,000 more than for May, 1927, and over £27,000 more than the quinquennial average. The increase is general.

The export trade also continues above the average, the figures for May being £148,865, showing an increase of over £20,000 as compared with that of May of 1927, and of over £55,000 more than the quinquennial average, and it exceeded the import trade by £5,500.

The most noticeable increases in exports, as compared with the average for the last five years, are in asbestos, carobs, cotton, and copper pyrites.

The 1927 crop of carobs is practically exhausted. The abnormal local price of 27s. per kantar was reached during the month under review.

Shipments of potatoes have commenced. The quality is good and it is anticipated that the crop will be above the average.

Shipping during May maintained its recent high level, the port of Limassol having a record calling of 38 steamers.

TURKISH MARKET FOR LEATHER.

Production of leather in Turkey has been consistently increasing during late years, its 760 tanneries supplying about 70 per cent. of the sole leather requirements and a very small percentage of the other leathers used (says an article in the United States "Commerce Reports"). Considerable quantities of leather, consequently, must be imported annually, the greatest part coming from France and Germany and most of the remainder from the United States and Belgium. Only during the past 10 years have American tanners been successful in obtaining any substantial share of the trade.

Turkey is dependent on foreign sources for a large share of the uppers used annually, which are supplied mostly by French and German tanners. American producers, however, have recently been successful in obtaining a volume of trade which is much larger than the total American leather sales to that country during the immediate pre-War years.

Owing to the limited purchasing power of the general population, the cheaper and medium grades of upper leather find the most ready market, and only comparatively small quantities of the better qualities are imported. Of coloured upper leathers, larger amounts are being imported at present than ever before.

Of the present annual consumption of patent leather in Turkey, estimated at 1,250,000 square feet, the entire amount is imported, mainly from the United States, which supplies about 70 per cent., Germany, and France.

The production of sole leather in Turkey has increased consistently during recent years, and the annual output is now estimated at 10,000,000 lb. As the yearly consumption is placed at about 14,285,000 lb., domestic tanners supply approximately 70 per cent. of the total requirements. The imports of sole leather have decreased steadily during late years; the domestic tanners are increasing their efforts to improve and increase their production, and a further decline in imports is expected. France and Belgium supply the largest part, the former supplying the better and medium qualities and the latter the medium and cheaper grades. The American tanners have been able to sell the cheaper grades only of sole leather—mainly offal—in Turkey, and the reduced imports of sole leather by that country have not affected these sales. Turkish tanners are of the opinion that the higher world quotations for leather will be of material benefit to them in increasing their sales. They assert that foreign sole leather will soon be at too high prices for the Turkish market.

EUROPEAN COMMISSION OF THE DANUBE.

The Foreign Office have received from the British Commissioner on the European Commission of the Danube (Mr. J. G. Baldwin, C.B.) a detailed statement of the financial situation of the Commission on 31, December, 1927. The following is a summary of the figures taken from the official accounts (in French francs gold):—Receipts during 1927, 5,090,048; balance from 1926, 1,612,249; total, 6,702,297. Expenditure, 6,359,180; balance at end of 1927, 232,117; total, 6,702,297.

The receipts consist almost entirely of navigation dues (5,030,653 francs). The expenditure includes 2,062,191 gold frs. on the prolongation and strengthening of the embankments at Sulina, and 251,507 gold frs. in repayment of the British portion of the loan raised by the Commission in 1924.

EGYPTIAN MARKET FOR SPORTS WEAR.

A good market exists in Egypt for all articles of sport clothing (says an American Consular report). The various types of sweaters, knitted suits for women, and scarfs on sale are of wool and rayon mixtures. The knitted coats with collars and cuffs of napped wool goods are finding favour in this market. The well-dressed Egyptian or foreign resident wears a knitted fancy vest in the winter season. This additional garment is largely worn in lieu of a top coat and is either with or without sleeves. A few sweaters with a V-neck and a closed front are shipped by France. Native cab drivers during the winter wear a modern-type knit scarf, worsted or rayon, and usually fringed, wrapped around the neck, face, and head. A good prospective market exists for all articles of knitted outerwear.

TENDERS INVITED.

Tenders are invited for the following contracts, and must be made by the dates mentioned.

(Particulars of tenders marked D.O.T. are to be obtained from the Department of Overseas Trade, 55, Old Queen Street, S.W.1.)

EGYPT.

Steel Fire-Float.—The Engineering Department of the Egyptian Ports and Lighthouses Administration is inviting tenders for one self-propelled petrol motor fire-float for use in Suez Harbour and Roads. August 31. (D.O.T.)

Oil.—The Stores, Egyptian State Railways, Telegraphs, and Telephones, Saptieh, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of 10,000 kilos shafting, engine, and machining oil and 5,000 kilos cylinder oil for Bell's and Morcom engines to specification. September 12.

Tent Cloth.—The Stores and Economat, Sharia El Falaki, No. 20, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of 57,755 yards of tent cloth for the Plant Protection Section. August 20.

Chassis.—The Headquarters, Frontiers Administration, Ministry of War and Marine, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of 10 six-wheeled chassis with engine as per specifications at Headquarters, Ministry of War. August 8.

Filter.—Tenders in respect of the contract for the installation of a third filter at the Damanhour waterworks are invited by the Municipalities and Local Commission Section, Ministry of the Interior, Cairo. August 4. (D.O.T.)

Filters.—The Tanzim Department, Egyptian Public Works Ministry invites tenders for the supply and erection of four mechanical water filters. These filters are required to have a total output capacity of two million gallons of water per 24 hours. August 2. (D.O.T.)

Buffers.—The Egyptian State Railways, Telegraphs, and Telephones, invites tenders for 60 buffers complete.

The date of the adjudication for the construction of an overhead bridge at Minia, originally fixed for August 4, has been postponed to September 4.

Telephone Trunk Cable.—The General Management, Egyptian State Railways, Telegraphs, and Telephones, Cairo Station, invites tenders for the supply and laying of Cairo-Alexandria telephone trunk cable. October 3.

Ejectors and Accessories.—The Director-General, Main Drainage Department, No. 2, Sharia El Maleka Nazli, Cairo, invites tenders for supplying ejectors and accessories for stations Nos. 1, 2, 3, and 4 (Damanhour Drainage). October 15.

Paper, Binding Cloth, and Stitching Wire, Etc.—The Egyptian Ministry of Finance invites tenders for the supply of paper, boards, binding cloth, stitching wire, ink, etc., required during the year 1928-29. July 21. (D.O.T.)

Steel Plates.—The Stores, Egyptian State Railways, Telegraphs, and Telephones, Saptieh, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of 58 steel plates for renewals of four swing bridges. August 23.

Fire Float.—The Director-General, Ports and Lights Administration, Arsenal, Alexandria, invites tenders for the supply of a fire float for Suez Harbour as per conditions of tender and specification. August 31.

Flat Mild Steel.—The General Management, Egyptian State Railways, Telegraphs, and Telephones invites tenders for the supply of 472,800 kilos flat mild steel. August 29.

Spare Parts for Machihes, Etc.—The Financial Secretary, War Office, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of spare parts for machines, leather, belts, iron goods, paints powder, nails, files, etc., to Tura Mills. July 28.

Galvanised Steel, Etc.—The Egyptian State Railways, Telegraphs, and Telephones invite tenders for 22,000 feet galvanised mild steel and 3,200 feet piping steam mild steel, and for 700,000 twine type lead seals.

Side Bearing Springs, Etc.—The Egyptian State Railways, Telegraphs, and Telephones invite tenders for 2,000 side bearing springs for standard 10 ton wagons to drawing; 4,100 metres cable switch-board, value between £E950 and £E1,150; and 30 loco and tender tyres 4 ft. 2½ in. to drawing for standard gauge main line. Firms interested should communicate with the Chief Inspecting Engineer, London, for information.

Automatic Telephone Exchange.—The General Management, Egyptian State Railways, Telegraphs and Telephones, Cairo Station, invites tenders for the supply and erection of a full automatic telephone exchange equipment in Cairo and associated subscribers' apparatus. September 1.

Dredgers.—Tenders are invited by the Ministry of Public Works of the Egyptian Government for the construction of (a) two dipper dredgers each capable of an output of spoil in free-getting material of 80 metres cubic per hour measured in the solid, and (b) two suction pump dredgers each capable of an output of spoil in free-getting material of 200 metres cubic per hour measured in the solid; including re-erection in the Sudan and for the delivery thereof in working order safely afloat on the River Nile. Builders may tender either for the two dipper dredgers, or for the two suction pump dredger, or for both groups. The contract documents and the rules for, and full information as to, tendering may be inspected at the offices of Messrs. Goode, Fitzmaurice, Wilson and Mitchell, Consulting Engineers to the Egyptian Government, 9, Victoria Street, Westminster, London, S.W.1, or the Legation of the Egyptian Government, Bute House, 75, South Audley Street. October 1.

BUILDING IN PALESTINE IN 1927.

A further considerable decrease in building operations throughout Palestine, except in Jerusalem and Nablus, was recorded in 1927 (says the Commercial Bulletin of Palestine). About £P770,064 were invested in the erection of new buildings as compared with £P1,140,965 invested in 1926 and £P2,058,705 in 1925. This was particularly noticeable at Tel Aviv, where the amounts invested fell from £P1,472,820 in 1925 to £P276,923 in 1926 and £P50,000 in 1927.

The chief reason for this striking decrease is the decline in mass immigration which occurred in 1924-25, bound up with the acute financial and trade depression which set in towards the end of 1925. Building operations have also decreased at Haifa for the same reasons. An appreciable increase in building operations, however, was noticed at Jerusalem and Nablus.

In Jerusalem £P412,542 was invested in 1927 as compared with £P403,537 in 1926 and £P232,755 in 1925. This is due to the increase in the Jerusalem population and the demand for more up-to-date accommodation, and to the erection by philanthropic institutions of large buildings such as hospitals, orphanages, churches, social centres, etc.

In Nablus the earthquake of 1927 destroyed a very considerable number of houses and as a result new buildings had to be erected; the amounts invested in 1927 are, therefore, disproportionate to the sums invested in 1926 and in 1925; these were £P85,861, £P14,554, and £P13,128 respectively. Consequent on the earthquake building operations were also carried out in Jenin, Tulkarem, and Ludd.

Approximately £P234,900 was spent in 1927 by the Civil Government on public works, such as the construction of buildings, roads, water supplies and their maintenance as compared with £P164,718 in 1926 and £P101,538 in 1925, and £P20,904 by the military authorities on buildings and repairs.



The Postal Account

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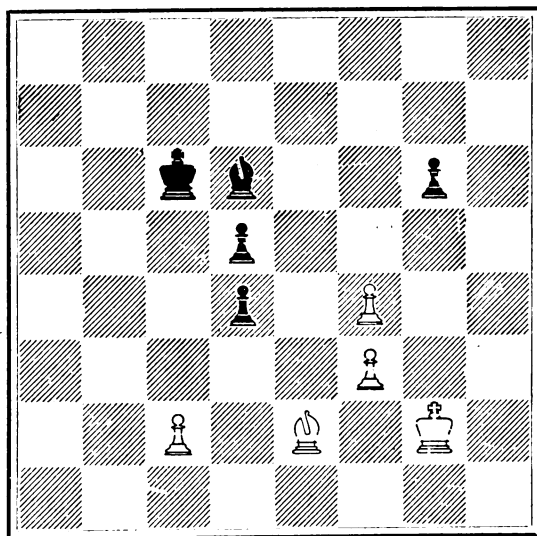
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Yugoslavia's exports in April totalled 429 million dinars as against 468 million in April, 1927, and 813 million in April, 1926. In the first four months of this year exports amounted to one milliard 821 million dinars as against 2 milliards 15 millions in the same period of last year.

YUGOSLAVIA'S NATIONAL RIVER.

M. N. Guiachintof contributes an interesting article to the current issue of the *Belgrade Economic Review* on the "The Sava, the Great National River of the S.H.S Kingdom." After pointing out that the Romans made considerable use of the river formed by the Sava and the Liubianica and that after the fall of the Roman Empire the utilisation of the waterway declined until the end of the 18th century he continues :—

Traffic on the river now amounts to over 300,000 tons a year. In 1924 and 1925 it reached as much as 375,000 tons. This amount might be greater by another hundred tons or so if one reckoned some of the arrivals and departures from the port of Belgrade, since the traffic at Belgrade includes goods sent thence to the ports of the Sava, while from the Sava on the other hand Belgrade received a large quantity of merchandise.

This traffic is by no means a negligible quantity. But if one takes into account the length of the river and compares the transport carried on with that on the Danube of its tributary the Tissa, it is quite easy to see that the traffic on the Sava is far from what it might be. In 1926 the Danube had a traffic of nearly 300,000 tons and yet its length within the Kingdom is less than that of the Sava. In the same year the Tissa transported 600,000 tons in spite of the fact that only 164 kilometres of its course lie within the limits of this Kingdom.

A study of the traffic on the Sava therefore gives an impression of inadequacy. No figures for a long period of observation are available which would make it possible to draw well-founded conclusions as to its development. The figures for the four years 1923 to 1926 show that during that period the Danube and the Tissa doubled their traffic, and that the Begey Canal and the Drava have shown an increase of 50 per cent, whereas the Sava increased by 25 per cent in 1924 and 1925 and then in 1926 fell to a level even below that of 1923.

At present the Sava cannot be considered as a river which plays an important part in international traffic. Commercial shipping has ceased not only on the Liubianica but also on the Sava itself beyond the outlet of the Kupa (km. 593). Even the last hundred kilometres between the outlets of the Una and the Kupa are only maintained by one port in the lower course of the Kupa namely Sisak. More or less busy traffic is now carried on only over the first 500 kilometres from the outlet of the Sava to that of the Una. Of the 90,000,000 kilometre tons of traffic on the Sava in 1926, over 82,000,000 or 91.44 per cent belonged to those 500 kilometres. The whole length of the Sava over which shipping is carried on is entirely within the limits of the Kingdom and thence the traffic connected with foreign trade is necessarily limited to what the basin of the Sava itself can supply from its surplus production and what it needs of foreign goods. For the present, according to the traffic figures for 1924—1925, this transport is estimated at 60,000 tons round per year.

It may be noted in connection with the present state of the Sava that there are very few ports over its navigable course, in all 15, without reckoning Belgrade, which by its traffic belongs rather to the Danube than the Sava. For the purpose of comparison it may be mentioned that in 1926 there were 53 ports at work on the Danube. In the district of the Sava, that is, taking the land which extends a distance of 40 to 50 kilometres inland from both its banks there is a railway network which comprises over 1,500 kms. of line and on which there are 280 stations.

All these facts together give a picture of a river not only falling into decay, but of one abandoned to its fate, and, one might almost say forgotten. Its present does not correspond to its past.

Agricultural products play an important part in the transport on the Sava. It is sufficient to call in mind the fact that it is the provinces of Srem and Machva

which are watered by the Sava to make evident the possibility of developing the traffic in cereals along this river.

Nevertheless in 1926, the year when the figures of agricultural products transported were largest, the transport on the Sava was only 118,814 tons. A calculation of this per kilometre gives less than 200 tons per kilometre. As to the other rivers flowing through agricultural districts, the following are the figures of agricultural transport in the same year : Danube 1,035,454 tons, Tissa 402,745 tons, Begey 186,244 tons.

All these three waterways carry on large transports in foreign trade. The Sava, however, is confined principally to internal communications. But taking only the latter the Danube gives a total transport of 488,260 tons, or 829 tons per kilometre; the Tissa a total of 215,079 tons or 1,311 tons per kilometre. There is no reason to doubt the capacity of the region of the Sava to nourish a transport of agricultural goods which might give an average per kilometre equal to that at least of the internal communications of the Danube i.e., 800 tons per kilometre in round figures. If this were achieved the quantity of agricultural products passing along the Sava would rise to over 550,000 tons. It is therefore possible to conclude that without any extraordinary occurrence the transport of this one kind of merchandise alone could exceed the present entire total of the traffic along the Sava.

Another important article of transport on the Sava is timber, both wood for fuel and wood for industry. The district around the Sava is extremely favourably placed as regards timber production. The Sava itself, as well as its tributaries, flows through the most wooded districts of the Kingdom, where the land is covered to fifty and even 75 per cent. in forests.

There is one other article which at present has only a minor part in the traffic on the Sava, but which illustrates the great possibility of developing the traffic along this river. This is coal. The quantities of coal transported on the Sava have been as follows: 1923 50,014 tons, 1924 25,167 tons; 1925 3,285 tons; 1926 2,194 tons. This transport is so small that it might be easily considered of no importance and as purely chance traffic. But in the Sava basin in Bosnia there are large coal mines, which in output come second in the mines of the Kingdom, after the mines of Slovenia.

Along the course of the Sava (700 krs. to Zagreb) only one part is exploited to any large extent because of the difficulties to navigation. It is true that this is quite a long stretch. Over 500 kilometres, but the part which is not used at all for shipping, or only very little, is a most important sector. The complete stoppage of shipping a hundred kilometres from Zagreb, which is the centre of an important industrial district, makes this river a very incomplete means of communication. It traverses a region whence can be drawn both food supplies and raw materials necessary for industries but which has an outlet in only one direction, namely the south-east. On the other hand, this large industrial region lying quite near the river is cut off and so to speak outside this means of communication. This position may hinder still more the development of traffic on the river, in that it gives a great advantage to the railway line Zagreb-Belgrade which runs parallel to the Sava, and which can carry goods without interruption over the whole distance.

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The basin of the river is very extensive. It comprises an area of over 95,000 square kilometres, of which nearly 22,000 belong to the Sava itself and over 73,000 to its tributaries, several of which, especially those on the right bank, penetrate for some hundreds of kilometres inland. Except for the Kupa, none of these tributaries are navigable, and only contribute little to the development of traffic on the main river. This deficiency in the tributaries, which ought to bring cargoes to the main stream, is especially felt in the wood traffic, which, as we have seen is growing weaker and weaker, but which, owing to the forest wealth of the district should become one of the most important transports on the Sava. The way to enliven and develop the wood transport lies in the development and perfection of the means of communications, which ought to penetrate into the great forest masses, and it is the tributaries of a river which are just the means of doing this if they are well managed.

The removal of these two main causes which hinder traffic would completely change the position on the river, and even more, it would give the region a whole system of well-managed waterways which would mean a powerful assistance to its economic evolution. This would ensure the Sava a much brighter future as a means of communication. But together with the measures necessary to the regulation of the rivers in the Sava basin, improvements could also be made in the districts themselves. This would contribute to the development of the whole region and at the same time ensure the growth of traffic on the river.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS IN BULGARIA.

Following the depression of the two preceding years there was a considerable improvement in general economic conditions in Bulgaria during 1927. For the first time since 1922 a favourable balance of foreign trade was attained, and in budget operations a surplus for the fiscal year 1927-28 is indicated in contrast to a large deficit for 1926-27 (says an article in the United States "Commerce Reports"). The credit situation was somewhat less stringent during the year, savings deposits showed an increase, and protested notes declined. Lev exchange was steady, and the monopoly of exchange transactions by the National Bank was continued. Tobacco and corn crops were smaller, but larger yields were reported for other crops.

Estimates of agricultural production during 1927 (1926 figures in parentheses) as follows: Tobacco, 15,794,500 kilos (27,189,100); wheat, 1,288,580 metric tons (994,590); corn, 523,610 metric tons (693,765); barley, 305,700 metric tons (241,340); rye, 209,370 metric tons (181,195); sugar beets, 242,050 metric tons (224,895); silk cocoons, 2,025,000 kilos (1,863,360); sunflower, 35,680 metric tons (11,582); attar of roses, 504,631 miskals (282,848) (1 miskal equals 0.16953 ounce avoirdupois).

The total sown area was slightly larger in 1927 than in 1926, the increase occurring chiefly in corn and sunflower acreage. Corn acreage increased from 601,000 hectares to 653,000 hectares in 1927, and sunflower from 15,250 to 44,900 hectares, whereas tobacco decreased from 31,540 hectares to 25,640 hectares. The area sown to wheat declined from 1,046,000 to 1,018,000 hectares, but the other crops showed only slight changes.

The output of manufactured tobacco during the year was 4,600 metric tons, as against 4,690 metric tons in 1926. Nevertheless, the value returned to the State monopoly was slightly larger, amounting to 695,610,000 leva as compared with 675,941,200 leva in the previous year. Production of sugar exceeded that for 1926, totalling 38,390 metric tons as against 32,060 metric tons. Coal, the principal mineral of the country, has registered a steady increase during recent years. The output in 1927 reached 1,237,650 tons, as compared with 1,205,760 tons in 1926, 1,219,570 tons in 1925, and 1,214,840 tons in 1924.

The State railroads during 1927 transported 317,000

carloads, as against 313,000 carloads in 1926. During the year special efforts were made by the Government towards development of the railway system and, in a general way, of roads and communications. On November 20, 1927, the 40 kilometre railway line from Lovetch to Levsky on the trunk line from Sofia to Varna was opened. Another line, about 23 kilometres in length, to connect the station of Rakovsky (on the trunk line from Sofia to Constantinople) with the town of Haskvo (on the slopes of the Rhodopes range) was under construction. This line is being constructed from funds obtained under the refugee loan.

COMPANY NOTES AND REPORTS.

NATIONAL BANK OF EGYPT.

Position at May 31, 1928, published in conformity with Article 8. of the Statutes. Banking Department.—Liabilities: Share capital (300,000 fully-paid shares of £10 each), £E2,925,000. Reserve Fund: Statutory reserve, £E1,462,500; special reserve, £E1,243,125; current, deposit, and other accounts, £E14,654,229; Egyptian Government, £E14,976,611; Sudan Government, £E221,184; Mixed Tribunals, £E1,986,172; bankers' accounts, £E389,923; cheques and bills payable, £E277,819; sundry other accounts, £E1,556,305—£E39,692,868. Assets: Government securities and securities guaranteed by the Egyptian Government, £E20,965,740; sundry securities, £E455,456; advances on merchandise, £E3,040,875; advances on securities, £E4,030,180; advances otherwise secured, £E1,293,348; sundry other advances, £E1,047,876; bills of exchange, £E3,591,016; local bills discounted, £E692,742; buildings and furniture, £E233,826; money at call and at short notice, £E614,250; bankers' accounts, £E252,157; sundry other accounts, £E1,012,582. Cash: Notes, £E1,736,813; gold, £E434,020; silver, nickel, etc., £E291,987—£E2,462,820—£E39,692,868. Issue Department.—Notes issued, £E27,100,000—£E27,100,000. Gold, £E2,339,570; *British Treasury Bills, securities and securities guaranteed by Egyptian Government, £E1,500,000; British Treasury Bills and National War Bonds, £E12,050,000—£E13,550,000—£E27,100,000.

BOMBAY, BARODA, AND CENTRAL INDIA.

The report of the Bombay, Baroda, and Central India Railway for the year ended March 31 last states that the gross earnings of the broad gauge system amounted to Rs.6,44,16,466 as compared with Rs.6,13,67,388 last year. The metre gauge system earnings were Rs. 5,05,92,952, as compared with Rs.5,16,13,355, making a total of Rs.11,50,10,358, as compared with Rs.11,29,80,743 in 1926. The expenditure of the combined systems totalled Rs.7,16,32,123, against Rs.7,13,58,857. The net earnings were thus Rs.4,33,97,235. The percentage of expenditure to gross earnings was 62.7, against 63.16. Of the surplus of Rs.6,61,207 due to the company in respect of the year 1927-28, after deducting Indian income and super taxes, Rs.1,97,203 was remitted to England in November, 1927, producing £14,764, and the balance, Rs.4,64,004 in May, 1928, producing £34,740. An interim dividend of 1½ per cent. was paid in January last, in addition to the guaranteed interest of 1½ per cent. then due, and the directors recommend the payment on July 20 of a final dividend of 1½ per cent., making, together with the guaranteed interest of 1½ per cent. for the half-year, a total payment in July of 3 per cent., and a return for the year 1927-28 of 6 per cent.

EGYPTIAN DELTA LIGHT RAILWAYS.

The report of the Egyptian Delta Light Railways for the year ended March 31, 1928, states that the gross receipts were £313,028, against £342,605 last year. No adequate regulations appear to exist in Egypt for the control of motor vehicles, and strong representations have been made to the Egyptian Government on this subject. It is understood that legislation dealing with the matter is under consideration; meanwhile every effort is being made by the company to meet the situation, and experimental motor-lorry services for collection and delivery of goods are now being inaugurated in selected districts. The receipts from cotton traffic have also been adversely affected by the reduction of the cotton-growing acreage in conformity with Government regulations. The total expenditure was £256,919, as compared with £274,081 for the previous year. The ratio of expenses to gross earnings was 82.71, as compared with 80.00. The balance carried to net revenue account is £54,108, which, with interest earned, amounting to £4,379, gives £58,487. After providing for interest on debentures and for all fixed charges, £19,284 remains; add £29,001 brought forward, making £48,285 to be dealt with. In view of the reduced earnings, of continued falling off in receipts since the close of accounts, and the necessity for providing for capital expenditure, the directors have, with regret, decided that they are unable to recommend a dividend for the year, and are transferring to reserve against capital expenditure £10,000, leaving £38,285 to be carried forward.

* By authority of the Egyptian Government these Treasury Bills are deposited in lieu of gold. (See *Journal Officiel* of October 30, 1916.)

Cotton and Cotton Goods.

THE LIVERPOOL COTTON MARKET.

Messrs. Reynolds and Gibson report as follows for the week ended July 11:—

Egyptian Futures.—Sakel Contract.—Rather quiet conditions have prevailed in this market since we last wrote and the moderate amount of trading that has taken place has not revealed any features of note, except perhaps the continued lukewarm response to any outside "bullish" influence. This comparative apathy or heaviness is still, in our opinion, due to the wide premium at which Sakels stand over other varieties, to the present state of trade in the fine spinning section, and to the highly satisfactory character of the crop reports coming to hand. The combination of the above factors curbs any weight of fresh enterprise on the "long" side and, in addition, brings out liquidation whenever values move up to the 21d. level for November. On the other hand, the strength of the statistical position, and the fact that the growing crop has still to pass through its most critical stage, limits "short" operations to a minimum, so that, on the whole, we think we are correct in stating that the open account is now of comparatively unimportant dimensions.

During the earlier days of the week values hardened gradually on small trade orders and isolated speculative purchases mainly for Continental account, the market at this period having the encouragement of strong American advices; prices subsequently relapsed sharply on the U.S. acreage figures, but, with the lower level attracting rather more trade support, some recovery has since taken place, to-night's close being 9 to 15 points lower for near and 12 points easier for distant months.

Cables from Egypt report a rather better commercial demand during the past few days and also state that good spinning qualities are increasingly difficult to find; it rather looks as if this season's carry-over is going to contain a large percentage of unwanted and undesirable cotton.

Upper Contract.—Fluctuations in this contract have again been mainly controlled by the action of the American markets; towards last week-end prices advanced over 15d. for new crop positions, but since have encountered liquidation and, whilst some recovery from the lowest has taken place, the decline on the week amounts to 23 to 30 points for near and 27 points for distant positions. Further heavy tenders have been made since we last wrote, but the dockets have been readily taken up by the same interests that took the earlier cotton. Trade reports still leave a good deal to be desired, but more business has been transacted in both spot and forward cotton, and the premiums of the intermediate qualities have hardened further during the past two days. Crop reports remain favourable; the June bulletin of the Alexandria Produce Association reads as follows:—

Lower Egypt and Fayoum.—Temperature has been generally favourable to plants, which are in a healthy and robust condition. Water irrigation has been adequate, some isolated appearances of worms have been reported, but no damage of any importance has been caused.

Egyptian Spot.—The slight improvement in the demand, noted at the time when our last report was written, proved to be of only short duration and, in view of the approaching issue of the American Government's Acreage Report (published on the 9th inst.), a waiting policy was adopted by trade interests generally. The publication of this report has, up to date, merely served to aggravate the feeling of apathy already prevailing, although, now that sufficient time has elapsed for the figures to be digested, opinion is rather inclined to regard them as not so "bearish" as was at first supposed. Reports regarding business up-country have been somewhat contradictory, but we are inclined to the opinion that there has, latterly, been some improvement in the demand for Egyptian yarns. No reflection of this has, as yet, been seen on our spot market, however, although reports from Egypt during the past few days are to the effect that there has been an improved demand for actual cotton on that side. Over here the same limited inquiry has been experienced and the sales reported have barely totalled 200 bales per diem.

The inquiry for Sakel has been of a fairly general character, but trade interest still leans towards the "off" rather than the "on" qualities. "Inferior" cotton at from 13d. to 16d. still continues to occupy attention, but difficulty is now being experienced in meeting requirements, and shippers have recently increased their limits for this style of cotton, with the result that a temporary deadlock between buyers and sellers has ensued. The demand for Uppers has been on the quiet side; a further 1,150 bales have been tendered this week. Pilon also has been quieter. Business in Sudan Sakel and Tokar Sakel has been almost at a standstill, but the basis for both qualities has remained very steady.

C.i.f. business has been done on a very limited scale only and forwardings to spinners for the week ending the 5th inst. were returned as 6,608 bales Egyptian and 1,420 bales Sudan. Estimated spot sales, 1,100 bales Egyptian and 200 bales Sudan. Quotations of Sakel show a net decline on the week of 10 points, whilst those of Upper and Pilon are 25 points lower. F.G.F. Sakel to-day, 30.65d. F.G.F. Upper to-day, 14.85d. F.G.F. Pilon to-day, 15.45d.

The production of the Anglo-Egyptian Oilfields for the week ended July 6 amounted to 5,710 tons.

THE EGYPTIAN MARKET.

The Alexandria Commercial Company, in their report for the week ended July 5, state:—

The futures market since our last report has been very active, but the tone has been barely steady. The week's summary of price movements is as follows:—Sakellaridis: July, 40.5 dollars, 0.75 dollars down; November, 41.75 dollars, 0.75 dollars down; January, 31.92 dollars, 0.50 dollars down. Ashmouni: August, 27.52 dollars, 0.36 dollars down; October, 28.14 dollars, 0.29 dollars down; December, 28.45 dollars, 0.20 dollars down.

Sakellaridis.—Dealings in this variety have been very numerous, and from time to time we have seen a spurt of buying, which, however, has not been lasting, and the rise caused by the buying has quickly been lost. Liverpool has been buying fairly heavily during the week, and we think that the local speculation has seized this opportunity to get rid of some of their long position. There has been no outstanding feature. The July/November straddle is to-day 160 points, the same as last week, although on Monday last it widened out to over 200 points on liquidation of the near month on the eve of the first tender day. The Sakel/Ashmouni new crop straddle is 1,360 points, against 1,407 points last week. The demand from abroad has been perhaps slightly better this week, but it cannot be said that there is any real improvement.

Uppers.—This market has more or less followed the fluctuations of American, but here again the tone has been on the heavy side. In the case of Uppers, however, the market has seen some commercial support whenever prices have sagged badly. Spinners' demand has run on about the same lines as for Sakel and has likewise been concentrated mainly on the medium grades, although there seems to be a tendency towards the Fully Good Fair/Good qualities.

The statistical position shows considerable improvement this week and the local stock is down below the two million mark. The market has, at present, no special points of its own and the immediate future course will depend to a large extent on American

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*HATIMURA	6,666	July 28	Aug. 11	Bombay and Karachi
*MASULA	7,261	Aug. 4	Aug. 11	Madras and Calcutta
MANORA	7,888	Aug. 18	Aug. 25	Madras and Calcutta
MALDA	8,900	Aug. 22	Aug. 31	East African Ports
*GOI, CONDA	5,316	Sept. 1	Sept. 8	Bombay and Karachi

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eCity of Manchester	5,564	Sep. 4	Colombo & Calcutta
fbCity of Valencia	7,329	Sep. 5	Bombay & Karachi
gcCity of Cairo	7,882	Sep. 15	Colombo & Calcutta
adCity of York	7,844	Sep. 15	Bombay & Karachi
bCity of London	8,956	Sep. 27	Colombo & Calcutta
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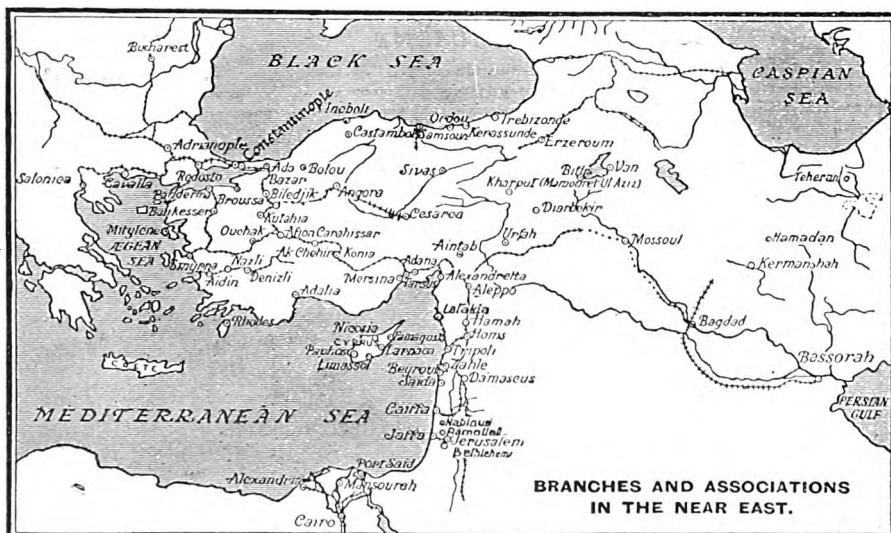
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The NEAR EAST AND INDIA

No. 897.—VOL. XXXIV.

THURSDAY, JULY 26, 1928.

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Notes of the Week.

The New Regime in Egypt.

Although it is inevitable that the *coup d'état* in Egypt should at first be linked up in British minds with the differences of opinion between Egypt and Great Britain, and the apparent hopelessness of any settlement of those differences being reached while supreme power remained with the Wafd, it is obvious that the new Government under Mohamed Pasha Mahmoud has been actuated by concern for the domestic welfare of the country rather than by matters of foreign policy. No doubt, a Cabinet relieved of the pressure of the extremist section in Parliament will have greater freedom of action in negotiating a *modus vivendi* with Great Britain, but there can be no question of any permanent settlement of the points at issue between Egypt and Great Britain until an Egyptian Parliament is in existence to ratify that settlement. There is ample evidence to show that not only the members of the new Government, but also a steadily growing number of other politicians have been exercised by the deterioration that seemed to have overtaken Egyptian administration. Anglo-Egyptian relations had receded into the background; what was much more in evidence was the need, as urged by a section of the Egyptian Press, for internal reforms, in particular for an intelligent and sustained effort to improve economic conditions. The need must have been appreciated by many Wafdists, but during his brief tenure of office Nahas Pasha had seemingly convinced even some of his own followers, as shown by the resignations in his Cabinet, that his peculiar position in the Wafd would not enable him to deal with matters of internal reform as the situation required.

The Urgency for Internal Reform.

The new developments in Egypt, therefore, can be understood only in the light of the domestic situation. Mahmoud Pasha's earliest public statements after the *coup d'état* emphasize this point. "It had to be done," he stated to a correspondent. "The way in which the business of the country has been carried on of late has been intolerable. Every branch of the Administration and

of the national life has been thrown into disorder. We are going to try to clean up the mess; to purify the Administration and to introduce sanity into the conduct of affairs. We place the material prosperity of the nation before everything." Nothing in this indictment, it will be noticed, has any special concern with Great Britain. It is an Egyptian, with experience outside the narrow limits of purely local politics, passing judgment on Egyptian affairs in the light of ordinary world-standards. His opponents will try to represent him as a tool of one or more foreign Powers, in the hope of raising prejudice against him; but the verdict of the country, it is to be expected, will depend on the Prime Minister's ability to give Egypt good government. One aspect of the situation will not be lost on the world at large, nor, we may hope, on Egyptians as a whole. The issue between Egypt and Great Britain resolved itself mainly into this question of good government, the attitude of the latter country being that, in view of its responsibilities, it had to be satisfied in regard to Egypt's capacity for maintaining a certain standard of administration. The Wafd refused, in effect, to trouble about the government of Egypt until it should have forced Great Britain to recede from her position. Mahmoud Pasha's Cabinet takes up the standpoint that it can so order the administration of Egypt that neither Great Britain nor any other Power will be able to challenge Egypt's claim to stand on her own. From the Egyptian point of view—even that of the most rabid extremist—there can be no doubt as to which is the more practical policy.

M. Venizelos at Work.

M. Venizelos has lost no time in disproving the truth of the saying that two (or more) heads are better than one, when it is a matter of administering Greek affairs. For the first time since General Pangalos's dictatorship came to an end things are being done in Greece. In the absence of any outstanding personality among the other political leaders the two Administrations of M. Zaimis served merely to mark time. Within a few days

of taking office M. Venizelos has dissolved the Chamber, abolished Proportional Representation as the Greek electoral system, terminated a whole series of strikes and put an end to the tragic farce of the Pangalos trial by the liberation of the ex-Dictator. Like the latter, he has realized the necessity of curbing the pull-Devil, pull-Baker practices of the political leaders, but, shrewder than his predecessor, he has allowed the President to remain as titular head of a constitutional régime, knowing that he can afford to ignore the charges of unconstitutional procedure brought against him, at least until the results of the elections are known or the Chamber meets. Little more is likely to be heard of these charges, as far as the republican parties are concerned, as the respective leaders are anxious to save their political skins and are making common cause with the Liberal Party, accepting the quota of seats allotted to them by M. Venizelos.

One Man Rule.

In dealing with the strikes the Prime Minister has gone directly counter to the policy of the former Government, which refused to discuss matters with the trade unions until the strikes had been called off. M. Venizelos has undertaken to examine the strikers' grievances, in spite of the fact that the strikes were clearly losing ground when he took office. This policy may well be sound in the circumstances; but, in view of his past encouragement of the labour movement, at a time when he could not afford to alienate any potential body of political supporters, M. Venizelos's negotiations with the trade unions will be watched very closely by his political opponents. For the time being the novelty of having things done may well cause the Greek public a deep content. The chief danger ahead lies in the fact that by reason both of his predilection for foreign affairs and of the urgency of a settlement with several of Greece's neighbours, M. Venizelos may be tempted to neglect domestic matters for foreign relations, and to absent himself from the country. It is certain that his hold on the Greek public will not be proof against any prolonged delegation of his personal authority to subordinates. The new régime is every whit as much a one man's rule as was that of General Pangalos—with, we may hope, happier results.

Roumania's Loan.

The Government of M. Bratianu has achieved a notable success in concluding the negotiations for a loan, unless the result should prove to be that the Opposition, deprived of the reinforcements that it had looked for in the

failure of the loan negotiations, is driven to desperation and resorts to unconstitutional measures. In such circumstances the Liberal victory would be a Pyrrhic one, and a disaster for the country. Fortunately the National-Peasant leaders are insistent upon the fact that their struggle is to be conducted on constitutional lines. Their grievance is in the main the unconstitutional procedure of the Bratianu Government, notably in the manner of holding elections, and it would go far to stultify their cause, if they had to have recourse to revolutionary measures. Under ordinary conditions the successful conclusion of the loan negotiations should secure M. Bratianu in his position, at least for the duration of the present Parliament. He has lost no time in making the most of his success by asking the Chamber to confirm what has already been arranged. Although the Roumanian Government will have to wait until the autumn for the first instalment of the loan, it is to receive an immediate advance, which is to be used for advancing money on the harvest—a shrewd political move. It is to be hoped that the Liberal Government will not be too elated by its success to try to ride too roughshod over its opponents. If it wishes to avoid the danger, it will have to keep a close watch upon its Press, which loses no opportunity of trying to goad the National-Peasants to extremes.

The Situation in Yugoslavia.

The delay in the formation of the Government for which General Hajitch was given a mandate soon gave rise to doubts as to his ability to find a sufficient number of non-party men willing to form a Business Cabinet, and, after persevering in his attempt for nearly a fortnight, he was compelled to abandon the task. It is pointed out that the vigour, not to say viciousness, with which politics are conducted by the politicians in Yugoslavia make the average business man frightened lest, after he has tried to serve his country by taking service in the Government, political antagonisms may cling to him to the prejudice of his business. There is also an uneasiness in certain Yugoslav circles lest a Business, or non-political, Cabinet might prepare the way for an open dictatorship. This misgiving may have been urged by M. Juritch, Yugoslav Minister in London, who returned to Belgrade and was in consultation with General Hajitch. His advice, it is believed, was in favour of a coalition of political Moderates, if a sufficient number could be found. On these lines, it may be presumed, King Alexander will now try to bring into being his next Cabinet. In the meantime Dr. Markovitch has returned from London without a loan. He claims that the loan has been concluded, but that the issue of it is postponed until the autumn, as a result of the indeterminate political situation.

The Macedonian Revolutionary Organization.

The dissensions in the Macedonian Internal Revolutionary Organization have once more come to a head with the murder of General Protogueroff, who was killed in Sofia on July 7. Responsibility for the crime has been accepted by Ivan Mihailoff, another member of the Triumvirate controlling the affairs of the Organisation, but his authority to act without the express sanction of the Revolutionary Congress has been repudiated by the two other members, one of whom succeeded to the Triumvirate on the death of Protogueroff. Mihailoff announces that the motives for his action will be explained at the next Revolutionary Congress, but he justifies the murder on the ground that the Congress had already sanctioned the punishment of all concerned in the assassination of Todor Alexandroff, in 1924, and that Protogueroff had been shown to be implicated. Behind this quibbling there lies, presumably, a feud between Mihailoff and his colleagues which may be expected to lead to further bloodshed in the ranks of the Macedonian leaders. The former has come under the official ban of the Organization; but,

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as he is credited with making a bid for the supreme control in it, he is not likely to remain inactive under the rebuff. The outside public will be mainly concerned to note that the other members of the Trumvirate do not repudiate assassination, whether as a means of trying to gain their political ends or for ridding themselves of inconvenient colleagues, but resent Mihailoff's unauthorized use of it. The latter, no doubt, stands for a programme of more unrestrained violence than the others are prepared to endorse, merely because it has been proved not to advance the cause of the Organization. It seems a pity that men who can appeal for "sympathy and support in the work of liberating Macedonia" cannot realize that their methods have effectually alienated most of the sympathy previously felt for the Macedonian cause and have rendered support of that cause practically impossible.

Stringency in Palestine.

That "axe" which since the War has cut short so many a promising plan, and which is the bane of idealists and of people who foresee milleniums every year, has, unfortunately, once more to be applied to Palestine. For the Holy Land during the past year has really suffered severely; earthquakes, locusts, and depression among the Zionist immigrants have all left their mark upon the Jerusalem Exchequer. It is quite obvious that reductions may have to be made in almost all the Departments, and one can sympathise with Lord Plumer in his reported opposition to the Colonial Office's decision in regard to Palestine's share in the upkeep of the Frontier Force. This financial stringency coincides with a notable stringency in Zionist circles, and it is perhaps an unhappy event that the Zionists' demand for further Governmental assistance in connexion with such things as public health and education (things which, when funds from abroad were plentiful, the Zionists were patently willing to manage themselves) should be made at a time when the Jerusalem Exchequer has to look at every penny. Pos-

sibly, however, this increased reliance of the Zionists upon the Government may be all for the good of Palestine as a whole; certainly it is not to be doubted that, given reasonable immunity from elemental havoc, Palestine will in the near future again be showing a surplus in her Budget.

The Berlin Conference.

Although it does not appear to have had much prominence in the general Press, the meeting on July 19 at Berlin of the General Council of the Zionist Organisation (the Actions Committee) was a most important one, primarily from the point of view of Palestine, and generally from the point of view of the future of Jewry. For the present leadership of the Zionist Organisation, that is, the policy of pacific co-operation in Palestine, was once more on trial. A certain gloom was manifest among all sections of this Actions Committee—General Zionists, Mizrachi, Hitachdut, Poale Zion, Radical-Zionists, and Zionist-Revisionists—owing largely, of course, to the present thinness of the contributions to the upbuilding of Palestine. During the last six weeks or so the United Palestine Appeal in America is reported to have produced not a cent. This is a most ominous commentary upon the internal dissension in Zionist organisation in America, a dissension which may or may not have been ended with the triumphant return of Mr. Louis Lipsky to power. The possibility of the defeat of the Zionist Executive has been seriously discussed at Berlin; and were any considerable change in Zionist policy now to be laid down, the consequences in Palestine itself would inevitably be considerable. In such a purely Jewish matter it is no part of the duty of the outside observer to interfere or to express an opinion; but the churning up of views within the Zionist movement and the general effect of uncertainty upon Palestine are things which must be noted by anyone who takes an intelligent interest in the future of the Holy Land.

The Iraq Railways

Before the end of the present year a decision has to be reached upon the future ownership of the Iraq Railways. As is well known, these Railways are owned by the British Government but administered by the Iraq Government. But according to the Financial Agreement (still under discussion) of the Anglo-Iraqi Treaty, these Railways are, in the event of no prior sale, to be transferred entirely to the Iraq Government. The question naturally arises: what will be the position of the British officials who, either during the War or shortly after it, accepted service in these Railways, and whose future has been the subject of considerable anxiety to the Colonial Office, to the High Commissioner, and to themselves?

The Iraq Railways have had an uphill fight. Constructed on no commercial basis, and living, so to speak, from hand to mouth, they have shown a profit, and this in spite of very considerable motor and river competition. In the nature of things, they could not be perfect, but under the direction of Colonel Tainsh they have shown remarkable staying power. Development has been almost impossible, owing to lack of capital, but what extensions and improvements could be made have been made. Perhaps the finest testimony to them is to be found in General F. D. Hammond's Report, published early this year: he examined carefully all the grievances alleged against the Railways, but for the most part they vanish under his penetrating criticism.

General Hammond, it will be recalled, was emphatically against the Railways' becoming the sole property of the Iraq Government, mainly because of his fear that their efficiency would suffer through the exercise of political influence among the Directors. His Report, like the

Hilton-Young Report, advocated the establishment of a Corporation consisting of Iraqis and British; and he suggested a loan for the Railways guaranteed by the British Government. But if the British Government were not to retain its proprietary interest, there would (unless, as many Arabs wish, the Railways were given to Iraq) have to be a lease or a sale to a private corporation: this contingency has become prominent during recent months. More than one financial group is interesting itself in the railways of Iraq, particularly in the future trans-desert line to the Mediterranean, so that this question is becoming a vital matter.

The immediate prospects of the Iraq Railways are by no means bad. The financial year ending March 31 ended with a surplus of Rs.7,55,527, after depreciation had been provided for to the value of Rs.10,40,024. An equally good return is anticipated for the present year. Prospects in goods traffic are said to be good; imports are satisfactory, and when new construction begins the effect of the amended Customs Tariff (which was passed on June 15) will be beneficially felt.

In these circumstances, it can hardly be supposed that the British Government will overlook the services of the Railway Officials—services in connexion with which the High Commissioner himself has supported Colonel Tainsh's claim to the attention of the Colonial Office. Whether these British officials—there are some forty-two of them—receive long-term contracts and are put on a level with Colonial Officers remains to be seen, but it would be satisfactory in the interests of all concerned if the British Government could come at an early date to a definite decision in this matter of the Iraq Railways and of the British officials serving them.

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THURSDAY, JULY 26, 1928.

THE EGYPTIAN EXPERIMENT.

Diseases, desperate grown,
By desperate appliance are relieved,
Or not at all.

There can be no doubt that the appliance to which the Egyptian Government has had recourse in dealing with the political situation is desperate; on the subject whether the disease which it sets out to relieve has grown desperate opinions in Egypt may well be divided. In regard to certain points in the diagnosis there will be general agreement. It cannot be denied that a deadlock has been reached as between the Wafd and Great Britain. The nature of the conflict is not in dispute; it is unnecessary to specify it more particularly than by reference to the Reserved Points. The attitude of the Wafd—whether the Party is right or whether it is wrong is immaterial to the argument—is that it can have nothing to do with the Reserved Points, as it holds itself compelled to insist upon the independence of the country without reference to British interests or responsibilities. Great Britain, on the other hand, finds herself compelled to urge with equal insistence and tenacity that, until the four Reserved Points have been adjusted in friendly agreement, there can be no modification of the *status quo* in respect of the relationship between the two countries. The British Government is content that things should continue as they are, if Egypt so wishes it; but to this the Wafd demurs and presses for the immediate grant of all its demands without discussion. In these circumstances the deadlock in Anglo-Egyptian relations is complete, and, as a result of the Wafd's attitude, has proved such an incubus on Egyptian affairs that the actual administrative machinery becomes clogged. Little wonder, therefore, that in the view of some Egyptians the disease has already grown desperate. It was, in their opinion, out of the question that the deadlock should be allowed to continue indefinitely, to the prejudice, increasing as the months and years pass, of good administration in Egypt. The dispute has already lasted six years. There is nothing in the relative positions of Egypt and Great Britain as world-factors to suggest that the latter must, or is likely to, yield to the former, and so long as the situation in Egypt is dominated by the Wafd, there seemed no prospect of a trial's being given to the alternative, that Egypt should make an attempt to meet the British point of view. The new Government formed by Mohamed Pasha Mahmoud has, therefore, with the support of King Fuad, taken the drastic step of eliminating the authority and power of the Wafd by dissolving both Chambers of the Legislature and by suspending certain Articles of the Constitution. The administration of the country is to be carried on by the King and his Council of Ministers for a period of three years, at the end of which period "the situation will be reconsidered."

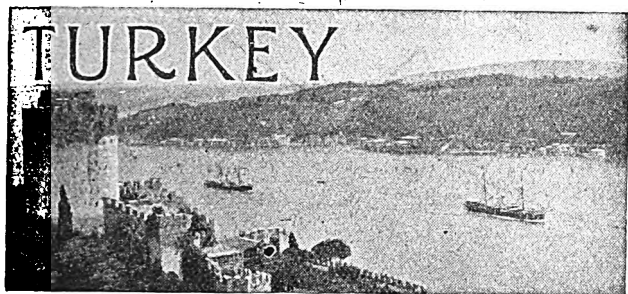
It would be idle to pretend that the situation thus created in Egypt is not a serious one. Both King Fuad and his Council of Ministers have, in common fairness, to be acquitted of taking the step lightly. It is equally certain that for Great Britain the new position might well

be fraught with embarrassment. British traditions and British interests are too closely identified with constitutionalism to allow a British Government to welcome unconstitutional measures except as a last resort, when they promise to be the only means of escape from a greater evil. Such an evil threatened in the administrative stagnation to which the Wafd's policy was condemning Egypt. With its overwhelming majority in the Legislatures it could, and did, of set purpose, paralyse the government of the country, whether a Coalition Cabinet or its own Party was in power, this method being deliberately selected to further, according to its lights, its own ends. It is fair to add that probably a majority of the Wafdist had not properly realised the seriousness of this administrative paralysis, for which the Party's policy was responsible. They have now been abruptly brought up against the consequences of their action, and we have sufficient confidence in the good sense of the thinking section of Egyptians to believe that they will be at heart well satisfied to have been saved from the extremism which had hitherto taken control of the situation.

The attitude of the country as a whole will be determined by the use that Mahmoud Pasha's Government makes of its authority and its exceptional opportunities. It has assumed office for three years, during which period it should be able to arrange that its power will be free from serious challenge. Here then is its first opportunity. There must be several able men in Egypt who may have been averse from stultifying themselves in what was likely to be a mere transitional Cabinet, but whose abilities are too great to be wholly lost to the country when there is a prospect of three years' steady service on Egypt's behalf. Again, a Government that suspends the Constitution in whole or in part must justify itself by giving the country much that the Wafd parliamentary majority of the last few years could never have given. Nothing could be more sterile than that, with Anglo-Egyptian relations permanently or provisionally settled, the Egyptian people should still find itself where it was before in regard to the old administrative shortcomings and the old abuses. It will have no inducement to repose its confidence in the new régime, if it can persuade itself that there has been little more than a change of name, that the former "outs" are now in, to carry on along much the same lines, with every prospect of the present "outs" being back again, having learnt nothing and having forgotten nothing. In the three years of office that the new order has bespoken for itself the administration of Egypt must become so much better than it was or could be under Wafd domination that the Egyptian people, taking note, will decide that it will henceforth always insist upon a certain standard of administrative efficiency and honesty. So long as every purely domestic question in Egypt had to be considered in its relation to the Anglo-Egyptian issues, the most urgent requirements of the country were wholly neglected or remained in a state of suspended animation. Mahmoud Pasha's Government should now be able not only to arrange a satisfactory understanding on the Reserved Points, placing them, if need be, in "cold storage," but also to reach a settlement in regard to a number of important problems which will have the effect of materially improving conditions in the country and promoting the well-being of the people. From his own statements it is evident that the new Prime Minister lays more stress on the urgency of a sane and efficient domestic programme than on matters of foreign policy. Good will alone is necessary for a *modus vivendi* between Egypt and Great Britain; the main task to which Mahmoud Pasha's Government is to set itself is, in his own words, "to purify the Administration and to introduce sanity into the conduct of affairs," after a period during which, as he is able to state from his experience as a member of Governments dominated by the Wafd, "the business of the country has been carried on in an intolerable way." The remedy, like the disease, is wholly an Egyptian matter.

*The Near and Middle East

From Our Own Correspondents.



Constantinople, July 19.

The Governor of Constantinople.

For the second time within the last six months, Midhat Bey, Vali of Constantinople, has tendered his resignation. No reason is given for his action, not even the usual one of failing health. It was withdrawn on the first occasion, but has now been accepted, and the Government, in nominating Mouhieddine Bey, Prefect of the City, a civilian, to replace Midhat Bey provisionally, have departed from established hierarchic custom. It is true that, *qua* Prefect, Mouhieddine Bey is the nominee of the Authorities at Angora, but he is none the less a civilian, being a President of the Municipal Council, which is elected by the city ratepayers. Moreover he draws his emoluments from municipal revenues and not from the Treasury.

From statements in the semi-official Turkish papers, it would appear that the Vilayet or "County" of Stamboul is to lose some of its glory by being considerably reduced in area and confined to the shores of the Bosphorus and to circumscribed sectors of the Eastern and Western coastlines of the Marmora and Black Sea. It is also reported that the positions of Vali and Prefect are to be merged at an early date, and that Mouhieddine Bey will be the first person to hold the new post of Vali-Prefect. If these reports are founded on fact, it is probable that the main object of the Government is to effect economies in the administrative machinery of the old Turkish capital.

Tragic End of Two Turkish Officers.

A deplorable incident occurred near Smyrna some three days ago. Fouad Pasha, the military commander of that area, was returning to Smyrna towards sundown with certain members of his staff after a tour of inspection in the Vourla district. The officers were travelling in two motor cars, in the first of which were seated the Pasha and his A.D.C. and, in the second, Zeki Bey, Chief of Staff, and Nihad Bey, the Infantry commander. The General's car was held up by a gendarme at Kalizman, who permitted the car to proceed on recognising its occupants. The second car had fallen behind and the chauffeur was instructed by the senior of the two officers to press on and overtake the first car. Whether the gendarme's challenge to the second car at Kilizman was not distinguished or was disregarded is not quite clear, but, at all events, the sentry used his arm, hit both officers in the head and killed them outright.

An inquiry is to be held as soon as it has been determined whether the matter should come before the military or criminal courts. It is stated in extenuation of the gendarme's action that a band of outlaws or brigands was being pursued by a flying detachment of gendarm-

erie in the vicinity of Kilizman, and that his orders were to challenge and shoot at sight if he were not immediately obeyed. It is argued, on the other hand, that he might have attained his object by firing at the tyres of the car instead of at the heads of the occupants. The funeral given to the victims was one of the first in this country to be staged on purely military lines. Instead of being borne, as is customary, on the shoulders of the faithful who alternate with each other every minute or so in carrying the departed to their last resting place, the coffins, covered with the national colours, were placed on a gun-carriage drawn by a gun-team, followed by detachments of all arms and preceded by a military band playing a dead march.

Lawn-tennis in Constantinople.

The annual tennis tournament organised by the *Milliet* (the "Nation") one of the leading Turkish Constantinople dailies, has again met with very considerable success and has drawn together an interesting and international crowd of spectators and amateurs. The game was confined before the War chiefly to British and American circles, but it has not been taken up by all sections of the population, and there is little doubt the high standard of play at present prevailing in these annual matches was inherited from the Officers' Courts at the Jockey Club during the Occupation. In the semi-finals played off yesterday afternoon, in the men's doubles, an Armenian and a Jew found themselves matched against a Turk and an Englishman. In the ladies' singles, a Russian lady was to be seen playing against an English girl, and the favourite for the men's singles is an Egyptian. All scoring is done by Britons and, at the end of the finals, the cups are to be presented by the British Ambassador. It is pleasing to turn away from certain other aspects of daily life in this city in which the divergent interests of its heterogeneous population often come into sharp conflict, to the enthusiastic fair-mindedness which seems to imbue all and sundry when they come under the charm of *le sport*.

GREECE.

Athens, July 14.

Political Events.

Events have been moving with great rapidity since my last letter. The disappearance of one Government, the formation of a new, the fixing of elections for August 19, the reversal of the P.R., the re-distribution of seats, and the release of General Pangalos have followed in quick succession. M. Venizelos' activities have been accompanied by a running fire of interviews and letters, and his epistolary duel with M. Kafandaris on the subject of the ownership of the celebrated shares is in itself no small achievement. It must be confessed that as a financial expert he does not shine in comparison with the late Minister of Finance, and his admission in one of his letters, that he had not had time to study the question, would, in the case of a lesser man, have created a bad

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impression. Between now and August 19 great liveliness may be anticipated; *pourparlers* among the party leaders are already in full swing, but it seems certain, although it is unwise to prophesy, that there is no one capable of putting up a serious opposition to the electoral strategy of the Prime Minister. Considering that he has long been regarded, and even described, as *magni nominis umbra*, one must admire this renewal of activity, but one may respectfully hope that the study of Thucydides, to which he is said to have devoted his seclusion, may not have been without results, and that, stimulated by that study, he may temper his energy with wisdom and restraint.

The Power and Traction Company.

Lesser excitement has been provided by one of the outbreaks of intermittent hostility against the Power and Traction Company. On the installation of the new and more powerful current, accidents have occurred and one, if not more, deaths. Only technical experts can decide who is to blame, but the word "murderers" has been rather freely applied in the newspapers to the Company and its directors. The new Minister of Communications does not seem to have any special qualifications for his post, being a Professor of Medicine at the University, and the experience gained by his predecessor in dealing with the foreign companies is now, of course, wasted. But this inevitably happens when Governments change so frequently.

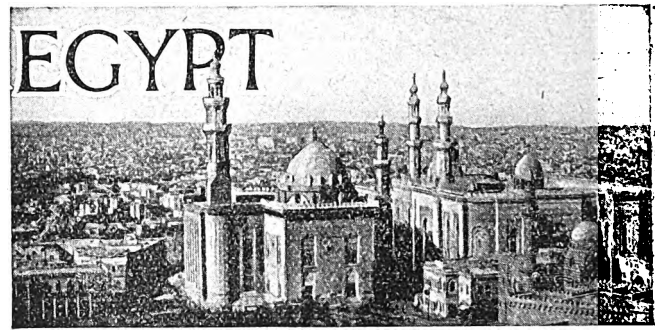
General News.

Greece is justly proud of the achievement of her two airmen, Col. Adamides and Lieut. Papadakos, who after encircling the Mediterranean returned on July 1.

What only just escaped being a very serious accident happened to one of the Italian hydro-planes that make the service Constantinople-Athens-Brindisi. Near Sunium, owing to engine trouble, the hydro-plane fell into the sea. From the accounts of passengers—among whom

were Princess Bibesco and the Director of the Near East Relief—it seems that the machine fell within a few yards of the land. This is not the first accident that has occurred on this service but, for some reason, mention of them does not find its way into the newspapers; yet the public have a right to know about them.

The first act of the late Dictator, on being released, was to leave a card on M. Venizelos. While his release is an act of elementary justice, it is not an indication that his trial will be dropped. This would be unthinkable—in view of the serious charges against his associates which have been revealed in full by the report of the special Committee.



Cairo, July 15.

The Seif el Din Affair.

Certain London papers, in commenting on Egyptian politics, have greatly over-emphasised the influence that the Seif el Din "scandal" had in bringing about the dismissal by King Fuad of the Nahas Cabinet. The fact that the Opposition papers had sufficient grounds to lead them to bring grave charges against Nahas Pasha, the Prime Minister, and Wissa Wassef Bey, President of the Chamber of Deputies, helped to precipitate events, but

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there had for some time past been serious dissensions in the Cabinet between Liberals and Wafdists. The more important aspect of this affair (namely: Who has been benefiting all these years by this unhappy Prince's fortune?) seems to have escaped attention. If Nahas Pasha persists in his alleged threat to sue the London Press for their comments, the "scandal" may be cleared up, but it is more probable that its place in the public's attention will soon be taken by some other "affair," and the truth will never be known.

A Difficult Problem.

Interest in Egyptian politics is concentrated on what will happen when Parliament meets on July 28, after the month's adjournment. Mohamed Mahmoud Pasha and his newly-formed Cabinet will have a very difficult problem to solve; for they will have to face a Parliament in which the majority are Wafdists, supporting the retiring Cabinet of Nahas Pasha. From a British point of view this is, of course, a surprising situation, for in England no Prime Minister would think of trying to form a Government which did not enjoy the confidence of the House; nor in the first place would the late Cabinet have been dismissed. It had been hoped that, by coming to an arrangement with the Wafd Party, the Cabinet might have avoided submitting a programme; the Chamber could thus have proceeded with the discussion of the Budget and then have risen in the usual way for the summer vacation. But it has been repeatedly stated by Nahas Pasha, the President, and others, that the Wafd is going to wage unremitting war on the present Cabinet, and will allow them no escape, if they can help it. There is no doubt that Nahas Pasha feels very bitter about the fact that he has been forced to resign, and a section of the Press is trying to stir up the feeling that Mahmoud Pasha and his colleagues are traitors to their country. There is scarcely any doubt, therefore, that, unless the Prime Minister is a magician, Parliament will be dissolved at the end of this month. According to the Constitution elections should then take place within two months and ten days. There is a hint, however, that it may be contrived to postpone elections for some further months on the ground that the modifications of the constituencies to meet the large increase in the population shown by last year's census have not yet been completed; or the Government may pass a new electoral law, by means of decree, curtailing the suffrage, which is at present far too extended. If, however, the Government goes to the country, there can be only one result, namely, the return of a Wafd majority, so that the situation would then be precisely the same as it was before the dismissal of the Nahas Cabinet.

Mohamed Mahmoud Pasha.

The only alternative would be, if Mohamed Mahmoud Pasha were to prove himself to be another Mustapha Kemal. If in this way he could really get ahead with reforms and successfully grapple with the many very serious problems which face the country, he would be doing a world of good.

The Legislature has in the past done scarcely anything in the way of legislation, for politicians have continually been obsessed with the idea of foreign interference and have suffered from a complex about British bayonets. When asked why they do not put their house in order, they reply that it is impossible while a stranger persists in staying in their house unbidden; the first thing to be settled, they argue, is the Anglo-Egyptian question; when that is finished, they will begin to pass laws.

The Press.

The Arabic Press is full of either diatribes against the British or scurrilous party attacks, so that it is very refreshing to find a well-written and well-reasoned article in the *Mokattam* discussing at least one of the many problems which face the country's Administration. The article draws attention to the rapid increase in the population of Cairo and the problems to which this state of affairs gives rise. The number of inhabitants have increased during the past ten years by over 300,000, according to the last census returns, and it is expected that the increase will continue at the same rate. Planning for the new and greater Cairo should begin now, says the *Mokattam*; the problems of the future, such as transportation, public health and security, should be faced without any delay.

Party Activities.

Within the next few weeks the Wafd are holding a series of meetings throughout the country with the object, it is stated, "of maintaining the enthusiastic and patriotic spirit in the people's hearts and to combat any attempt to extinguish this sentiment." The first meeting will be held at Tanta, probably on July 20, another at Alexandria, and various other important centres.

The Liberals in the meantime are setting their house in order; local committees are being formed in the provinces with a head committee in Cairo; and they have decided to run their party on the same lines as parties are run abroad. There is no doubt that exciting political events are to be expected in Egypt shortly.

TRANS-JORDAN.

Amman, June 25.

Parliament.

The natural sequence to the Organic Law is an election of members of Parliament and the choosing of a building wherein to house the members. Owing to the necessity for very strict economy the probable choice will fall on what was originally intended to be a museum, the first building passed as Amman is entered from Jerusalem. Certain internal alterations will, of course, have to be made. What are generally termed the "throes of an election" have not yet descended on the country.

Locusts and Crops.

Fortunately the pessimistic reports of damage done by these pests have proved to be exaggerated. The situa-

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tion was kept well in hand by the extremely energetic measures adopted, under the capable direction of Mr. A. S. Kirkbride, who had an anxious and trying time. Not only had he to be on the spot whenever locusts were reported, but he had also to train the villagers in the use of the flame throwers, a dangerous implement in the hands of the uninitiated. Locusts in the Jordan valley were dealt with by the Palestine authorities. Crops suffered very little, nor is the harvest such a failure as lack of rain led people to expect. This is evidenced by the repeal of the Decree forbidding the export of wheat and *samneh* (locally made butter), which was in force for some time when the possibility of a famine seemed likely.

Tribal Justice.

Early in the year a powerful Najd tribe, the Ruwailah, came into collision with the Bani Sakhr of Trans-Jordan; whose camels were grazing in Najd territory. A fight ensued in which the smaller tribe suffered severely. A few of the Ruwailah, in the elation of victory, committed the unpardonable sin of interfering and even killing some of the women of their opponents. Such an action stirred the anger of every Arab in Trans-Jordan; even the peaceable farmers joined in a combined raid of revenge. So secretly was this planned that it was not until the raiders were well on their way that Lt.-Colonel Peake, O.C. Arab Legion, happened during inspection to notice a few stragglers and recognised their intentions. It was only the great influence of the Amir Shaker—representing the Amir Abdullah, who, with Lt.-Colonel Peake, went off at once to persuade the leaders to give up the raid, that a serious situation was avoided. Public opinion was highly inflamed and entirely with the Bani Sakhr.

According to rumour the sequel came a short time ago. The Ruwailah, as is their custom, desired to go north to better grazing grounds for the summer, but to do so would have to pass through Trans-Jordan territory. In the meantime the crime had been traced to six men who were known to be still with the Ruwailah, and the Bani Sakhr, though far inferior in numbers, decided that a suitable occasion had arrived and determined to wipe out the dishonour with which their womenfolk taunted them. Once again the Amir Shaker managed to restrain them, and persuaded them to leave a strip of land ten miles wide for the Ruwailah to pass through. The latter, recognising that they were in the wrong, and knowing that the opinion of the whole Arab world was with the Bani Sakhr, brought the six men up before their court of justice, tried them, and condemned them to be left behind for the Bani

Sakhr to deal with. There is no doubt what their fate was, and there is general satisfaction that the crime has been expiated.

Whatever truth there may be in this sequel, it is at any rate strictly in accordance with justice as dealt out by Badawin Courts. The latest news from Najd states that the Amir Shaker was with the raiders from Trans-Jordan, though it does not explain why the raid did not take place.

General News.

The Amir Abdullah has moved for the summer months to Al-Hammah, near Suwailah, and his camp is pitched in a cool spot amongst the trees of the Government Nursery.

Lt.-Colonel Bewsher has rejoined his regiment, and Lt.-Colonel Shute has taken over command of the Frontier Force, whose headquarters are at Zerka. Most delightful bathing picnics take place in the Frontier Force bathing pool, resembling a backwater of the Thames, by the kind permission of the O.C., who has allowed non-members of the Force to use it at certain hours every day.

Lord Lloyd paid a flying visit to Amman at the end of May, and in the middle of June Lord and Lady Plumer came over on a visit of four days to the British Resident and Mrs. Cox, with whom they motored to many places of interest in the country.

THE POLICE IN CYPRUS.

The July issue of the new quarterly, the *Police Journal*, well maintains the standard set by the first two numbers for authority and variety. In the current number are particularly to be noticed articles on "The Burma Military Police," by Capt. J. W. Young; "The Police in Ancient Rome," by P. K. Baillie Reynolds (a very stimulating essay, this); "Burglary in an Indian Province," by J. A. Scott; and "The Development of the Police in Cyprus," by Lt.-Col. A. E. Gallagher.

In this last article, by the Chief Commandant of the Cyprus Military Police, it is pointed out that the Force was raised in 1878, being substituted for a force of Turkish *saptieh*. In the following year these were augmented by the "Cyprus Pioneers"; but a year later amalgamation took place. Now, in 1928, the Force consists of a Chief Commandant, six local Commandants (3 British and 3 Cypriot), seven Inspectors, and eight Sub-Inspectors; with 273 mounted and 474 foot of other ranks.

It is claimed that crime in Cyprus has been appreciably decreasing during the last six years.

General Savoff, the former Commander-in-Chief of the Bulgarian Army, died on July 22 in the South of France.

Judge Jovan Koutiancanin, of the Yugoslav Appeal Court, was drowned last week while boating on the river Drave near Novisad. His boat struck a barge and overturned.

As the result of a landslide on Mount Orthrie, near Nezero (Greece), eight trucks of a goods train were derailed and a gangster was killed. Three other persons were injured.

It is not expected that the Egyptian Residency will move from Cairo to Alexandria before the beginning of August, when Lord Lloyd, British High Commissioner, intends to start for England on leave.

Mr. W. M. Edwards, B.A., Fellow of Merton College, Oxford, has been appointed by the Council of Leeds University to the Chair of Greek. Professor Edwards was, until 1921, an officer in the Royal Artillery. He served during the War in Macedonia, Serbia, and Bulgaria, and was mentioned in dispatches, retiring with the rank of major in 1921.

The death is reported from Alexandria of Mohamed Pasha Said, who was twice Prime Minister of Egypt. Said Pasha first took office as Minister of the Interior under Boutros Pasha Ghali in November, 1908, and in 1910 he succeeded him as Prime Minister. Owing to a dispute with the Khedive Abbas Hilmi Pasha, he resigned in April, 1914, and was succeeded by Rushdi Pasha. In the troublous times of 1919 Said Pasha came to the rescue by forming in May a non-political Ministry. Later, in 1924, he joined Zaghloul Pasha's Ministry as Minister of Education, and shortly afterwards became Minister of Justice, and was Acting Prime Minister during Zaghloul's absence in Europe in the following summer. He left office in October, 1924, and in January, 1925, he resigned his membership of the Wafd, as he did not approve of Zaghloul's policy

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II.

BY FEODORA STANCIOFF.

Hungary.

The next day, our fifth on the road, we motored to Budapest (163 m.), leaving Vienna at noon and reaching the Hungarian capital soon after 7 p.m. From Vienna onwards the towns on our route were to be few and far between, and we found self-dependency in the matter of food was the wiser course; petrol is often easier to discover than a tempting restaurant in the Hungarian and Roumanian countryside.

The Austro-Hungarian frontier is now less than 40 miles distant from Vienna, in a village of the name of Kittsee, which we reached at what seemed the siesta hour; innumerable geese, marching in solemn squadrons from one brown pond to another, showed some reaction to the general drowsiness. Although within easy reach of Vienna, this first Hungarian village, with its low buildings and wide straggling streets, is already typical of hundreds of others scattered in the cultivated plains that stretch eastward. We felt the hot dry air blowing from the south, and the rich, sweet scent of the flowering acacias was more penetrating than it can ever be under western skies.

Meanwhile, the Hungarian Customs officials had to be visited in their inconspicuous dwelling in a secluded corner of the village. Though no passer-by is particularly intent on directing you thither, your duty is to discover their abode, that they may stamp all your papers (car and personal), your exit from Austria having been previously sanctioned by a smiling soldier leaning on his bayonet at the Austrian end of Kittsee.

And so onwards on the flat road that looks smoother than it is, because a thick layer of white dust covers the surface and veils a mere hole to perfection! Very soon the soothing monotony of pastures and endless expanse of cereals obliterate your sense of time and of injury; occasionally a group of acacia trees sheds its exotic snow-flakes on your way and some farms have good orchards. Parties of peasants, driving their fine, tall horses, are more often met than cars, and many a cart narrowly escaped disaster as the sensitive animals shied at our alien engine.

We passed through numerous villages with queer names and claim to beauty, until we reached Gyor (or Raab) on the Danube, after which we left the hot, spell-bound plain to follow the banks of the river just long enough to enjoy the copper-tinted hour of sunset. Those who have seen the warm, glowing pageant of colour on this wide, slow river can never forget its sad and silent appeal: row upon row of silvery willows rustle gently on the banks and long-necked birds fly heavily across the water.

We were soon on the most perfect road, indeed a proper racing track, winding its way amidst hills and planted on both sides for many a mile with cherry trees—a pleasing and novel idea. As we approached Budapest, conditions became ideal for the motorist, and I should imagine they are highly valued, judging from the number of powerful cars on the road. On entering Budapest an octroi tax is due, and this custom prevails in most towns of Hungary and Transylvania.

Our evening at Budapest was not marred by dog problems, but rendered most enjoyable by the inexhaustible repertoire of a gypsy orchestra.

The next morning we bought a sturdy local sausage, or *salami*, and a loaf of brown bread and set out towards Temesvar (179 miles) in a spirit of adventure, which though not entirely justified, had two reasons: we could not speak Hungarian and the route indications, procured in London, gave up the little hints of "turn right" or "left," from Budapest onwards. A list of localities at average distances of 30 miles or so from one to the other were nevertheless very accurately given.

From Budapest to Szegedin our course was a straight

line to the south-east, closely following the railway. The country is absolutely flat and agricultural. It lay bathed in sun and we raised clouds of dust on a passable road! Vineyards and maize fields relieve the monotony of other crops. Kecskemet and Felegyhaza were the only towns we passed, but we were more attracted by the villages where very wide avenues of trees are a notable feature, whilst the buildings all have an aspect of prosperous individuality. Gay processions of festive farmers (it was the Feast of the Ascension), flocked to the small parish churches, and one felt that these tillers of the land had earned their holiday. Their upright carriage and the dashing way in which they drove their strong, locally-bred horses, told the story of a fine healthy race. One of a party came up to us as we were lunching on the road side to ask how things were in America. (He had been to Cleveland and spoke a little English). At once he opened a political discussion on the wrongs of his country, and when we tried to cheer him with the prospect of good crops, he would not descend to this selfish and materialistic level and soared loftily in the clouds of national aspirations. We were reminded a little later of his talk. After leaving Szegedin and crossing the Theiss we took the wrong road at a deserted spot and instead of driving due east towards Mako we floundered southwards. Not a cart nor a peasant was in view. Only after several miles on this unused road, when our wheels were plodding through grass, did we stop . . . at the boundary of Yugoslavia! Our friend lived very near the new post-War frontier! We turned and went back to the cross roads, soon reaching Mako on the river Maros, which hails from the Carpathians. Five miles more and we were at Apatfalva, when new Roumania was in sight across the river.

Roumania.

After a parting visit to the Hungarian customs, we were accompanied to the frontier bridge by a white-gloved official, who waved us across the Maros to a tiny hut where Roumanians presided. We had just started dealing with them, when shouts and bayonets came from the Hungarian side; our dog had remained in Hungary. This might have led to complications, but it eventually ended with much laughter on both sides. We had actually introduced frivolity in the grim atmosphere of disputed frontiers! Finally we were free to deal with the Roumanians (in German), and they escorted us *manu militari*, to their village of Ceanad, where Customs and passports



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deny any close relationship, with the result that you lose considerable time.

Rain began to pour steadily on our dust-coated car, and it needed the excellent wine, provided by the lonely passport officer, in between a chat, that cheered what he termed "exile," to restore our spirits on the muddy and very indifferent road to Temesvar, which we reached at dusk, repairing to the "Hotel Ferdinand," for a well-earned rest.

Now Temesvar, on the river "Temes," would be a very restful place indeed, if history and fate had left it to itself. It is an agricultural as well as an industrial centre, and its rose-trees are famous in the Balkans. But ever since the Emperor Trajan colonised the province of "Banat," in 107 B.C. it has been visited by settlers or conquerors of very mixed origin. Slavs, Hungarians, Germans, and Roumanians form the population and four languages are consequently spoken in the town. This in itself would breed confusion, but it is further emphasized by the fact that, where the Habsburgs of Vienna reigned since 1689, the Hohenzollerns of Bucharest reign since 1918, and Temesvar is bewildered because part of the Banat has become Yugoslav! . . .

In spite of all we found our "Babel tower" hotel sufficiently comfortable, though prices were relatively high; the food was Viennese, the staff Hungarian, and Roumania had provided as many officers as the Manager could put up, whilst the shops we visited the next morning were kept by Germans. . . . The latter, incidentally, are very early settlers, and in the case of Transylvania, Saxons have colonised the country to its great and lasting advantage.

There is a very up-to-date garage in Temesvar, and motor-races were being run in the neighbourhood, whether to encourage or sanction good roads, we set out to discover.

The obvious route to our goal on the Black Sea, would have been southwards to Turn-Severin, and then along the Danube, but we could not resist the call of the mountains, and drove towards Sibiu, 76 miles from Temesvar, in Transylvania.

The first part of the journey up to Lugos was necessarily slow, the state of the road decidedly clamouring for improvement if races were to be run! The mixed population noticeable in Temesvar is not less striking in Transylvanian villages; they generally have two or three names (the Roumanian one is now official); some of them have a Protestant as well as a Greek-Orthodox church, the latter often newly built under the Roumanian régime, but the Saxon farmer seems unruffled by changes of administration, and the country we drove through had every appearance of prosperity and intelligent development.

However, as we were not specialising in racial problems or economics, I was intensely gratified when we rejoined the Maros valley, and the first peaks of the Transylvanian Alps were in sight, for now the scenery became truly beautiful, and the land no less fertile but in a more varied sense. We passed as in a dream, through shady forests of oak, once the pride of Austrian foresters, and well they might have been, for very seldom have I seen such splendid specimens of trees on such a scale. I also remember one little glen, where we rested, and counted about thirty different wild flowers to a few square yards, and the sun was hot and brilliant, though all the growing things were so fresh and green.

From Deva, a town on the Maros, the mountain range we were approaching looked more imposing, and the peaks that enclose the "Red Tower" Pass, rose on our right, crowned with lingering snows. In the valley we often stopped to pick cherries on the roadside, and sometimes to ascertain our way; we noticed and admired the richly embroidered and artistically designed costumes of the Roumanian peasants, white loose garments being predominant. A little further we encountered Saxon women wearing the large, ungainly straw bonnet that they may find very practical, though we were not impressed by its shape! The road from Lugos to Sibiu is good, uphill driving, being particularly smooth, because a slope is generally safeguarded against the bad effects of rain.

(To be continued.)

NEWS IN BRIEF.

The Bulgarian Parliament has adjourned until September 4.

Hikmet Bey, the newly-appointed Turkish Ambassador to Afghanistan, left Constantinople for Kabul on July 22.

The Bulgarian Sobranie has approved the Budget for the current year, amounting 7,480,000,000 levas (£12,563,000).

Delegates from all parts of the world are attending the meetings of the Council of the Zionist movement, which are being held in Berlin.

The Bulgarian Government has approved the appointment of Mr. Schosenfeld to be United States Minister at Sofia, in succession to Mr. Charles Wilson, who has been transferred to Bucharest.

There was a requiem service in the Cathedral in Bucharest on the first anniversary of the death of King Ferdinand of Roumania. Among those present were the leaders of the Opposition.

Egyptian students in Alexandria have founded a new political club called "The Club of Awakening," of which Mohamed Abdul Kerim, a professor at the Orwa-el-Woska School, has been elected President.

At the opening of the International Chemical Congress at The Hague on July 18, Professor Ernst Cohen, of the University of Bucharest, President of the International Chemical Association, addressed the delegates in Latin, Esperanto, and English.

The Persian Parliament has approved the Opium Monopoly Bill, which will provide control of all local and foreign transactions in opium and all its products. Local consumption will be reduced by 10 per cent. per annum.

M. Clemenceau, a relative of the former Prime Minister of France, and three other French engineers arrived last week at Rawalpindi en route for Kabul, where they will act as advisers to the Afghan Government in regard to road development.

On July 21 Serbian gendarmes boarded a passenger train running between Szabadka and Szeged when it arrived at the frontier station of Horgos and handcuffed and carried off the Hungarian engine driver, Michael Bank, without giving any reason.

In accordance with the decision of King Fuad and his Ministers to rule without Parliament for at least three years, the doors of the two Egyptian Chambers were sealed up on July 20 and are guarded by police.

It is reported from Angora as probable that the draft law envisaging the abolition of the title of Pasha and all other titles of courtesy and honour will be submitted to the Grand National Assembly next session.

According to *The Times*, the Palestine Arab Educational Conference has resolved that boys in secondary schools should wear European dress—namely, shirts and shorts, instead of the customary traditional caftan, or modern reach-me-down suit, and that no fez or other form of head-dress should be worn indoors.

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Book Reviews

THE PANGS OF ASIA.

"**ASIA REBORN.**" By Marguerite Harrison. (New York and London: Harpers. 15s. net.)

It is very easy to speak of the rebirth of peoples or of countries, more particularly when, as in Asia after the Great War, there have been in various lands manifestations of new forces at work. To the superficial mind there must necessarily be a connexion between such activities; and to the superficial mind the going back upon or turning away from certain things belonging to an immemorial past is synonymous with a new birth. But can one properly speak of Asia as a whole; can one really dignify the various apings of Europe (or of America) by the name of regeneration?

Mrs. Marguerite Harrison, an experienced American journalist, feels the qualms of such questionings, only, in the interests of her book, to dismiss them. Although she may find snags in the way of an odd detail or two, the winds of daring generalisation carry her ship easily enough into the well-known harbour of antithesis: the East against the West. From Turkey to China she finds evidence of a pro-Asiatic spirit, an anti-European spirit. It cannot be claimed, however, that she advances any material except the stock-in-trade of the sensational journalist in dealing with the affairs of Asia; sometimes, indeed, she repeats the veriest rubbish. In our view her thesis is a thin one. Asia, the oldest Continent in the world, cannot be treated *qua* Asia as now suffering the pangs of a new birth. Parts of Asia are undoubtedly capable of producing something new, something unique; but other parts will produce only imitatively—which is not rebirth at all.

Let us look at some of the evidence which Mrs. Harrison adduces in support of the theory of the unity of Asia and the fact of its regeneration. She professes ardent faith in the so-called "Muslim bloc" of Turkey, Persia, and Afghanistan. Speaking of the sympathy with the Turkish war of independence she says:—

The Muslims and Hindus united in India to demand the independence of the Khalifate, the revolt of the Moplahs in Malabar, of the Bedouins in Mesopotamia under the leadership of Sheikh el Senussi, who came all the way from Africa to place his sword at the disposition of Mustapha Kemal, were a protest against the humiliation imposed upon Islam through the Sèvres Treaty. Angora became the hope of every true believer.

It is, indeed, a difficult matter to disentangle the temporary and fortuitous from the permanent and foreseeable; and Mrs. Harrison has not exhausted herself in the effort. Had she looked into the matter further, she might have found that coincidences do not a thesis make; nor Angora a goal.

In her chapter on Persia, again, we read (what we have read before in the writings of American journalists) that "by the close of 1926, British interests were securely intrenched and British prestige, while not by any means what it was, had been in a large measure restored." Upon such a statement one can only say that Persian concession to such prestige and influence has been shown in most curious form. By the close of 1926 had anything at all been done by the Persians to benefit the British in Persia?

Again, concerning this "Muslim bloc," we discover Mrs. Harrison writing speciously:—

Until recently, religious differences have been the greatest bar to a complete understanding between the three countries, but with the growing tendency throughout Islam to place a more liberal interpretation on the teachings of the Prophet, these differences are becoming less important.

But it is more the interpretation of the orthodox schools of Islam, than the Quran itself, which is criticised by the "modernist" Mussulmans; and in any case, was not the Shiah doctrine in itself political or racial in origin? Such things as Perso-Turkish distrust are not destroyed in a year or two, as Mrs. Harrison appears to think.

In writing on Iraq this journalist falls into the familiar American error of supposing that British policy in Meso-

potamia was dictated by considerations of oil; but for abundance of inaccuracies the palm must surely be given to her chapter on "Arabia Deserta." Therein we learn that Ibn Saoud "while the Great War was in progress made several private wars of his own which resulted in his obtaining the subjection of the Djebel Shammar tribes and of the rich oases of Hail and Djuf, as well as the fealty of the Sheikh of El Hasa, which assured him access to the Gulf of Persia." Having recalled the real date of the submission of the Rashid family, we proceed to learn that the plan of making ex-King Husain Caliph was a "British proposal." With even more regret, we learn that this ex-King died in Cyprus in the early part of 1927. Our knowledge is yet further extended when we read that at Mecca, in addition to the famous Pan-Islamic Conference, a conference on the Caliphate was held in the same year.

But possibly it is unfair to find so many holes in the book. To the general and ignorant reader who likes to believe that strange happenings are always exciting and tremendously significant—and it is for him or her that the book is expressly designed—it may prove the source of much entertainment. It is to be doubted, however, whether the serious student of the East will endure to the end this shallow examination or collation or version of the facts.

TRAVEL.

"**A TOUR IN SOUTHERN ASIA.**" By Horace Bleackley. (London: Bodley Head. 12s. 6d.)

"**YOUTH GOES EAST.**" By the Earl of Cardigan. (London: Nash and Grayson. 10s. 6d.)

It is a curious psychological mystery that so many travellers should think it necessary to put their experiences in writing, quite independently of the value of any information which they can communicate to their readers. We are doubtless saved from much of what is written by the publisher's reader, to whom we owe far more than the general public is aware. But, in spite of his benevolent exertions, much appears in the form of "handsome volumes" that we could well do without.

Mr. Bleackley, for instance, made a tour in parts of Indo-China, Malaya, Java, Sumatra and Ceylon, all of it by steamer, railway or motor car. He visited nowhere that is not perfectly well known and waxes indignant when the hotel accommodation is not up to his standard. He gives us no information of any value, except, indeed, a good, though second-hand, account of the mutiny of an Indian regiment at Singapore during the War, of which we have seen such full details nowhere else. The photographs, apparently essential in a book of this kind, are not very satisfactory.

Lord Cardigan's book is much better. He really had an excuse for becoming an author. He and his party enjoyed themselves so thoroughly in their Morris motor car tour through Europe to Athens, with peeps at Poland, Roumania and Hungary, and a steamer trip to Constantinople, that he felt impelled to communicate his pleasure to others. In this he has succeeded. Their trip was not an easy one, as any one who has motored over the Balkan roads and spent nights in densely inhabited Balkan bedrooms well knows. But neither pot-holes nor insects worried them too much. Youth and a pleasant sense of humour carried them through, and they found much to enjoy. It is abundantly clear from this book that, till better roads exist, decent hotels are to be found, and official formalities (at the numerous borders and elsewhere) are greatly simplified, the Balkans are not a motoring territory for people unhappily not provided with these qualities. Provided with them, however, many motorists might do worse than improve their minds and store their memories by doing as Lord Cardigan, but giving more time to it. To those who take this advice, this book will be most useful. There are not many photographs in this book, but they are good and interesting.

C. S-W.

THE WEEK AT HOME

London, Tuesday Morning.

Ejecting the Communists.

The Communists are certainly not having a happy time just now, for not only are they repudiated politically, but their activities are being physically interrupted. Quite obviously the ordinary Socialist has made up his mind to have no more truck with these extremists: a fact which is as explicable by the frailty of human tolerance as by the more usual "one eye on the General Election."

But last week at a Trade Union meeting on unemployment the old Adam that is at the back of all decent men broke out. Mr. Herbert Smith, the Chairman, actually left his Chair to "chuck out" a Communist interloper. Now Mr. Smith was one of the chief representatives of the miners before the General Strike. Does it seem very probable that he and his fellows were really "out for" Revolution?

The Socialist Rebels.

But if the Labour Party can eject its Communists it does not find it so easy to deal with the extremer Socialist Parliamentarymen represented by Messrs. Wheatley and Maxton. As I have already recorded, these men are carrying out throughout the country a revolt against the slowness of the Labour Party in its plans for realising a Socialist State.

The Parliamentary Labour Party held a meeting last week to deal with this revolt, but they got no nearer solution of it than to pass a pious resolution declaring that all differences between Socialists should be brought forward in a constitutional way, that is, at the regular meetings of the Party.

This may be called mild censure, or a climb down. Actually it appears to have achieved nothing at all, for the Maxton-Wheatley-Cook revolt will surely go on. As a matter of fact, the first two of these men possess first-rate intelligence and sincerity that are not surpassed by any member of the "orthodox" Labour Party.

The "Moving" of Labour.

The Board which was set up by the Government for inquiring into the problem of removing workless men into areas where work is available has published its report, and its findings deserve the closest attention of all students of contemporary England. Briefly, its proposals are that, where no similar work is available, the older men out of work should be put on the land in this country (holdings in connexion with afforestation are suggested), and the younger men should emigrate to the Dominions. For this last essential purpose much greater facilities than exist at present should be provided.

The Commissioners found 200,000 men—mostly miners—who had no hope at all of finding work. They have not attempted to shirk the issue, and emphasise their conviction that the heavy industries must be reorganised from within. In short they have produced an admirable report, replete with knowledge and humanity. In particular one likes their tribute to the character of the miner—"regarded as a type, the British miner is an example to his fellows."

Irish in Scotland.

Having conquered England and the northern part of Ireland, the Scots, it seems, are now seriously concerned lest their own fair country, which, wheresoever be the actual field of their economic penetration, is always their unreturned-to "home," should become bepeopled by the Irish. A Church deputation went to Westminster last week armed with rather terrifying statistics upon the extent of Irish colonising in Scotland.

It was stated that between 1881 and 1901 the increase in Irish population in Scotland was 33½ per cent., compared with an increase of only 18½ per cent. of native Scotsmen, and between 1901 and 1921, 39 per cent.,

compared with 6 per cent. respectively. It was further stated that the Irish represented 25 per cent. of the population of Glasgow, and 70 per cent. of the relief funds was allotted to these Irish. And the deputation urged the establishment of a quota system.

But how can England interfere with the emigration laws of a Dominion? Even the newspapers have had to smile at the sight of Scotsmen petitioning Englishmen to help them against Irishmen. It all seems to fit so ill with historical boasts or fancies.

Unemployment.

The figures for unemployment have been creeping ominously up week by week, and certain minds are becoming seriously alarmed at the apparent ceaselessness of the stream of men being thrown out of work. To-day in the House of Commons the Labour Party are moving a vote of censure on the Government for its attitude towards this vital matter.

This vote will not, of course, be passed; but it will be interesting to see how convincingly the Government will shake off criticism. It is known that it intends to bring immediate assistance to the coal industry (which is the chief source of unemployment), and, instead of waiting for the rate relief which is due to be effected in October of next year, to reduce rail and dock charges at once.

This virtual re-subsidising of the mining industry will have to be very carefully carried out if it is to escape the criticism of our economists. What the Labour Party will say of it one can only guess.

Motors and Railways.

The end of the struggle between the road and the rail is by no means yet, and the latest proposal, to run sleeper motor-coaches through the highways of England, may come as a shock to the railways, already sorely pressed to know what to do against the competition.

It is stated that six-cylindrical twelve-berthed coaches to carry passengers can be provided at about the same as the third-class railway fare. A beginning is to be made between Newcastle and London, and if the idea "catches on," night services will be put on between London, Manchester, Liverpool, and Plymouth. How these things will compare with the railway-carriage for comfort in sleeping, it is impossible yet to say; but provided the gears are not changed too violently, nor the horn sounded too raucously, there seems to be no reason why they should not become quite popular. A speed of twenty-five miles an hour is foreshadowed.

If the railways wish to compete with this, they will have to construct third-class sleepers.

Ellen Terry.

Of the admiration and affection which Ellen Terry inspired among playgoers of all classes, it is unfitting that one who blushes to confess that he had never seen her should write. But quite obviously the tributes that have been paid on the occasion of her death are sincere. Something irreplaceable has gone out of the lives of those who saw her in her prime.

Always, except for the very fortunate individual, there must be regrets over things missed. Either he has not heard Busoni at the pianoforte, or seen Ranji at the wicket, or Ellen Terry on the stage.

To those who knew this great artist in the theatre memories are crowding of her gracious triumphs. She was by universal consent an English lady of whom the English nation was proud, and at whose tomb in the players' church, St. Paul's, Covent Garden, future generations may well be gazing with reverence and talk of a beauty which ravished both the instincts and the intellects of their forefathers.

ALTER EGO.

It is announced from Belgrade that Momtchilo Ivanoff, who tried to assassinate the Director of Public Security, M. Lazitch, two weeks ago and then shot himself in the head, has died of his wound.

PERSONAL AND GENERAL

TO-DAY

July 26, 1928 (New Style).

July 23, 1928 (Old Style).

Saphar 7, 1347 A.H., of the Muslim Calendar.

Ab 9, 5689, of the Jewish Calendar.

The Rani of Pudukota has arrived at Claridge's from Paris.

The Maharaja of Jind arrived last week at the Royal Palace Hotel.

The Maharaja of Kashmir left London on July 21 for Deauville.

The Prince of Wales received the Maharaja of Kapurthala at St. James's Palace on July 20.

The Hon. Henry and Mrs. Mond left London on July 21 for Athens, and will be abroad for six weeks.

Mr. A. F. Hodgson has been appointed Greek Vice-Consul for Bradford. There has not hitherto been a Greek Vice-Consulate in that city.

Mr. H. C. Luke, who was recently appointed Chief Secretary to the Government of Palestine arrived in Jerusalem on July 19.

Mme. Ferid Bey, wife of the Turkish Ambassador, left London on July 17 for Stamboul. She will be away two months and the Ambassador will join her later on.

Sir Amberson Marten left London on July 19 by the P. and O. Bombay Express to join the s.s. Naldera at Marseilles.

Sir Philip Grey-Egerton arrived on July 20 from India at Marseilles in the P. and O. liner Ranpura. Other passengers included Lady Hailey and Sir Philip Hartog.

Sir Ronald Lindsay last week assumed his post of Permanent Under-Secretary of State at the Foreign Office, to which he was recently appointed in succession to Sir William Tyrrell.

Queen Sophie of Greece, with Princess Irene and Prince Paul of Greece, and the Princess Victoria visited the King and Queen at Buckingham Palace on July 19 and remained to luncheon.

The Maharaja of Patiala has arrived in London from the Continent. On July 24 at the Caxton Hall he lectured to the East India Association on "The Indian States and the Crown." Lord Ronaldshay presided, and the lecture was broadcast.

The King has given permission to Mr. Wm. Robert Gerald Whiting, Superintending Engineer of Messrs. Armstrong's Naval Yard at Newcastle-on-Tyne to wear the Insignia of the Third Class of the Order of Saint Sava, conferred on him by the King of the Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes.

PROPOSED ENGLISH CHURCH AT TROODOS, CYPRUS.

WANTED!

A permanent church on Troodos for the needs not only of residents (military and civilian) but of the visitors who are coming in growing numbers each year to this popular hill-station of the Near East.

It is proposed that a stone building be erected on a site, to be allocated by the War Office, near the Parade Ground, at a cost if possible not exceeding £500.

The Special Committee includes H. Ll. Jones, Esq., Major L. F. Layton, O/C Troops, Norman Petrides, Esq., Dr. A. H. Unwin, Henry Williamson, Esq., and the Chaplains of Nicosia (Rev. H. Buxton) and of Limassol (Rev. L. Lindsay).

The Managing Director of the Cyprus Asbestos Co. has kindly promised a generous cash contribution and also building materials produced by the Company at exceedingly low price.

Contributions should be sent direct to the TROODOS CHURCH FUND, c/o H. Ll. Jones, Esq., Ottoman Bank, Nicosia.

Mme. Felix Guépin—née Stancioff—has left London for the Villa des Trois Sources Varna, Bulgaria; and will be away two months.

The Right Hon. William Ormsby-Gore, M.P. (Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for the Colonies), and Mr. Robert Greg (His Majesty's Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary at Bucharest) were received in audience by the King at Buckingham Palace on July 19.

General Sir John Du Cane (Governor and Commander-in-Chief of Malta and its Dependencies) had an audience of His Majesty on July 19, when the King invested him with the Insignia of a Knight Grand Cross of the Most Honourable Order of the Bath (Military Division).

Miss Helen Schilizzi, daughter of Mr. Stephen Schilizzi, of Guilsboro Court, Northamptonshire, and niece of M. Venizelos, Greek Prime Minister, is recommended for adoption as prospective Liberal candidate for Northampton. She is 24, and has been for some time a lecturer to the League of Nations Union.

Brigadier-General Sir Gilbert Clayton left London on July 20 for Jidda en route for Taif, the summer capital of the Hijaz, in order to resume negotiations with King Ibn Saoud. He was accompanied by Mr. Antonius, an Assistant Secretary to the Government of Palestine. It is hoped that the British mission will have concluded its labours and be able to return to London within six weeks.

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JAIPUR (Rajputana)—New Hotel.	Grand Hotel de la Poste.
JERUSALEM—St John's Hotel, H. & F. Fast, Managers	

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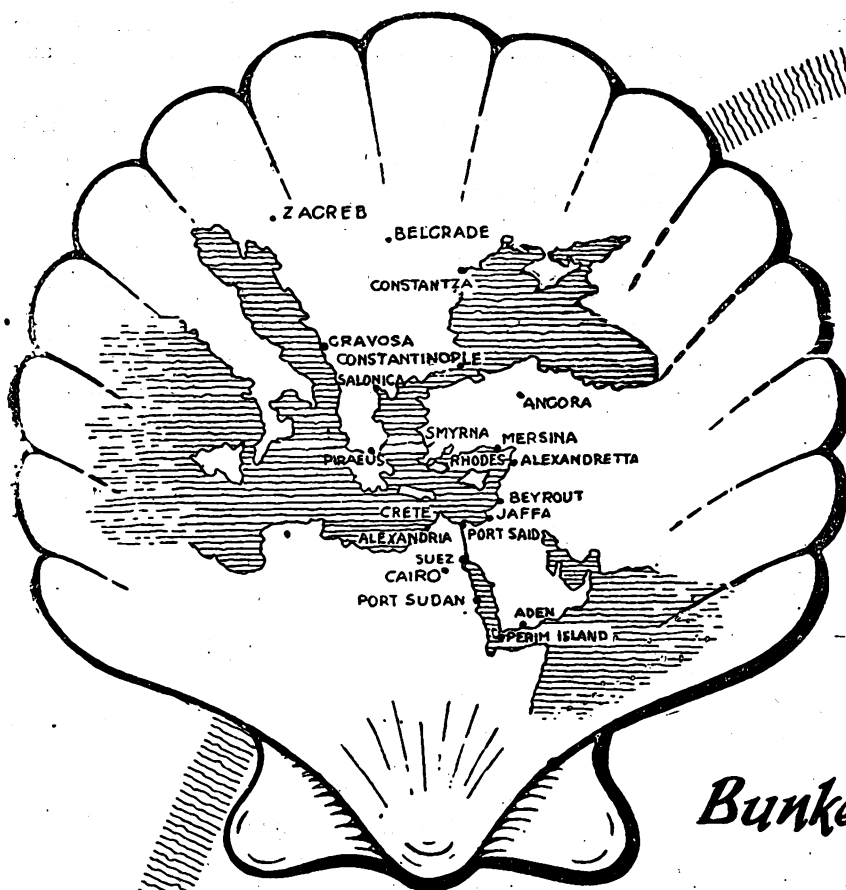
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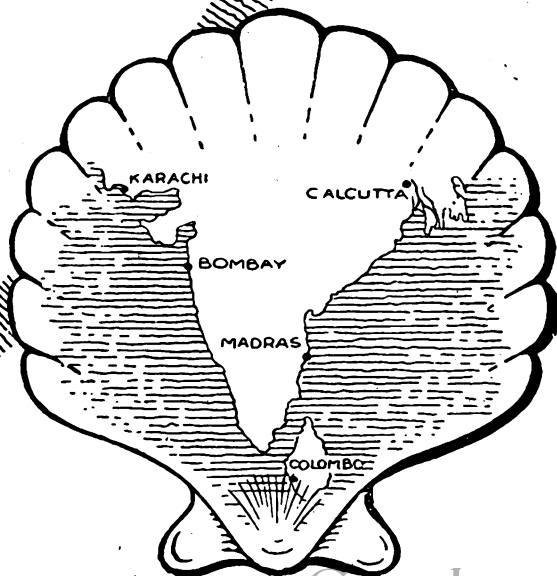
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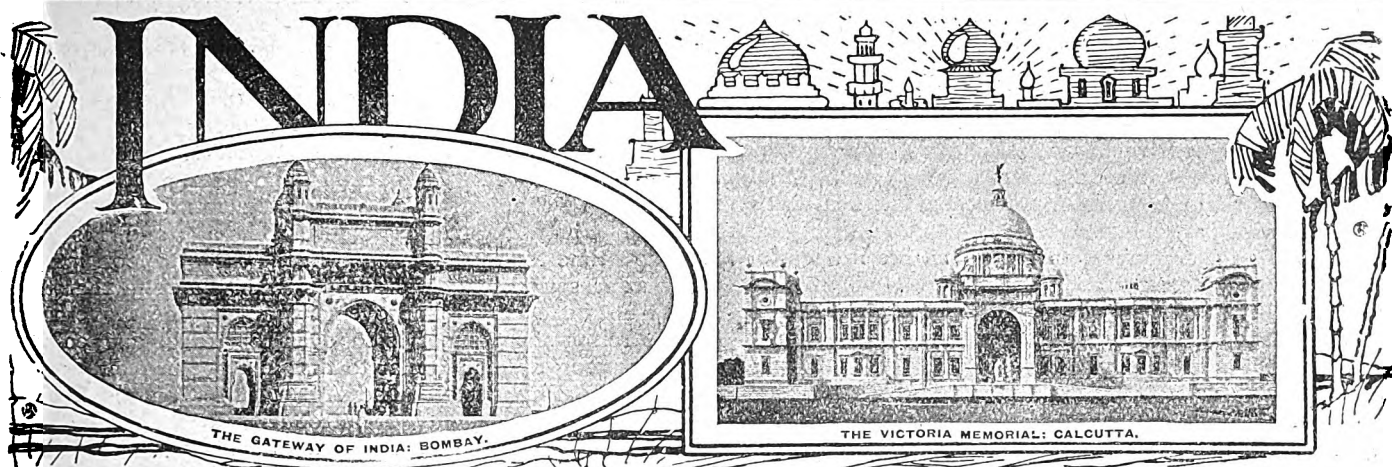
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SHELL





THE INDIAN STATES AND THE CROWN.

Although during their recent tour of the country the members of the Indian States Committee visited most of the principal States and altogether covered over 8,000 miles by train alone, this week really marks the beginning of the inquiry proper. The purpose of the Indian visit was merely to acquaint the Committee with the atmosphere and to provide opportunities of informal discussion of matters pertaining to the inquiry before the receipt of the formal evidence. It is true that the number and importance of the individual States, the presentation of whose case by Sir Leslie Scott began on Wednesday, cannot obscure the fact that that eminent counsel is not empowered to speak for the whole of non-British India. At the same time, the views of a body that is the recognised agent of the Standing Committee of the Chamber of Princes, and represents Patiala, Kashmir, Bhopal and Gwalior and several of the most active and enlightened rulers of the minor States, can certainly be considered as authoritative. And whatever the differences that may still exist among the Princes on points of detail even those rulers which are not utilizing Sir Leslie Scott's services are united with the majority in the latter's opinion as to the main object for which all are striving. They realise that the importance of the economic relations between their States and British India has increased very greatly of recent years, and they naturally desire to be consulted when the Government of India imposes fiscal measures which necessarily affect the revenues of their States and the prosperity of their subjects. At present there is no constitutional channel for the expression of their views on such matters as the imposition of increased Customs duties, or the taxation of articles of general consumption. As we were reminded by a correspondent in last week's issue, when the present Reformed Constitution was in embryo the Princes pressed for some kind of machinery that would give them a voice in shaping those aspects of All-India policy which concerned them in common with British India, particularly in the economic sphere. Mr. Montagu and Lord Chelmsford admitted the reasonable character of the request, though its force was probably not so apparent in 1918 as the experience of the next decade has shown it to be. Unfortunately the Chamber of Princes, which was designed as the basis of the machinery for joint discussion of matters of common interest with British India, became, as our correspondent aptly remarks, "a mere Diet, whose stereotyped agenda and hidebound rules—neither shaped by the Princes—disgusted some of the most powerful and progressive Rulers in India."

Still more important is the constitutional aspect of the inquiry. The rulers of the Indian States believe that the time has now come for a final and authoritative review of their position in law, not only under the existing constitution but also in relation to the possible grant of a further measure of self-government in the area directly under British administration. The constitutional issue to which we understand Sir Leslie Scott, fortified with the opinion

of several of the most eminent of his fellow counsel, will address himself in the first instance, is at once the most difficult and the most important of the many complex problems which Sir Harcourt Butler and his colleagues have been called upon to resolve. Once the legal relationship has been settled suitable constitutional machinery for harmonious working between the States and British India ought not to present anything approaching the same difficulty, for the rulers of the States have made it clear that they are ready and willing to agree to any reasonable plan that may be devised. The existing relations which have developed, partly as a result of policy and partly as a result of historical accident, are confusing in the extreme. The legal principles they represent afford no parallel nor analogy to any known to history. They do not fall within the ambit of international law; for the States, although the principal ones are spoken of in official documents as allies, have entrusted the whole business of their foreign relations and defence to the Crown. "In some respects the Crown is the guardian; each State is its ward. To such a relationship international law has no application."

On the other hand, the Indian State is equally outside municipal law. As the authority we have cited proceeds: "although Sovereignty has been divided as a result of the Princes giving their consent—evidenced by treaty or other form of agreement—to transfer to the Crown some of their functions of their sovereignty, each Prince remains the true sovereign of his State in respect of all those functions of sovereignty which he has not consented to transfer to the Crown. And his subjects are not British subjects. He is amenable to no Court outside his State. No legislation of the British Parliament or the British-India Legislature binds him or his subjects; nor can British-Indian taxation be imposed upon his State." In a letter in the current issue of a legal contemporary Sir Leslie Scott, after passing in review the foregoing circumstances, draws therefrom four broad conclusions which we may presume are the main grounds of the Princes' case. The first point which emerges is that the fundamental tie is consent and that Great Britain is irrevocably committed by the public pronouncements of the King-Emperor and successive Viceroy to the scrupulous observance of all its contractual undertakings to the States. The second point is that the contracts are between sovereigns—the Princes and the Crown—not with the Company or Government of British India. The third is that the relationship is wholly legal—a nexus of mutual rights and obligations which "may not always be easy to define, but they are none the less real and ascertainable because they have not hitherto been scrutinised." Fourthly, Sir Leslie contends that the contracts, which, if concluded between private individuals, would be personal and incapable of performance by anybody else, cannot be assigned to any third party. On the more difficult question of the extent, if any, to which the Crown can delegate to the Government of British India, as its agent, the discharge of its treaty obligations, Counsel for the Princes wisely reserves his opinion. At the same time he stresses one aspect of the problem deserving of greater

consideration than it has hitherto received in public discussions on the same subject. The Crown can normally choose its agents, but an agent cannot act where his interest may conflict with his duty. In matters of common concern with the States, Customs, railways, posts, the salt monopoly, there is always the possibility that the interest of British India may not be identical with the interest of a particular State. The Crown's duty on the other hand is, or maybe, to safeguard the interest of the State, particularly in case of a minority administration. Should the interest of the agent be given the chance of conflicting with the duty of the principal?

CURRENT TOPICS.

The Royal Indian Marine.

By rejecting the Indian Navy (Discipline) Bill last session the Legislative Assembly made it necessary for the Government of India to reconsider their policy in regard to the proposed Royal Indian Navy. The result of the reconsideration was announced recently in an official *communiqué* issued at Simla. The Royal Indian Marine will not become the Royal Indian Navy. But the Government have not given up the idea of re-organising the Force in accordance with the recommendations of the departmental Committee of 1925, so far as this is possible under the existing law. The force will still be styled the Royal Indian Marine, but it will be a combatant force; and it will assume the functions and serve under the conditions regarding pay, pensions, etc., which were originally intended for the Royal Indian Navy. Indians will be recruited, on the basis which was contemplated for the Navy, to the commissioned and the warrant ranks. One commissioned vacancy in three will be reserved for them in the executive and in the engineer branches of the service. The vacancy will be thrown open to competitive examination in India on terms and conditions to be prescribed. The discipline of the force will be regulated, as it is now, under the Indian Marine Act of 1887. But the change to combatant status will make enrolment under the Act compulsory, instead of as hitherto optional, in the lower ranks. The extent of the Act is limited to Indian territorial waters and it follows that this limitation will apply to the activities of the Royal Indian Marine. The command will vest in the Director of the Marine who will be designated the Flag Officer Commanding and Director Royal Indian Marine. Rear Admiral I. N. Walwyn has been lent by His Majesty's force to be the first Commanding Officer and his appointment takes effect from November next.

The Adulteration of Indian Hemp.

Complaints are still being made concerning the adulteration of the hemp exported from India. The latest reports from Calcutta are to the effect that the weight of the bales is now being increased by concealing in them sticks to the extent sometimes of 20 per cent. and sometimes of 40 per cent. The exports of hemp show no great expansion, and the Report on the Maritime Trade of Bengal for the year 1927-28 says that there is not much likelihood of an improvement so long as the present defective methods of preparing and baling the fibre are persisted in. Tests have proved that Indian hemp, while not as good as Manila, compares favourably with the Russian and the Italian products. But unfortunately it is often shipped in an extremely dirty state. The hanks are flat and hard with dried mud at the ends; and the bales are sometimes packed so tightly that the fibre is crushed and spoilt. India bales hemp to 40 cubic feet per ton, while other countries bale their product to 80 cubic feet to the ton. It is true, of course, that by so doing Indian shippers pay less for freight; but such great compression damages the fibre.

It will be recalled that the Indian Agriculture Commission specially mentions hemp in connexion with adulteration. The report says that the complaints received in

regard to hemp are more serious than those concerning any other product. They were to the effect that it was very irregular in quality; that fibre from different districts was mixed in the same bale; that there was an excessive proportion of dust and dirt mainly due to retting in dirty water; and that the packing and baling were unsatisfactory. Practically identical statements are made in the Report on the Maritime trade of Bengal; and it is surely high time for those engaged in the trade to look into the matter seriously. It is suggested in Calcutta that there is no hope of an improvement unless the Government exercises strict supervision over the trade, and enforces a grading system similar to that in force in New Zealand and the Philippines. The Agriculture Commission considered the feasibility of introducing some such scheme in India. But the Commissioners came to the conclusion that in the present state of development of the export trade the administrative difficulties involved would be insuperable. They thought that organised trade associations in India could give great assistance; and that organisation among the ultimate buyers might be an effective weapon. They also recommended that the agricultural and co-operative departments should undertake propaganda advocating better cultivation and better methods of preparation; but they pointed out that such propaganda must be based on close touch with trade requirements, more particularly those of the export trade.

The quantity of hemp shipped from Bengal during the year 1927-28 was 341,801 cwts., against 319,043 cwts. in the preceding year. This increase was, however, effected at a sacrifice of price, the total value falling from Rs. 59.36 lakhs to Rs. 53.67 lakhs. The largest buyer was Belgium, but she reduced her purchases from 197,755 cwts. to 176,445 cwts. The United Kingdom and France also bought less in the previous year; but the United States, Italy, and Greece increased their purchases.

Bardoli—and After.

Expectations that the Bardoli Satyagraha agitation, if allowed to continue unchecked, would have important repercussions all over India have proved only too correct. As far back as the middle of June last a Bombay contemporary reproduced extracts from a private letter received from a Madras correspondent in which the writer observed: "The struggle in Bardoli is exciting wide public attention throughout the Madras Presidency. The Godavari and Kistina have just been resettled. Bardoli will have its repercussion in Madras. It would have been better if this Bombay Government had avoided this conflict if it was possible to do so." Meanwhile, it is satisfactory to note the firm stand taken by the Governor, Sir Leslie Wilson, in his speech at the opening of the Bombay Legislative Council at Poona this week. After giving a short history of the dispute, with which readers of THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA are already familiar, the Governor laid before the Council the Government's final and considered decision, which he made plain, has been approved by the Government of India. After emphasising that it had always been impressed upon the Bombay Government that the issue was very clear—namely, whether the reassessment of the landholders in Bardoli was fair or unfair, he intimated that the Government was prepared to submit the whole case, after the revenue now due to the Government had been paid and the present agitation had entirely ceased, to a full, open and independent inquiry. The Governor asked the Councillors concerned to communicate their decision as to whether, on behalf of their constituents, they accepted or refused the conditions which must be fulfilled before a fresh inquiry could be established. While we share Sir Leslie Wilson's belief that the proposals are not likely to be rejected, we are glad to note that he did not shrink from the unpleasant duty of making it perfectly clear that, if the conditions were not accepted, and consequently a settlement was not secured, the Government would take what action it considered desirable and would utilise all the powers at its command to maintain its statutory authority.

CALCUTTA LETTER.*(From Our Own Correspondent.)**Calcutta, July 5.***Politics.**

Sir John Simon's cablegram to the Punjab Council Committee, stating that equality between the Statutory Commission and the Council Committee will be maintained, not only in respect of the hearing of evidence, but also in its consideration, will have its effect on those who are not too deeply committed to the policy of the boycott. An understanding with one Council Committee is an understanding with them all. The Simla correspondent of the *Statesman* reports that "it is now being taken for granted that Madras, Bombay, Bengal and Bihar will elect their Committees without much trouble, and that even the U.P. and the C.P. may follow suit, as already there are indications of revolt in the boycott camp." Nevertheless, there are still well-informed people to be found who claim to be confident that, when on the 9th the Government resolution for the formation of a Council Committee is debated in the Bengal Legislative Council, the opposition will have the majority. Of the amendments that have been tabled—eighteen—the Swarajists being the authors of seven of them, I would call attention to only one, Mr. Fazlul Huq's. He has given notice of his intention to move that to the resolution be added: "with instructions to convey to the Commission the deliberate opinion of this Council that India under present conditions is not fit for any system of representative government." Than that could there well be anything more true? Yet one hears on all sides of "the growing demands and aspirations of all classes in India," which is talk pointing, of course, to still more representative government.

The Indian States.

The proposals of the Indian Princes regarding the future relationship of the States with the Indian Government have been published on your side; but they should be recorded here to complete the record. They are that there should be (1) an Indian States Council with the Viceroy as President, three representatives of Indian States, two English members with no previous connexion with India, and the head of the Political Department of the India Government; (2) a Union Council composed of members of the Indian States Council and the Viceroy's Executive Council; (3) a Union Supreme Council or Court of Arbitration, consisting of three judges appointed from Britain to be permanently retained. The general public is not sufficiently well informed of the questions that arise between the Indian States and the India Government to be able to envisage clearly the working of the proposed Councils. Only such interest is consequently taken in these last proposals as men take in the briefly reported concerns of their most distant cousins. The Princes may be trusted to secure that the utmost degree of orderliness may obtain in future in their relations with the British India Government.

Bengal Administration Report.

The Bengal Administration Report for the year 1926-1927 was published on Tuesday, and is now the chief topic of conversation. The Report is written in a very free style, as if the author had decided that, if ever there was a time to call a spade a spade, this was the time. There was sense in that: when all things are in the melting-pot is no time in which to put on kid gloves before handling anything.

A few quotations may be given. "The conflicting communal appeals for special protection that distinguish the year resulted in the police receiving from one or other

section of the Press and the public a measure of approval, to which it has hitherto been unaccustomed. The Criminal Investigation Department is represented as taking an almost fiendish delight in the fabrication of false evidence to support unfounded charges, though no explanation of such an amazing perversion of duty is ever offered or suggested by a Press which itself recognises no obligation whatever to justify or prove the most astounding and libellous allegations. This attitude towards the police has developed into a habit, which naturally persists even although the occasions for its manifestations were comparatively few during the year. On the other hand, many opportunities for approval of police activities were afforded by the success with which communal difficulties were met and overcome."

The true villain of the piece in the Report is not the Criminal Investigation Department but the Press. It occupies much of the foreground in this annual review. That is its right, and thus is it spoken of: "There was no need for any newspaper to justify its existence or the patronage of its readers by the excellence or completeness of its news. The qualities that go to build up a reputation were quite unnecessary to secure a circulation. Unbounded excitement and unrestrained vituperation took the place of all those saner elements that distinguish successful journalism, and provided adequate mental sustenance for a public, whose taste has been debased and degraded by many years of wild sensationalism. Government did not get even the proverbial 'dog's chance.' . . . Government in the eyes of the Indian Press could do nothing right, and throughout the year it had to face the ordeal of a 'morning hate' from the editorial forces of almost all the papers of the metropolis. The campaign of unscrupulous misrepresentation has now gone to such lengths that it is difficult to justify further tolerance. It is true that if the whole vocabulary of abuse is expended on trifling incidents, the influence of the Press in important matters will be correspondingly negligible."

The implication of those last words is that, in the writer's opinion, it is well that the influence of the Indian Press in important matters should be small. It clearly appears that it is. The most important of all matters is that the Government should be generally respected. How can the readers of the papers in question respect a Government, abuse of which they are given daily to read? That may well be one's question, but that they do respect it admits of no doubt. I have just been speaking to an official who has just returned from a short tour in one of the districts of Eastern Bengal. His launch was boarded late one day by a student of the Presidency College, the young man, then on vacation, having walked eight miles on purpose to ask the official and those with him to visit his village the next day. They did so, and their reception left no doubt in their minds of the respect in which the Government they represented is held. They had also the satisfaction of feeling that their advent had strengthened the hands of the young man and his companions in an effort, not encouraged by the elders of the village, to improve its health and sanitation.

The Administration Report covers the whole field, but it has already occupied us long enough for one day.

Sir David Yule.

The markets were closed yesterday immediately upon receipt of the news of the deeply-regretted death of Sir David Yule. The question on the lips of everyone is: Will there ever again be a Calcutta merchant prince with such a record? Sir David had become a figure in international finance, but there is no claim equal to Calcutta's to the possession of his fame in business. Yet, the *Statesman* says, "to most people in Calcutta Sir David Yule was a mystery. They had never seen him. He lived in Calcutta—off and on, it is true, during the last ten years—for the best part of half a century. He was for many years its richest and most powerful citizen; but to nine men out of ten he was a name, a mysterious power whose ways and motives were as inscrutable as Fate."

BOMBAY LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Bombay, July 7.

The Loss of Contact.

The situation in India is far from reassuring. Every dispute that arises—whether it is between Government and the people, between Capital and Labour, or between Hindu and Muslim—develops with alarming rapidity into a deadlock between the two parties. This is obviously due to the fact that in Indian public life, the men of moderate views who at such times are of the greatest value to the country, have no place. The responsibility for this, however, does not lie wholly on the shoulders of the Indian extremists. The conservative elements, both in and outside India, have always shown a tendency to ignore the men who would have held the balance between two conflicting parties. That the Liberal has been thrust, until recently, into the background of Indian politics, is the fault not only of the intolerant extremists but the Government which has not troubled to pay serious attention to the views held by him. That the Liberal Hindu has not been able to stand against Hindu Sabhaites is due to the fact that his Muslim countryman has always ignored him. In Labour we find a man like Mr. N. M. Joshi still in the foreground, but this is due to the fact that both the millowners and the workers look to Mr. Joshi to mediate between them. Even here, however, very often Mr. Joshi's advice is disregarded or even resented. The result of all this, therefore, is the loss of contact between opposing views in every field.

Bardoli.

Mr. Vallabhbhai Patel, leader of the Bardoli campaign, came to Bombay this week to collect more funds. More important, however, than Mr. Vallabhbhai Patel's reception in Bombay is the report published by the Servants of India Society on the Bardoli situation. The Society had deputed Pandit Hirdayanath Kunzru and Mr. S. G. Vaze to inquire into the question. None of the three members have much sympathy for the Non-co-operation movement; in fact Mr. Kunzru and Mr. Vaze have been strongly opposed to the movement. Their conclusions were that "in view of these considerations (mentioned in the report) we are clearly of the opinion that the demand of the peasants of Bardoli for a fresh inquiry is fully justified. A new inquiry is necessary in the interests of justice. The recent announcement that the revision of the settlement of the Viramgam Taluka in the Ahmedabad district will be reconsidered makes the case for the reconsideration of the settlement of the Bardoli Taluka unanswerable." They have not, however, expressed their approval of the methods adopted by the people of Bardoli to make themselves heard.

The Bombay Strikes.

There is as yet no sign of the strikes coming to an end in Bombay. The millowners have invited the strike leaders to meet them again, but there is not much to be hoped for from that quarter. Doles of rice and *dal* are distributed among the strikers by the Relief Committee and the management of the Toyo Poddar Mills have been giving relief to their employees on strike and to their children. Meanwhile the strikers at their meetings are expressing their determination to hold out—not a very difficult task seeing that the funds of the Relief Committee are not exhausted. The situation at other places is not more promising. Personally the writer considers it is high time that the Government—the only body that can interfere with effect—took a hand. It has tried the policy of waiting for something to turn up and it ought to have found out by now that the situation has gone too far for any settlement to arise between the parties if they are left to themselves.

THE LATE SIR FRANK SLY.

An Appreciation.

BY SIR VALENTINE CHIROL.

The late Sir Frank Sly's activities in India covered a much more varied field than is usually given to Indian civilians. A self-made man in the best sense of the term, he passed from Balliol College, Oxford, into the I.C.S. when he was not yet twenty, the age of admission being in those days much earlier than it is now. He went straight to the Central Provinces, where, after only four years' service, he was entrusted with the responsible work of Settlement Officer in one of the chief districts, and it was then that he was brought into intimate relation with the land and with the primitive and rather backward peasantry whose fine qualities he learnt to admire and have a real affection for. Agriculture was then beginning to receive increased attention at headquarters as the greatest of all Indian industries. He went to the Government of India in 1895 as Under-Secretary and then as officiating Secretary in the Department of Revenue and Agriculture, and after a few years was Deputy Commissioner and then Commissioner of Settlements and Agriculture in his own Province. Appointed by Lord Curzon to the newly-created Inspector-Generalship of Agriculture, he was deeply interested in and helped to promote several of the new departures connected with agriculture, whether in research work, in the formation of district agricultural societies, in the opening of demonstration plots in the villages, which were to produce very promising results before he left India, whilst since then the appointment of a Royal Commission on Indian agriculture will, one may hope, help to carry India a long step further on the line of advancement which he regarded as the most hopeful and important of all.

It was on the Royal Commission on the India Public Services, 1912-1915, that I was for the first time brought into close contact with Sly. Our other English colleagues included men who were to rise to more conspicuous positions at home and in India—Mr. Ramsay MacDonald, Mr. Herbert Fisher, and Lord Ronaldshay amongst others—but perhaps the most striking figure on that Commission was the Indian leader, Mr. G. K. Gokhale, who combined in an almost unique degree an enlightened Indian patriotism with all the best that an Indian could learn from Western education. It was interesting to watch the growth of mutual respect and confidence between the Indian, who was determined to assert the rights of his fellow countrymen to a larger participation in the administration and government of their land, and the sturdy British civilian who, with all his liberal sympathy with the legitimate aspirations of India, was clearly there to uphold, together with another distinguished and considerably older civilian, Sir Murray Hammick, the interests of the great service to which they both belonged. Unfortunately, Mr. Gokhale died very prematurely before the Commission had drawn up its final Report in 1915, and the Report itself was, so to say, swallowed up in the far-reaching commotions of the Great War.

Whilst the large scheme of reforms which was to take shape in the Government of India Act of 1919 was being matured, Sly saw something of Gandhi, the strange figure who was afterwards to wage a tremendous campaign against the reforms, and nowhere more fiercely than in Sly's own Province. He presided over a Committee on which Gandhi himself served for the investigation of the cultivators' grievances in the Champaran district of Bihar. Again there grew up between the British civilian and the ascetic Indian, who had not yet launched out as the prophet of Swaraj, such a feeling of mutual respect that even after they had drifted into profound political antagonism and Gandhi presided over the stormy session of the Indian National Congress at Nagpur in the full frenzy of non-co-operation, whilst Sly was residing at Government House as Governor of the Central Provinces,

the former departed so far from his rigid boycott of a "Satanic" Government as to pay the latter a long visit as a mark of unaltered personal regard.

It was after serving, during the elaboration of the reforms, on Lord Southborough's Franchise Committee, that he was appointed to be Governor of the Central Provinces, an appointment which he held until, at its expiry in 1925, he retired after forty years' strenuous service—never more strenuous than whilst he was Governor, for, as I have already said, the non-co-operation movement nowhere raged more fiercely than there at a time when throughout British India the machinery of government was being subjected to a very severe strain. The Central Provinces had suffered, like the rest of India, from the economic set-back that followed the War, and in Sly's second year of office he had to fight against a bad famine, which intensified a general epidemic of discontent ruthlessly exploited by political agitation. In spite of all these grievous difficulties Sly laboured with untiring courage to apply the reforms in the liberal spirit which had inspired them, and to induce his Indian Ministers to work with him to make dyarchy a success in the face of opposition and obstruction more virulent and resourceful than perhaps even in Bengal. So successful were for some time his efforts that the Swarajist leaders, mistaking for weakness a policy of studied moderation, concentrated their worst attacks upon him. But he was not the man to surrender to the forces of disorder, and when in 1924 the Swarajists, abandoning the rigid boycott of the Legislatures ordered by Gandhi, entered the Nagpur Legislative Council with a majority which they were bent on using to destroy the reforms from within and his Indian Ministers resigned their offices, he did not hesitate to put the emergency provisions of the Government of India Act in force. He took over the administration of the "transferred" departments and carried on the government of the Central Provinces with his Executive Council on the old unitary system until his retirement. Those amongst his own fellow countrymen who had always misdoubted the reforms were prone to see the fulfilment of their worst forebodings in the temporary failure of dyarchy in a province entrusted to the charge of a Governor who had been concerned in the preparation of the reforms they hated. But though Sly was for the moment discouraged, he never lost faith in the fundamental principles underlying the reforms, for he was convinced that, if we are to carry the people of India with us on the road to responsible government as an integral part of the Empire, we must find some means of carrying with us the Western-educated Indians who, however woefully they may sometimes misread the lessons of Western education, are its direct and special offspring.

Sly's fine constitution and powerful physique showed no signs of having suffered from his long period of service in India or from a far heavier share of domestic afflictions than befall most men. He had always been a mighty hunter, and less than two years ago he returned to his beloved Central Provinces to shoot big game in the jungles he knew so well, and he came back much heartened in his enduring optimism by the warmth of the reception given to him by all classes, even by some of his former political opponents, and by many demonstrations of genuine affection from the humbler folk in the country districts, with whom I had more than once had an opportunity of witnessing his kindly relations whilst accompanying him on tour. After his fatal disease had declared itself, only a few months ago, he was able to spend two or three weeks, during a slight temporary rally, with his old and devoted Nagpur friends, Sir Maneckjee and Lady Dadabhoi, in their beautiful residence on Kingston Hill, and it was a special comfort to him, when the shadow of death was already on him, to receive the Sacrament from his old friend Dr. Chatterton, who had been for many years Bishop of Nagpur, for his heart remained always in the Central Provinces. Death came to him as a happy release from terrible suffering, supported with the same

courage and strength of will that he had displayed all through his life—a brave man, modest and kindly, and endowed with that deep sense of trusteeship which has always inspired the best amongst the British rulers and administrators of India.

THE REPORT OF THE ROYAL COMMISSION ON AGRICULTURE IN INDIA*.

By P. R. CADELL, C.S.I., C.I.E.

It is, however, in the chapter on village life that the Report contains the most interesting of its suggestions, though not the clearest of its recommendations. It recognises that the various Governments must do much more in the future than they have been able to do in the past, particularly in respect to medical relief and to education. But it points out also that the villager must adjust his outlook to meet changing conditions. "What is required," the Report says, "is to increase, in desirable directions, the villagers' wants, and to show him how to satisfy them by his own efforts." The hostile critic might observe that the villager is already painfully provided with wants which he is barely able to satisfy, without the creation of further needs. The Commission relies on improved guidance and the revival of the tradition of corporate action to raise the standard of village amenity; without such a revival, the hope of radical improvement must, the Commission thinks, be abandoned. Unfortunately every extension of administration, including local self-government, has hitherto led to a decrease in local effort. If the process can be stayed, and corporate action revived, through the adoption of the Commission's advice, the result will be the happiest conclusion of the Commission's labours.

The Report appears in another passage to point out the necessity for a reduction in the birth rate. It is doubtless as true as it was when the Famine Commission reported in 1880, that the numbers on the land are far greater than the requirements of cultivation demand, and the present Report holds out little hope of the possibility of the establishment of rural industries on a scale sufficient to occupy the over-abundant leisure of the agricultural classes. The increase of industries in the large cities, which will be the presumable result of the present protectionist policy, will doubtless continue to draw off much of the excess of rural population. The truest means of uplift will, however, be the diffusion of mass education in its widest sense. It is perhaps somewhat disappointing to find the Commission, while agreed on the necessity for compulsory primary education, so indefinite regarding the stages of its progressive adoption. It would, however, be difficult to prescribe compulsion without some idea of the manner in which the cost is to be met. The Commission is entirely convinced of the necessity for female education; but the method suggested for the demonstration of its advantages, namely the record of the educational history and subsequent development of the children of literate mothers, or of mothers educated *ad hoc* seems singularly circuitous and open to disappointment. The Commission's preference for the ordinary secondary school with a modicum of elementary agricultural teaching to the vocational secondary schools tried in Bombay will command general assent.

The proposals outlined in the Commission's Report will necessitate an enormous increase in the number of agricultural and veterinary officers. The proposals also contemplate a large number of special appointments for which special recruitment or training will be necessary. The condition of the superior agricultural service is already sufficiently serious. Recruitment for it ceased in 1924;

* The first part of Mr. Cadell's article appeared in the issue of THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA of July 19.

yet no Province has yet constituted the Provincial Service required to take its place. It is proposed that appointments to the agricultural services should be by nomination, and that many of the vacancies in the upper class, should, with the exception of research appointments, be filled by promotion from the second class; while the second class itself should be largely composed of men promoted from the subordinate ranks. It is obvious that much opportunity will be afforded for jobbery unless adequate Public Service Acts are passed. The Commission clearly indicates it to be desirable that many of the posts requiring special knowledge or administrative experience should at least at the onset be filled by officers recruited from abroad; but no definite pronouncement to this effect is made, except as regards certain of the Pusa appointments. Speaking generally, the adoption of the Report's proposals would appear to entail an increase in the host of minor officialdom. This may be inevitable: it is none the less regrettable.

In concluding this report the members of the Commission emphasise that, while the ultimate success of all measures of rural progress must depend on the outlook of the peasant, the responsibility for taking action to render the conditions suitable for progress rests with Government. They consider that neither the Government of India nor the local Governments have in the past appreciated this responsibility. The Governments might perhaps reply that their responsibility is limited by their capacity to raise money. The Commission professes itself unable to frame any estimate of the cost of its proposals, and limits itself to the hope that the various legislatures will appropriate the money for agricultural service as it becomes available. It is, however, clear that the amounts required are beyond the power of local legislatures to provide except by the imposition of rates and taxes which would be so unpopular as to defeat their object. It might perhaps be suggested that the most suitable source from which the required reinforcement of provincial revenues could be obtained would be the import custom duties. These are imposed almost entirely in the interest of the manufacturer and industrialist. The cultivator receives no direct benefit from them while he bears a large share of their burden. Unless some such assistance is given, it is obvious that the progress of the agricultural interests in the different Provinces will be not merely slow but markedly uneven.

The Report ends with a word of warning to Viceroy and Governors as regards the necessity for their personal interest in agricultural matters. No one will doubt the value of the driving force of a Viceroy like Lord Curzon in the removal of abuses connected with famine or irrigation administration; or of the knowledge and interest of an agriculturist like Lord Irwin. In the Provinces, however, the responsibility for efficient administration must rest on the Minister of the Department; and ultimate success is only possible with the co-operation of the legislatures and of the electors.

The Report will disappoint some. It may even conceivably displease others. But as a clear pronouncement of the problems to be met, and the objects to be aimed at, it deserves the highest commendation

NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST ASSOCIATION.

Sir Leslie Scott, K.C., M.P., who is assisting the Standing Committee of the Chamber of Princes in the preparation of its case for presentation to the Indian States Committee, delivered an interesting address to the members of the Near and Middle East Association on July 19 on "The Problem of the Two Indias." In the unavoidable absence of Captain E. N. Bennett, the Chairman of the Committee of the Association, the chair was taken by Dr. E. H. Griffin, D.S.O., M.C. Mr. L. F. Rushbrook Williams and Sir Thomas Strangman also spoke.

The meeting was followed by a reception for the

members held by Mrs. Beauchamp Tufnell, who kindly lent 14, Queensberry Place for the occasion. Among those present were:—

Lady Talbot de Malahide, Lady Florence Beresford-Ash, the Dowager Lady Boyle, Hon. Blanche Butler, Sir Thomas Strangman, Sir William Clark, Sir Willoughby and Lady Dickinson, Sir Frederick and Lady Graham, Sir Harry Eyres, Lady Hewitt, Lady Tighe, Herr Karl Zeileissen, Dr. and Madame Lessinoff, Dr. Feine, Rear Admiral Taylor, Mrs. E. N. Bennett, Mrs. H. C. Luke, Mr. Roland Michell, Mrs. St. John Philby, Colonel Etherton, Colonel W. B. Lane, Mrs. Halford Hewitt, Mr. Rushbrook Williams, Mrs. William Paget, Mr. Graham Scott, and Mrs. de Bunsen.

OBITUARY.

SIR FRANK SLY.

Sir Frank George Sly, the outstanding features of whose long and distinguished career in the Indian Civil Service are reviewed by Sir Valentine Chirol on another page, was sixty-two years of age and educated at Balliol College, Oxford. He entered the Indian Civil Service at the age of 19 and ten years later was appointed a Under-Secretary to the Government of India. After serving successively as Inspector-General of Agriculture and Commissioner of Berar, he was placed on special duty in 1912-14 as a member of the Royal Commission on the Indian Services and subsequently presided over the Public Works Department Reorganisation Committee.

Created K.C.S.I. in 1918, he played an active and important part in the preparatory work incidental to, and the introduction of, the Montagu-Chelmsford reformed constitution, serving on, among other committees; the Franchise Committee, presided over by Lord Southborough. Afterwards he was in turn Chief Commissioner and Governor of the Central Provinces, being appointed to the latter post in 1921.

SIR HENRY PROCTER.

Although he had been in failing health for several years past the death of Sir Henry Procter, at the age of 62, came as a shock to a wide circle of friends both in India and in this country. After a long and active career in India, where he occupied a prominent position in the business and social life of Bombay, Sir Henry, after his return to this country, continued to render notable service to many philanthropic organizations, particularly the Young Men's Christian Association. During the thirteen years he was at the head of the Bombay organization no less than three new buildings were erected—one for Young Indian business men; another a large students' hostel; and the third, known to-day as the Procter Building, was for Anglo-Indian apprentices in whose welfare he was particularly interested. On his transfer to the London office of his firm—Nixon Forrest and Company—in 1914 Sir Henry applied himself with the same energy to the War-time activities of the same organization and ultimately became honorary treasurer of the English National Council of Y.M.C.A.s, and of the War Emergency Fund. In 1922 he succeeded Lord Kinnaird in the presidency. In this work, as in all he did for the Y.M.C.A. in India Sir Henry enjoyed the active assistance of Lady Procter, who became Chairman of the War-work department of the Y.M.C.A. and was responsible for the Blue Triangle hostels, clubs, etc., for women workers in England and France.

Under his direction the activities of his firm in India—Killick Nixon and Company—were widely extended, notably in the direction of industrial development, especially feeder line railways. He was twice Chairman of the Bombay Chamber of Commerce, and served as its representative on the Bombay Legislative Council. He also did good work as a member of the Bombay Port Trust.

The Rev. C. J. G. Saunders, who has been appointed Bishop of Lucknow, was ordained in 1911, and went direct to the Cawnpore mission, where he remained till 1917. Subsequently he held chaplaincies at Rookie, Cawnpore, and Chakrata. From 1921-1925 he was staff chaplain at the Army headquarters at Simla, and since then he has been chaplain to the Metropolitan of India.

Commercial and Financial Section.

NOTES AND NEWS

170, Strand, London, W.C.2,
Tuesday Morning.

Roumania's Loan.

In spite of the urgency which could be pleaded for a large foreign loan, the Roumanian Government has had perforce to be content with a postponement—which was indicated in these columns at the beginning of June as being inevitable—until the autumn. M. Bratianu, however, has known how to turn his disappointment to some political advantage. By securing the promise of an advance on the first instalment he is able to impress upon the Roumanian people that their country has been financially rehabilitated in the eyes of the Western Powers. No time is, therefore, to be lost in bringing this fact home to the electorate. A special session of Parliament is to be summoned for July 26, in order that it may have submitted to it the necessary measures authorising the Government to contract the loan and to make the arrangements required for obtaining a preliminary advance, which, it may be expected, will be devoted to the financing of the harvest. The total amount of the loan, it is announced, is to be £50,000,000, with a first instalment of £16,000,000, against which an advance will be made at once of £4,000,000. There has never been any question that the resources of Roumania justify such a loan; the difficulty has been the financial policy adopted by M. Vintila Bratianu, the present Prime Minister, in the past, which had the effect of alienating foreign capital and damaging Roumania's reputation in the world's financial markets. That policy has now, happily, been abandoned.

Drought in Anatolia.

It is very evident from the Turkish Press that the drought in Central Anatolia is, in spite of official assurances, causing the Turkish Government some anxiety and the people concerned considerable distress. Reports have been received of villages' being deserted, with the result that the authorities will have more refugees on their hands, in addition to those from Greece, for whom comparatively little has been done. Apart from the personal equation, the trouble raises the whole question of public works, for the problem of Central Anatolia turns on irrigation, and behind this lies the capacity of the Turkish Government to meet one of the most pressing needs of the country. Public works on the scale required entail heavy expenditure. The Government does not possess the necessary funds, and so far it has failed to obtain them. Consequently urgent irrigation works in which the welfare of the country is involved have been neglected, because the policy of the Government in other directions has prevented it from securing the capital which could have been forthcoming, if Angora had adopted a different attitude towards foreign capital and towards its own indebtedness to foreign countries. It is gradually waking up to the error of its ways, but before the new policy can have effect the country has been overtaken by this minor disaster.

"Water is Best."

A tour of inspection carried out by the Turkish Minister of the Interior, Shukri Kaya Bey, has established the fact that the vilayets most affected by drought from which Central Anatolia is suffering are those of Konia, Ak Serai, Yozgad, Kirshehir, Eskişehir and Afium Karahissar, where over a hundred villages are involved.

In the early efforts made to minimise the extent of the trouble the cause was attributed to the backwardness of the peasants, who were alleged to choose high ground for their crops instead of lower ground where water might be obtained from rivers, lakes or wells. Further, the peasants were urged to vary their crops, and instead of the universal wheat, barley, and maize to try—potatoes. Further reflexion, however, has shown that, if the repopulation of Turkey is to be achieved, irrigation is not a matter that can be left to the initiative of the individual peasant. With three successive leading articles in one newspaper devoted to the subject of irrigation in Anatolia it is evident that the authorities are seriously exercised by the existing state of affairs. Much wisdom and practical common sense were shown by those peasants who at the formal opening of the Angora-Caesarea Railway met the Prime Minister at a wayside station to thank the Government for giving them such a fine railway, but, producing samples of their crops, said that they wished it had been water instead.

Tariff Problems in Palestine.

In a country as small as Palestine interests which elsewhere might assume considerable proportions may be represented by a single firm. A case in point is provided by the challenge thrown down to the Government's tariff policy as it concerns the trade in chocolates and sweets. Hitherto there have been two firms involved in Palestine, but they are now contemplating amalgamation and are availing themselves of their united strength to bring pressure to bear on the Government to meet their demands. One of the firms has already resolved to transfer its plant to Syria, where the import duty on sugar and other raw materials of sweets amounts to half what it is in Palestine, and a threat of the removal of the joint business is evidently implied. Briefly the contention of the firms is that, with the duties imposed on raw materials, they cannot compete with imported sweets. The whole question is under the consideration of the Palestine Government, and there is no reason to suppose that a decision entirely just in all the complicated circumstances will not be taken. It is, perhaps, unfortunate that any change in the tariff stands to benefit a single firm only, as it can hardly be introduced without raising the price of sweets to the consuming public. On the other hand, the economic situation in Palestine is not calculated to encourage the Government to forgo the revenue derived from the duty on imported sugar.

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Sudan Trade Improving.

My remarks last week about the tendency for conditions in the Sudan to improve find ample corroboration in the latest trade returns for that region—those for the first four months of this year. With one exception—Government imports, which show a decline of £E45,740 as compared with the corresponding period of 1927—all the items in the list show increases, in every case but one of a substantial character. Thus public imports at £E1,366,384 have risen by £E152,432, exports at £E2,987,136 are up by £E237,320, while transit trade at £E99,759 and re-exports at £E68,392 show respective increases of £E39,445 and £E2,736. Finally, the total volume of trade at £E5,184,271 shows an increase of £E386,193: a satisfactory result in any case for only four months, but particularly so when the poor returns for the first two months are borne in mind. The most notable feature of the returns is the increase in the public imports, an increase which is spread over a larger number of commodities and points to the improvement in the material condition of the inhabitants. As might be expected, cotton piece-goods show the largest rise, and other important increases took place in metals and metalware, motor cars, cycles and accessories, and machinery. It is necessary once again to repeat the warning that unduly rapid developments must not be looked for in the Sudan, but it must be emphasised that the progress which is now taking place in the country, of which the figures I have quoted are an obvious indication, makes it quite clear that the Sudan in the future, although with its inevitable restrictions, is going to offer an increasingly important market and one which will merit close attention on the part of British traders.

British Market and Palestine Products.

The interesting news is forthcoming that a company is shortly to be formed for the development of the sale of Palestine products in Great Britain. Among the commodities for which it is hoped to find an extensive opening are soap and olive oil. The company which is manufacturing these goods at Haifa is exporting large quantities to the neighbouring markets, notably Syria. Now it is desired to enter the European markets. It is also anticipated that a large market can be developed for what may be termed the artistic products of Palestine—such commodities as pottery, embroidery, and needlework. A varied range of exhibits of these things was shown at the British Empire Exhibition at Wembley, and occasioned much interest on account of the delicacy of the designs. The present development is, of course, the logical sequel to Palestine's participation in the Exhibition. It is a truism that nothing can be accomplished to-day without intensive publicity, and this applies particularly to the development of markets, for the memory of the public is short.

Palestine Harvest Prospects.

It is very satisfactory to learn that there is no foundation for the report that this year's crops in Palestine have been a failure. Taken as a whole, I understand that the crops are quite promising, except in certain parts of the Jordan Valley, where they are rather bad. The position with regard to Palestine's staple crop—the Jaffa orange—is most encouraging, and there is justification for

anticipating that the yield will show an appreciable advance on that of the past year. It has to be remembered, of course, that the extension of the area under orange trees is going on steadily, for there is a very natural concentration on the product which has been for so long the bulwark of the country's export trade. The importance to Palestine at the present juncture of a good harvest is so obvious that it is almost unnecessary to emphasise it. A failure of the crops would have meant an accentuation of the economic depression from which the country has been suffering, and would give a renewed impetus to the movement to leave the country. Happily the harvest outlook puts these unpleasant possibilities out of court.

Suez Canal Traffic.

The results recorded by the Suez Canal Company for the first six months of this year are distinctly encouraging. The number of vessels transiting the Canal was 3,230, as compared with 2,903 for the corresponding period of 1927 and 2,639 for the first half of 1926. The traffic receipts for the period amounted to 117,020,000 francs, as against 108,640,000 francs for the same period last year. These figures give encouragement to the view that world trade continues slowly but steadily to improve, though the results of the improvement may not yet be very evident in this country.

COMMENTATOR.

THE ECONOMIC BOARD FOR PALESTINE.

The sixth ordinary general meeting of the Economic Board for Palestine was held on July 17 at St. Helens Court, Great St. Helens, E.C. In the absence of Lord Melchett the Chair was taken by Sir Robert Waley Cohen. Sir Herbert B. Cohen, Colonel S. L. Mandleberg, Mr. O. E. d'Avigdor Goldsmid, Mr. Sigmund Samuel and Mr. W. S. Cohen were also present.

The Chairman said: "You see from the report, and it is confirmed by everyone who comes from Palestine, that although the position there has been very difficult in many respects during the past year, still there has been steady progress in many directions and there are some encouraging features.

I prefer to dwell on these rather than on the difficulties, because I think Palestine has perhaps suffered too much in the past from having its temperature taken too frequently, which is not good either for the patient or her friends. There has been a period of high fever and it was followed in the course of nature by a sub-normal period, but now I think we are slowly getting back to normality, which will be completed by the tonic effects of the new port at Haifa and the completion of Mr. Rutenberg's Hydro-Electric Works.

The Export Trade.

The port will reduce the cost of living and greatly facilitate exports, and I have always believed that in Syria and the adjoining countries Palestine can find a market for her surplus production. I think it is a most encouraging sign that in 1927 the exports increased by nearly £600,000 and included substantial quantities of refined olive oil, cement, and stockings, in all of which the figures for the preceding year were negligible. When you realise

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that these exports are the products of factories which have only been in production for a very short time, and that what they export is only their surplus production after the Palestine market has been satisfied, I think it is very encouraging and a justification for the policy of industrial development which the Economic Board has been urging on the Palestine Government for so many years.

Customs Tariff.

I am very glad to say that this policy has now been officially accepted; the revised tariff which was promulgated in November is a great improvement on its predecessors, and a Tariff Board has been created which will make it easier for those engaged in industries to bring their requirements before the Government.

The reduction in the cost of power which will follow on the completion of the Jordan Works will be another great help to industry, which should lower the costs of the existing industries and encourage further development.

We are still unable to persuade the City that Palestine is a profitable field for investment, and until we do we shall be short of capital on the scale on which we require it. In the meantime we are pegging away in our own comparatively small way and seeking to build up successful enterprises and so creating that confidence in the country which is at present unfortunately lacking in the investing public.

Palestine Corporation.

The Palestine Corporation has had a better year, and is now entering with something on the credit side on the path which will lead, I hope, eventually to dividends.

The companies we are interested in, the Cement Company and the Salt Company, are making satisfactory progress. Apart from these, the Corporation has now a sum of £50,000 out on loan account, which includes a substantial sum lent to orange growers for the development of new groves.

Orange growing is the latest way of making a fortune in Palestine, and some people are afraid it is being overdone. Personally, I am not afraid of this. I am sure the English market can absorb double or treble the present production of the Jaffa orange, if only the growers would take care that it comes in good condition, properly packed and graded.

Central Bank of Co-operative Institutions.

You have been supplied with a very voluminous report on the work of the Central Bank of Co-operative Institutions in Palestine, Ltd., which is controlled by the Palestine Corporation of America, the Jewish Colonisation Association, and the Economic Board jointly. I am afraid I have not been able to read it all. Mr. Goldsmid, whom I am going to call upon to second the adoption of the report, is the Chairman and will be able to tell you all about it and explain why its hitherto excellent record as regards bad debts has been temporarily tarnished.

In one respect, anyhow, I think this institution sets us all a good example. We have here three Palestine organisations working together in the closest co-operation and I believe in perfect harmony. That is a rather unusual thing in Palestine and I think the principle of co-operation might with great advantage be more generally applied in Palestine undertakings, and that it would lead to greater efficiency and economy. Palestine is too small and too poor a country to support a number of different organisations all doing much the same work, but each with its own office and staff. There must be much duplication of effort and unnecessary expense. I cannot help feeling that in a great many directions it must be possible to unify the activities of the various organisations which are working in Palestine, and as far as the Economic Board is concerned I am sure that we should welcome action to secure this.

Palestine Products Company.

For this reason we were very glad that the company which is being created in London for the purpose of pro-

moting the sale of Palestine products, invited our co-operation. On behalf of the Economic Board I should like to assure the promoters that we cordially sympathise with their objects—it fits in admirably with the work of the Board—and that we can assure them a hearty welcome as members or associate members.

A resolution is being submitted to an extraordinary meeting, to be held at the termination of this meeting, for the necessary alteration of the Articles, so as to admit associate members paying a minimum annual subscription of £1 and entitled to one vote for every £1 paid. We hope for a large addition to our membership and a more extended interest in our activities."

The Chairman concluded by paying a tribute to the work of the Honorary Secretary, Mr. W. S. Cohen, and said that, if the Economic Board had done nothing else except secure his work for Palestine, it would have justified its existence.

Mr. O. E. d'Avigdor Goldsmid, speaking of the Central Bank of Co-operative Institutions in Palestine, Ltd., said that the report of the Bank showed the great amount of valuable work done. The amount outstanding from Co-operative Societies in Palestine was £140,000. It was £20,000 more than last year and nearly £60,000 larger than two years ago. At the same time their clients had increased in number, and sixty Co-operative Societies were taking advantage of the facilities offered by the Central Bank.

The report and accounts were unanimously adopted.

Sir Herbert Cohen, Bart., O.B.E., and Lt.-Col. H. J. Solomon, O.B.E., M.C., who retired under Article 40 of the Articles of Association, were re-elected members of the Executive Committee.

Mr. G. S. Engle was re-elected auditor.

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE ECONOMIC BOARD FOR PALESTINE

For the Year ended December 31, 1927.

The Executive Committee submit their report and the audited accounts for the year ended December 31, 1927, and also a report of their representative in Palestine, Mr. A. Goldwater, the General Manager of the Palestine Corporation.

The year 1927 has been a period of adjustment in Palestine in reaction from the somewhat feverish activity of 1925. Credit and capital from abroad for development work have been restricted, emigration, principally of persons who have arrived in the country since 1920, exceeded immigration by over 3,000, and unemployment, chiefly in Tel-Aviv and to a lesser extent in Haifa, reached serious proportions at the beginning of the year, and there were some bankruptcies, for the most part of minor importance, among merchants.

The earthquake in July caused considerable damage, principally in Nablus, Ramleh, and Ludd, where over 500 houses were destroyed. With the aid of contributions from the Government and subscriptions in Palestine and from abroad, including £100 from the Board, the damage has been promptly repaired, and conditions in Nablus, where the damage was greatest, are now almost normal.

Notwithstanding these adverse factors there has been solid and steady progress. Agriculture has been flourishing and abundant crops, more particularly summer crops, were obtained throughout the country. The only exception was barley, which suffered from the drought.

Orange Growing.

Orange growing had another successful year, the fourth in succession since 1924, exports having amounted to over 2,600,000 boxes of a value of £814,000, an increase of 40 per cent. over each of the three preceding years. The average price realised was slightly lower than for 1926, but this was more than compensated by the high yield, and growers once again made large profits. There was a further considerable extension of orange groves. About 7,000 dunams were planted during the year, bringing the total area of groves producing and in development up to about 50,000 dunams, compared with 32,000 dunams in 1924. The Empire Marketing Board has taken an active interest this season in the orange trade of Palestine in view of its increasing importance and the demand in England for the Jaffa orange. A beginning has been made with a system of fruit control at the ports of export, and the fruit is also being inspected by specially appointed botanists at Liverpool, Manchester, and the other ports of arrival.

The Government has been giving increasing attention to afforestation, and over 38,400 dunams were afforested during the year with 787,000 trees, including 13,350 fruit trees; the Government Forest Reserves at the end of the year had an area of over 640,000 dunams. It is reported that nearly 2,000,000 fruit trees and 172,000 other trees were planted by the public during the year.

The industrial undertakings which have been started during the past few years are now overcoming their initial difficulties and

selling their output in Palestine and Syria. It is estimated that 513 undertakings with an invested capital of £1,500,000 and employing 4,700 workers have been established since 1920, and the export returns show substantial increases in the exports of a number of manufactured goods.

A revised import tariff was introduced on November 4, 1927. The new tariff was designed to change Customs dues, wherever possible, from an *ad valorem* to a specific basis and to give further protection to local industries. Although the protection given is not in all cases adequate, the new tariff has already had a most beneficial effect on several industries, and if maintained for a sufficient period should make it easier to obtain capital for industrial development in Palestine.

Increased Exports.

The increase in exports under the three main heads were as follows:—

	Increase over 1926.
Oranges	£232,658
Agricultural Products	£178,000
Manufactured Goods	£160,000

the most notable increase in the last category of exports being £58,000 refined olive oil, £58,000 laundry soap, £17,700 cement, and £10,000 stockings.

"The soap, flour, and (recently established) cement industries show steady development and are increasing their export trade. The value of edible oils exported rose from £9,470 in 1926 to £75,673 in 1927. The tobacco industry is flourishing and one factory alone, which started business a few years ago with several thousands of pounds, has now raised its capital to £150,000. Several of the smaller industries established at Tel-Aviv are increasing their output and local sales, and are also finding export markets."

The tourist trade, which has always been of great importance to Palestine, shows continued expansion. In 1926 the number of visitors was 52,000, as compared with 20,000 in 1922. In 1927 the figures were 59,500. There can be little doubt that, with the better hotel accommodation which is likely to become available in the near future, the tourist industry will develop still further.

The revenue for 1926-27 was £E2,390,081, almost £E350,000 less than for 1925-26, and the expenditure was slightly over £E2,000,000, approximately the same as for 1925-26. The Public Debt now amounts to approximately £7,750,000, consisting of:—(1) Ottoman Public Debt, £3,284,429; (2) Palestine Loan, £4,475,000. This loan was issued in November for the repayment of advances and for the construction of a port at Haifa, which it is expected will be begun in the autumn.

The construction of the Hydro-Electric Power Plant on the Jordan is now proceeding and it is hoped that the first units, having a capacity of 24,000 h.p., will be completed within the next eighteen months. Sixty million k.w.h. per annum of electrical energy will then be available, and it is expected that there will be a considerable reduction in the price now charged for current at Jaffa, Haifa, and Tiberias. A considerable amount of water will also be available from the River Ajaja for irrigation purposes.

The report and accounts of the Palestine Corporation for the year are forwarded herewith and show that the income from all sources was £6,887, £3,067 higher than for 1926, and the surplus of income over expenditure carried to the balance-sheet was £3,860. After deducting from this amount the whole of the debit balance of £2,553 carried forward from preceding years, there was a net profit of £1,306. The 96,490 unissued ordinary shares have now been allotted.

The total amount issued in loans during the year was £E132,636, as compared with £E130,112 during the preceding year. In order to increase the amount permanently available to the bank for its

* Report on Palestine and Trans-Jordan for the year 1927 (Colonial No. 31).

work, which shows a tendency to increase, an agreement was made with the holders of the loan capital, under which this capital is converted into shares carrying a fixed preferential non-cumulative dividend of 3 per cent.

Largely owing to unfortunate transactions with two societies the delinquencies during 1927 amounted to over 3 per cent. of the outstanding bills, as compared with less than $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. in the preceding year, and a sum of £E3,527 has had to be written off in respect of bad debts, reducing the net profit to £E35, as compared with £E332 in 1926. Full details of the operations of the bank will be found in the general manager's report.

As requested at the last general meeting, the Executive Committee have considered the question of reducing the annual subscription with a view to increasing the membership of the Board. While we are satisfied that there are a number of persons who would be glad to be associated with our work if an annual subscription is fixed which is within their means, the financial position does not justify any recommendations which might result in a reduction of income. We accordingly suggest:—(1) That the existing annual subscription of £20 for ordinary members should be retained, but that the entrance fee of £30 should be abolished. (2) That a class of associate members should be created paying a minimum annual subscription of £1 on the terms of the resolution of which notice has been given.

Sale of Palestine Products in England.

A meeting was held at the offices of the Board on May 14 for the purpose of promoting a scheme for furthering the sale of Palestine products in England by the formation of a company with this object. A committee was appointed to prepare a scheme of co-operation with the Economic Board, and the proposal with regard to associate members has been approved by them.

Sir H. B. Cohen, Bt., O.B.E., and Lt.-Colonel H. J. Solomon, O.B.E., M.C., retire under Article 40, and, being eligible, offer themselves for re-election.

The thanks of the Board are again due to Mr. G. S. Engle, the Honorary Auditor, for kindly auditing the accounts.

MELCHETT, Chairman.

W. S. COHEN, Hon. Secretary.

FORTHCOMING SAILINGS.

The following are the sailings for the Near East and India, the ports of departure and closing dates for cargo being given in parentheses:—

Anchor Line.—S.s. Elysia for Bombay (Birkenhead, August 7). (For passenger sailings and dates see advertisement.)

Anchor Brocklebank Line.—S.s. Malancha for Calcutta (Birkenhead, August 2); s.s. Mahrona for Calcutta (Birkenhead, August 16).

Bibby Line.—S.s. Herefordshire for Port Said, Port Sudan, Colombo, and Rangoon (Birkenhead, August 8).

British India Line.—S.s. Morvada for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, July 28); s.s. Hatimura for Bombay and Karachi (London, August 11); s.s. Masula for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, August 11).

Cunard Line.—S.s. Bothnia for Gibraltar, Genoa, Leghorn, Naples, Palermo, Messina, Catania, Corfu, Bari, Venice, Trieste, and Fiume (Liverpool August 18, and Swansea August 21); s.s. Bosnia for Malta, Patras, Piræus, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, and Constantza (Liverpool, Glasgow and Swansea, August 25).

Johnston Line.—S.s. Aviemore for Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, August 4); s.s. Dromore for Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, September 1).

P. and O. Line.—S.s. Mantua for Bombay (London, August 3); s.s. Ranpara for Bombay (London, August 17).

Prince Line.—S.s. Syrian Prince for Tunis, Malta, Alexandria, Jaffa, Haifa, Beyrout, Tripoli, Alexandretta, Mersina, and Cyprus (London, August 1); s.s. Lancastrian Prince for Tunis, Malta, Alexandria, Jaffa, Haifa, Beyrout, and Cyprus (Manchester, August 4); s.s. Egyptian Prince for Tunis, Malta, Alexandria, Jaffa, Haifa, Beyrout, and Cyprus (Manchester, August 18).

Ellerman and Papayanni Lines.—S.s. Fabian for Malta, Alexandria, Jaffa*, and Haifa* (Liverpool, July 28); s.s. Polo for Algiers*, Patras, Smyrna, and Constantinople (Liverpool, August 4); s.s. Andalusian for Gibraltar, Malta, Alexandria, Jaffa*, and Haifa* (Liverpool, August 4); s.s. Manchurian for Genoa, Leghorn, Naples, Palermo, Messina, Catania, Bari, Gruz*, Ancona*, Venice, Trieste, and Fiume (Liverpool August 4, Swansea August 6); s.s. Mardinian for Oran*, Algiers*, Malta, Piræus, Volo*, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, and Constantza (Liverpool August 18, Swansea August 18). * Subject to sufficient inducement. Cargo taken on through Bill of Lading to:—Algerian ports via Algiers; Moroccan ports via Gibraltar; Tripoli (Barbary) via Malta; Syria and Cyprus via Alexandria; Greek outports via Piræus or other convenient port.

The Constantinople Municipal Council has decided to rename Taxim Square in that city and to call it "Monument of the Republic Square". *Sic transit brevitas.*

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THE WEEK'S FINANCE.

(By Our Financial Expert.)

London, July 24.

There has been no appreciable change in the Stock Market position during the past week beyond a small hardening in the tendency of gilt edged and other high class investment stocks, the former being favourably affected by Thursday's very strong Bank Return, which showed a stock of gold of £176 millions and a proportion of reserve to liabilities of 48.4 per cent. Since the beginning of this year an addition of no less than £25 millions has been made to the Reserve, and the Bank is now in so strong a position that the rise in the New York Federal Reserve Banks rate to 5 per cent. is not likely to be followed by a similar move here, and the approaching pressure on the exchanges in connexion with the financing of the wheat and cotton crops can be faced with equanimity.

In other directions in the Stock Markets there have been no outstanding features, and there are signs that the approaching holiday season will more nearly assume its customary quietude than was the case either in 1927 or 1926.

Industrial Company Profits.

An analysis made by the *Economist* of the profit and loss accounts of 1,700 joint-stock industrial companies, whose reports have been published during the past twelve months, shows aggregate net profits, after payment of debenture interest, etc., of over £173 millions, an increase of £9½ millions, or 5.8 per cent. over the total profits earned by the same companies in their preceding financial year. Of the twenty groups into which these 1,700 companies are classified only four show decreases in net profits, the most conspicuous decline being recorded by 361 rubber companies, whose profits fell by 42.4 per cent. Prominent increases were registered by the iron, coal and steel, textile, shipping, nitrate, electricity and gas sections. Of the total net profits 60.4 per cent. was distributed to ordinary shareholders, 18.9 per cent. to preference shareholders, and 20.7 per cent. was reserved either in the form of specific allocations or by additions to balances carried forward. The ratio of net profits to total ordinary and preference capital worked out at 10.8 per cent.—the same as at this time last year.

The average rate paid on preference capital was 5.5 per cent. and on ordinary capital 10.5 per cent., the latter comparing with 11 per cent. a year ago. The most prominent decline in average ordinary dividend rates was shown by the rubber group, namely from 23.8 to 11.2 per cent. The average for the oil companies fell from 19.5 to 15.8 per cent. and for the tea group from 31.8 to 28.4 per cent.

Averaging or Exchanging?

The customary feeling of summer lassitude is creeping over markets, and business in most sections of the Stock Exchange is falling off to a substantial extent. The downward trend of quotations will probably become more pronounced—especially in the speculative markets—during the next few weeks. Many investors will accordingly be considering the question of averaging. In certain cases such an operation would undoubtedly prove profitable, but it would involve considerable risk and could only be successfully undertaken by those in a position accurately to gauge the intrinsic value of the shares concerned. Few investors have the facilities—or the time—necessary to form a reliable opinion of the real worth of a security.

The man-in-the-street, therefore, should ponder awhile before buying more of the securities he already holds. But there is no reason why he should let slip the opportunity of acquiring sound shares at what coal merchants would describe as “lowest summer prices.” There is another course open to him. Instead of averaging he should, at the present time, think over the desirability of exchanging into other issues. If he is in the fortunate position of already owning shares showing a profit, he might do very well to dispose of them and put the proceeds into other securities which are to-day quoted at prices appreciably below those ruling a few months ago.

Tea and Tea Shares.

Towards the end of the last year much prominence was given to the possibility of a “boom” in tea shares. This was due to advices from India to the effect that unfavourable climatic conditions had so adversely affected the tea crop that the out-turn for the year would prove to be materially smaller than for the previous season. In September, sales in Mincing Lane were averaging as much as 1s. 11½d. per lb. compared with 1s. 8½d. a few months earlier. The last two months of 1927, however, were so favourable to tea cultivation that the shortage output was largely made up, and the final figure was only 3,030,000 lb. below the previous season. Experts had previously estimated a total deficiency of at least 10,000,000 lb. on the year.

The result was seen in lower tea prices, the final old crop sales in Mincing Lane last week being made at about 11d. per lb. for common tea, compared with 1s. 6d. per lb. for similar grades seven or eight months ago. It is, therefore, easy to understand why the predicted “boom” has not materialised. At the same time, the season, while not phenomenally prosperous, was quite a good one: it was, at any rate, better than its predecessor. Throughout the sales the trade has shown readiness to pay full prices for good quality teas—especially for Ceylon flavours. While, therefore, the Tea Share market is not likely to provide any fireworks in the early future, it should maintain its recent steady tone, and investors desirous of acquiring high-yielding shares for “mixing” purposes should not overlook the attractions of Jhanzie's, Pabbojan's, Singlo's and Empire of India's, all of which yield between 8 and 10 per cent. on the money invested.

A contract has been obtained by the Vulcan Foundry, Ltd., Newton-le-Willows, for twenty-one passenger locomotives for the Indian State Railways.

The “Sentinel” Wagon Works, Ltd., Shrewsbury, have obtained a contract for two 14-ton “Sentinel” locomotives for a 2 ft. 6 in. gauge railway in course of construction for the Baria State (India).

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DELAGOA BAY—John T. Rennie & Sons.
DURBAN—Andrew Weir & Co.
EAST LONDON—Messrs. Dunn & Co.
PT. ELIZABETH—Mackie, Dunn & Co.

MOSSEL BAY—Messrs. E. Searle & Co.
CAPE TOWN—Thomson, Watson & Co.
HONG KONG—The Bank Line, Ltd.
BANGKOK—Siam Forest Co., Ltd.
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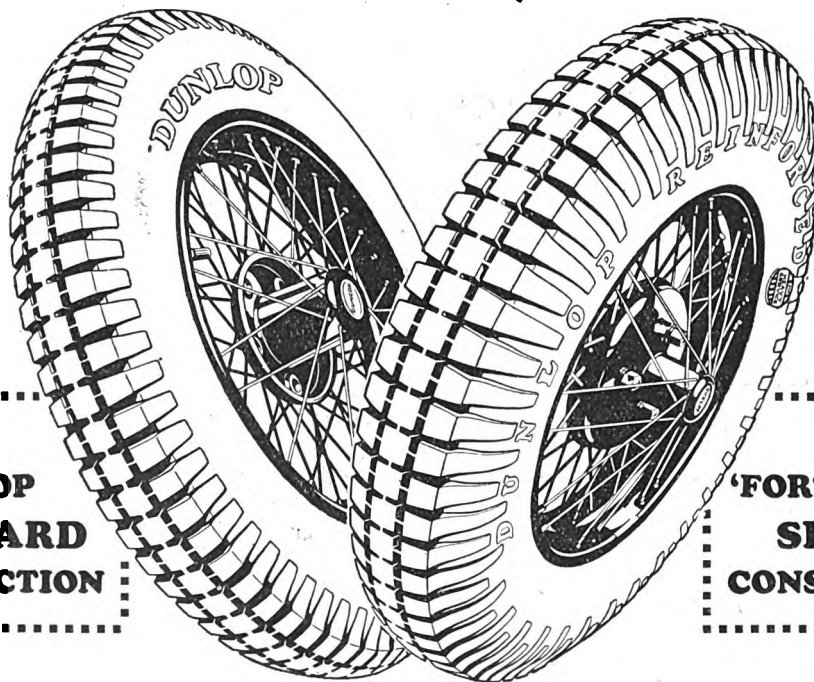


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C.F.H. 339

Motors and Motoring.

• By G. B. B.

Since the point was first raised in the columns of THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA as to the unnecessary sounding of the horn by motorists several other papers have taken up the matter, and there is now a chorus of condemnation for the senseless and irritating "honk," which so many car drivers seem to love. As a matter of fact, a horn is rarely necessary. Many drivers never use it except when absolutely unavoidable, and a considerate and careful driver could drive through traffic hour after hour without making any warning sound and yet would be driving in a perfectly careful manner. On the other hand, some drivers hardly ever have their fingers off the button, cannot sight, draw near, or pass another car without making an unearthly and altogether unnecessary noise. What is a motor horn for? Certainly not to use every moment one is driving. Said an experienced driver to me, the other day, when talking over this matter: "Honestly, I do not know why a motor horn has to be fitted to a car. It is no use to anyone in any way. When I am driving, I expect other cars to pass me at times, and, if they are going to do so, I do not want them to honk at me. I am not going to start suddenly to veer across the road. I do not blow my horn at the driver ahead of me, because I assume he is not an idiot either and so will not start zig-zagging as soon as I draw near. I do not sound my horn when nearing a cross road, because I know that, if there is an idiot there waiting to barge out, he will do it whether I hoot or not. So I slacken down, instead. If I am on the side road I do not start blowing my horn like a fog-bound liner the moment I approach a main road. I go dead slow instead and turn well on my own side, with foot on brake ready for an emergency. No, the use of the horn generally betokens the novice, and its excessive use shows a lack of confidence and a state of blue funk. In other words, I regard the man who is always sounding his hooter as a nervous and inexperienced person, who is, probably in view of the condition of his nerves, driving to the public danger." The driver who said that is himself no novice, but was one of the most dare-devil drivers in the old T.T. races. He is constantly on the road, has never had an accident of any kind and I do not suppose he sounds his hooter half a dozen times a year. Smith, the greengrocer, out with his family on Sunday, never takes his finger off the thing, but sounds a devil's tattoo all the way to Southend! And thinks it necessary because, forsooth, he believes there are a lot of bad drivers on the road. So there are: you can tell by their constant use of the Klaxon or whatever other tooting device they may have on their car. Curiously, it never seems to strike these people that the cars they drive are, in the way they drive them, noisy enough to be heard half a mile away.

Brake Mechanism and Car Design.

A correspondent has been taking British car designers somewhat severely to task, asking why they persist in keeping the brake mechanisms below the axles in such a position that they are liable to be very seriously damaged, if not put out of action, as soon as one leaves the main roads. This criticism sounds incomprehensible, until one realises that the critic is writing from a big overseas town and is referring to cars which our makers fondly imagine are just the thing for the Near and Middle East. The correspondent continues: "Surely some torque mechanism is indicated to enable the brake mechanism to be carried above the axle. From my experience the torque mechanism should embody an open tail shaft. One English car that comes to my mind—doubtless there are others—has a cross shaft for the brakes four inches or more below the running board right in the middle of the car. The writer asks: "What is the use of having nine inches of clearance under the centre of the front axle and then only

leaving the same amount of clearance under the crank case drain cup or filler three or four feet behind the front axle, as is the case on so many British cars. This, of course, is the most vital part of the engine and one which has been stripped clean off more than a dozen cars to my knowledge. If one has nine inches of clearance under the front axle one should have at least twelve inches in the middle of the chassis.

Other pertinent queries raised are as to why more general use is not made by English car designers of the exhaust gasses to heat the induction manifold, to assist starting in cold weather, and why radiator shutters are not standard fittings on English cars? The point about this seems to be that, if the radiator is adequately cooled for a country where temperatures of from 95 to 110 degrees Fahr. in the shade are not uncommon in summer, the same radiator will be over-cooled for winter temperatures of 12 to 15 degrees Fahr.

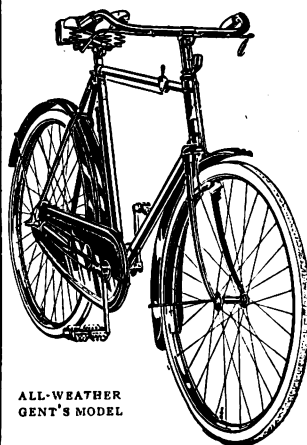
It is suggested also that some system of spring lubrication is necessary, but it must be efficient, preferably using oil, with good oil operated snubbers. It may be pointed out here, that overseas the leaf spring is not regarded with favour and the present form of suspension is not considered to be quite good enough for many road conditions. Another correspondent writes: "The first British manufacturer who will supply a sturdy car, with good clearance and independently sprung wheels, will go far towards securing a good overseas market."

Pneumatic Tyres.

It is exactly forty years ago this week since John Boyd Dunlop applied for the patent for the first pneumatic

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tyre. He had just retired from his veterinary practice in Belfast, the largest one in Ireland, where twelve horse-shoers worked for him. While a boy at school in the village of Dreghorn, Ayrshire, his native place, Dunlop had observed that a large wooden roller was easier to pull than a smaller one, because, as it had a larger area of surface bearing on the ground, the pressure on each unit of area was less. For years he thought on the idea of wheels with flexible rims that would flatten out and so increase the area of contact with the road. It was a complaint from his small son Johnny, then nine years of age, which actually materialised in the first rubber tyres to be filled with air. Johnny had grumbled about the difficulty of riding on thin solid tyres over the uneven setts of Belfast's streets. His father thereupon made two air tubes from sheet rubber one thirty-second of an inch thick; fixed them to a wooden disc with a thin strip of linen and blew them up with a football pump. The tyres were then fitted to a tricycle made by Dunlop from American elm to his own design with specially shaped rims. The whole was completed one night at ten o'clock, and so eager were both father and son to test the new device that the boy went out for a run in the moonlight and returned triumphant at midnight.

When a racing cyclist who was shown the novelty expressed his doubts about it the inventor challenged him to a race on his thin solid tyres against the nine-year-old boy on the home-made tricycle equipped with pneumatics. It was the first of the unending tale of races to be won on Dunlops. Although John Boyd Dunlop revolutionised cycling and made motor cars possible, he himself could not at that time ride a bicycle; indeed there is no record that he ever rode one all his life.

THE SUDAN AND ABYSSINIAN COFFEE.

The improvement of communications by means of motor roads both in Abyssinia across the Sudan border and in the Sudan itself and the consequent cheapening of transport costs gives promise of earlier and larger arrivals of coffee in the Sudan market (says the report of the Central Economic Board of the Sudan Government). In order to encourage this import from Abyssinia it is realised that a market must be found for the surplus when the requirements of the Sudan have been met.

To this end a sample sack of Abyssinian coffee, cleaned locally by hand, was recently forwarded from Khartoum to the Imperial Institute, London, for the purpose of obtaining (among other information) a trade opinion as to its quality and marketable value in comparison with Brazilian coffee.

The reply received from the Imperial Institute was to the effect that the sample, which weighed 56 lb., con-

sisted of ungraded coffee; the beans varying in size from small to fairly large. A few beans were still in the parchment or in berry and a few pea-berries were present. The beans were greyish-cream and opaque and had an average weight of 0.15 grain; a few were shrivelled and discoloured. The sample contained a small quantity of broken husk, but was practically free from earthy matter.

The coffee was submitted for valuation to brokers in London who, after examining and testing the sample, reported that it was slightly below the standard of Abyssinian coffee received in the United Kingdom, but should be worth about 95s. to 97s. per cwt., landed in London, at date of examination (May, 1928). As regards comparison with Brazilian grades, the experts stated that corresponding prices ruling for average quality Superior Santos were 105s. to 107s. per cwt. and for Superior Rio coffee 80s. to 82s. per cwt. The outlet in the United Kingdom for coffee of the type of sample is as a rule comparatively small, except on a very firm market. There is, however, a demand for it in France and other Continental countries and the firms consulted were of opinion that an export of 4,000 tons per annum could be absorbed without difficulty.

They mentioned that such coffee arriving in London usually comes on consignment and that they would be willing to find purchasers, for either the home or Continental market, for any shipments which may be forwarded.

It will thus be seen that coffee of the quality of the sample forwarded should be saleable in London and that the current price would probably be slightly below that ruling for the best Abyssinian, and between that of the Superior Santos and Superior Rio grades from Brazil.

The use of cleaning and sorting machinery would ensure a better product and should be adopted if this coffee is exported on a commercial scale.

Commercial Bookshelf

A PROBLEM OF CYPRUS.

"GOAT GRAZING AND FORESTRY IN CYPRUS." By A. H. Unwin, D.Sc., M.E.F.A., M.C.S.F.E., Principal Forest Officer, Cyprus. (Crosby Lockwood & Son. 7s. 6d. net.)

The damage done by goats to the forests of Cyprus is one of the several important problems confronting the administration of the Island—a problem the more onerous because there is an inadequate appreciation of the damage done to the forests by the continual grazing of goats. In this volume the author has endeavoured to correct the misconception and ignorance of the public on the question. While the greater part of the work deals with conditions in Cyprus, five chapters are devoted to a description of the methods adopted in other countries to overcome conditions similar to those existing in Cyprus. The nature of the Island's problem may be gathered from the fact that at the present time there are some 60,000 animals grazing in the forests, of which more than 35,000 are goats. The author states that at the present time it is estimated that there are about 100,000,000 cubic feet of timber in the trees of the Island's forests, and that the yearly addition is about 4,000,000 cubic feet, at least one quarter of which is being eaten away or otherwise destroyed through grazing. As the author shows, there has been a gradual improvement in the agricultural position in the last forty-six years as a result of decreased goat-grazing, and he indicates plainly the probable effects on the economic position of the Island without grazing in the forests.

The Egyptian State Railways have given contracts to the Birmingham Railway Carriage and Wagon Co., Ltd., for ten bogie passenger underframes, and to Howell and Co., Ltd., Sheffield, for 8,000 steel boiler tubes.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

Country.	Method of Quoting.	Parity of Exchange.	Latest Quotations.
Alexandria.....	Piastre to £	97½	97½
Amsterdam	Florins to £	12.107	12.08½
Athens	Drachmæ to £	25.22½	375
Belgrade.....	Dinars to £	25.22½	276½
Berlin	Marks to £	20.43	20.37
Berne	Francs to £	25.22½	25.24½
Bombay	Sterling to Rupee	18d.	17 57/64—59/64
Brussels	Belga to £	35	34.90
Bucharest	Lei to £	25.22½	795
Budapest	Pen to £	27.82	27.91
Caleutta	Sterling to Rupee	18d.	17 57/64—59/64
Constantinople	Piastres to £	110	945—960
New York	Dollars to £	4.86 2-3	4.86½
Paris	Francs to £	25.22½	124.12½—25
Prague	Kronen to £	24.02	164
Rome	Lire to £	25.22½	92.85
Sofia	Leva to £	25.22½	670—676
Teheran	Krans to £	48	48
Vienna	Sch to £	34.58	34.48
Warsaw	Zloty to £	25.22½	43½

Company Meeting.

EASTERN TELEGRAPH COMPANY.

The Coming Merger Developments.

The annual meeting (the 97th ordinary general meeting) of the Eastern Telegraph Company, Limited, was held at Electra House, Moorgate, London, on July 24. The Chairman, Sir John Denison Pender, G.B.E., K.C.M.G., was in the Chair.

The Chairman said:—The gross revenue for the year under review amounted to £3,306,909, against £3,436,690 in 1926, or a decrease of £129,781. I would, however, point out that the interest and dividends received on our investments are included gross, whereas in the past only the net amount received after deduction of income tax has been included in the revenue. But for this fact the disparity between the two years would, of course, have been greater. The total working expenses for the two years were as follows:—1926, £2,338,729; 1927, £2,358,983, showing an increase in 1927 of £20,254. The year's working resulted in a profit of £947,926, against £1,097,961 in 1926, showing a reduction of £150,035. There is, further, an increase of £31,734 in the charge for income tax payable in England, which is chiefly due to the altered method of dealing with the income from investments to which I have referred, so that the net profit is nearly £182,000 less than for the preceding year, in addition to which £49,000 less was brought forward from the previous year's accounts, so that the net amount available for distribution is about £231,000 less than at December 31, 1926. We have placed £150,000 to the credit of the General Reserve Fund, and, for the ninth year in succession, have paid a dividend on our ordinary stock of 10 per cent., free of income tax, while the amount now carried forward is increased by over £19,000 and amounts to the substantial sum of £525,765.

At the last meeting I mentioned that negotiations had been practically completed for joining up Palestine with our main line system. This has now been carried out *via* Cyprus, thus also strengthening our communications with that island. I am pleased to inform you that the Turkish Concession, to which I also referred, was duly ratified, and direct cable communication with that country was re-established in November last.

Reductions in Rates.

During the year, further reductions were made in rates with South Africa and India, the rates now being 1s. 8d. and 1s. 5d. per word respectively, these being in addition to the reduction in the rates to Australia and New Zealand reported at our last meeting. It should be remembered that approximately 85 per cent. of our traffic is sent in code, which enables the sender actually to obtain very low rates of charge per word, viz., reductions varying from 50 per cent. to 80 per cent. of the full rate tariff, and when it is taken into consideration that, roughly, the distance to Australia is 10,000 miles, and to South Africa and India 6,000 respectively, and that in the case of ordinary rate messages their delivery can be practically ensured all those miles away in a matter of minutes as compared with hours in years gone by, the facts, I think you will agree, speak for themselves. It is also now possible to send cheap rate week-end telegrams under certain conditions, to Australia at 7½d. per word, South Africa at 4d. per word, India at 3½d. per word.

The 97th Milestone.

To-day we reach the ninety-seventh milestone on the road of progress in connexion with this Company, it being our ninety-seventh ordinary general meeting. It was in 1872 that the Eastern Company was incorporated by the amalgamation of four small companies: The Anglo-Mediterranean, The Marseilles-Algiers and Malta, The Falmouth-Gibraltar and Malta, and the British Indian Submarine. This was the origin of our present Company, and the inception of British submarine cable enterprise throughout the Empire. The road has been marked by continued progress and consistent policy, to the advantage of the Empire and of all concerned; difficulties, of course, have been encountered and there have, indeed, also been many periods of anxiety, but the vast web of submarine cables which is now spread over the world, and particularly within the Empire, is due in no small measure to the enterprise and foresight of those connected with the inception of this undertaking, whose wise administration and prudent financial policy has been, and is still being, consistently carried out.

The Chairman concluded his remarks with a reference to the growth of Government competition with the telegraph companies from its beginning in 1902 with the laying of the Pacific cable. Now came the beam systems of wireless, working at lower rates. He repeated his assurance that their Companies would still continue to carry both a much larger volume and value of traffic than the Government Wireless services.

He had hoped to be able to say something definite about the negotiations with the Government, and the merger with the Marconi Company, but as this matter was still in the hands of the Government he could not give any further information beyond the statement appearing in the Press to the effect that at the final meeting of the Imperial and Wireless and Cable Conference, composed of representatives of Great Britain, Canada, the Commonwealth of Australia, New Zealand, the Union of South Africa, the Irish Free State, India, and the Colonies and Protectorates, it was stated that

it was a matter for satisfaction that, in view of the large issues and many interests involved, the Conference had been able to arrive at unanimity in putting forward their recommendations.

MOTOR v. WILD ELEPHANT.

The pioneer motor expedition which set out to investigate the possibilities of a great trunk highway from Cape Town through Central Africa to Cairo are now preparing for a record dash from London back to Cape Town after many curious experiences on the outward journey.

The rhinoceros was the most dangerous of the wild animals they met, and they saw elephants, thousands of monkeys, leopards, and buffaloes. When a wild elephant stood in their path they found that it was wise to reverse their car and pass it backwards, lest it should decide to give chase. Night animals were not enraged by the glare of the headlights; they just slunk off quietly to the side of the road, looking over their shoulders unafraid.

The worst patch of country encountered was eighteen miles of trackless hills beyond Khartoum covered with great, black chunks of ironstone rock. They took six hours to do the eighteen miles in 180 degrees of heat, yet their Dunlop tyres, which were too hot to touch, came through without a puncture. Indeed, they had only two punctures in the tyres, which took them all the way from Cape Town through Africa and on to London.

The effect of the expedition has been to stimulate road building throughout Africa and in two years' time it is expected that there will be a series of all-weather roads from Cape Town right up to Rejaf in the Southern Sudan.

IVORY IN BETTER DEMAND.

Messrs. Hale and Son report that the quarterly ivory sales, held on July 17, comprised 32½ tons (against 33½ tons at the same time last year and 30½ tons in April last), viz.: 10½ tons Zanzibar, Bombay, Mozambique, East African and Siam, 3½ tons Abyssinian, 6 tons Egyptian (Alexandrian description), 7½ tons Congo and West Coast African, ¼ ton Lisbon, and 5½ tons land carriage; also ½ ton mammoth tusks, ¾ cwt. rhinoceros horns, and 3 cwt. sea horse and boar's tusks; total, 33½ tons.

There was a good attendance of buyers and good competition throughout the sales, the demand being much better than anticipated. Prices on the whole were well maintained and the greater part of the new offerings was disposed of; a small proportion was bought in, holders being firm. America and the Continent bought freely, and the home trade about their usual proportion.

Abyssinian.—Rather more of this description was catalogued and partly sold at firm rates. Scrivelloes and ball scrivelloes were steady.

Egyptian.—Soft was firm, occasionally a little dearer. Hard, only a few lots were catalogued, which brought about previous rates. Soft scrivelloes were steady, hard firm, and ball scrivelloes steady.

ROUMANIA'S FRUIT CROP.

The Empire Marketing Board states that according to an official report a good surplus supply of plums will be available for export in Bessarabia. The quantity is estimated at 3,000 tons. Crops of apricots, apples, and pears are normal, but there will be no cherries for export. Roumania exports only a comparatively small proportion of the quantity of fruit produced in the country. In recent years Germany has taken the bulk of the exports.

The Bulgarian Sobranie has approved the Budget for the current year, which balances at 7,480,000,000 leva. Receipts for 1927-28 amounted to 6,643,560,000 leva and in 1926-27 to 6,200,669,000 leva.

The traffic receipts of the Egyptian Delta Light Railways for the ten days ended June 30 amounted to £E6,847, making the total from April 1 £E61,468, as against £E65,890 for the corresponding period of the previous year.

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THE LIVERPOOL COTTON MARKET.

Messrs. Reynolds and Gibson report as follows for the week ended July 18:—

Egyptian Futures.—Sakel Contract.—Some weak sessions have been experienced in this market during the past week and a substantial decline, in spite of some recovery to-day, has to be recorded. For some little time Sakel values have held their ground in face of very moderate trade support and good crop reports, the level being maintained as much as anything by the advancing tendency shown by the American markets. With the latter developing a decidedly easier undertone during the past few days, confidence in the position commenced to be undermined, and liquidation orders in increasing quantities had to be faced, the downward swing further uncovered "stop-loss" orders, little resistance was encountered until yesterday, when support in the shape of fresh speculative buying and short covering at 19d. for November halted the movement. At the time of writing the market is beginning to show a return of confidence and also gives some signs of recovery; a satisfactory feature to-day has been the improved turnover in actual. The Sakel premium over American has closed in to about 800 points, a not unreasonable difference, and one at which more trade support should certainly develop. The Alexandria market has, judging from reports, encountered the same drastic liquidation that we have faced at this side; a noticeable feature throughout the decline there has been the difficulty of getting offers of desirable cottons at prices anyway commensurate with the decline in the contract value. Crop accounts continue to be favourable. For the immediate future fluctuations in our market will probably be largely governed by the action of the American Exchanges; the recent shake out has certainly improved the technical position of the contract, and as we have now worked down to a level from which a speedy recovery is possible should any "bullish" news eventuate, we would advise working conservatively on the "long" side.

Upper Contract.—Values in this market have suffered a sharp relapse during the past week, heavy liquidation and "short" selling coming into the market, the former mainly for local account, the latter generally from Alexandria operators. No doubt a large proportion of the cotton that has come into the market has been under the influence of the recent easier tendency in the American departments; to-day, with the latter beginning to react, we have regained a minor part of the earlier losses. As a result of the week's fluctuations the November-October American straddle at one time closed in to 280 points, but has since widened somewhat. If the markets start to react, our premium over the other contract should commence to re-establish itself as a fairly important "short" interest appears to have been worked up, the covering of which, if attempted at the present juncture, will probably find contracts scarce. Trade support has been moderate throughout the week with more business developing on to-day's reaction. We still prefer to advise moderate commitments on easy markets.

Egyptian Spot.—For the most part business during the past week has been of a most depressing character. Only a very moderate demand from the trade has been experienced, which is hardly surprising in face of the heaviness of the various futures markets. Trade reports from practically all centres have been of a discouraging nature, and with improved weather reports from the U.S.A. becoming a daily feature, and with apparently nothing to worry about in connexion with the Egyptian crop, there is little wonder that spinners have lately come to regard lower prices as inevitable. In fact, throughout the week Lancashire appears to have expected something in the nature of a "landslide." It is interesting to note that the lower level recently attained has attracted a certain amount of inquiry from America and during the last two days a somewhat better tone has been noticeable here. To-day, for the first time, the local inquiry has shown a distinct improvement and spot sales were reported as 500 bales Egyptians and 350 bales Sudan, figures which we have not touched for some time.

Inquiries for Sakel have been concerned in a small way only, with cotton at from 13d. to 14d., 17d. to 18d., and 19d. to 21d. Some demand for Fine Sakel has also been experienced. The local sock contains a very poor selection of the medium grades. Uppers have met with the customary steady offtake at from pass to 30 on contracts, and some slight improvement has been noticed in the demand for the better cotton at about 100 to 150 on. Some further tenders have been made, and the total this month now amounts to 2,550 bales. With any improvement in trade, this cotton should attract attention, as, at its present difference with American, it looks reasonable. Pilon has been in fair request at from 15½d. to 16d., and supplies are scarce. The inquiry for Sudan Sakel has shown some slight improvement amongst the lower grades. Tokar Sakel has been neglected.

C.I.F. business has been very quiet. Forwardings to spinners for the week ending the 13th inst. were returned as 6,321 bales Egyptians and 2,733 bales Sudan. Estimated spot sales for the week, 1,400 bales Egyptian and 900 bales Sudan. Quotations of Sakel show a net decline of 110 points, those of Upper 75 points, and those of Pilon 60 points. F.G.F. Sakel to-day, 19.55d. F.G.F. Upper to-day, 14.10d. F.G.F. Pilon to-day, 14.85d.

THE EGYPTIAN MARKET.

The Alexandria Commercial Company, in their report for the week ended July 12, state:—

The future market since our last report has been active, but the tone, on the whole, has been rather heavy. The week's summary of price movements is as follows:—Sakellaridis: July, 39.25 dollars, 0.90 dollars down; November, 41.11 dollars, 0.64 dollars down; January, 41.20 dollars, 0.72 dollars down; Ashmouni: July, 26.85 dollars, 0.67 dollars down; October, 27.45 dollars, 0.69 dollars down; December, 27.75 dollars, 0.70 dollars down.

Sakellaridis.—At the commencement of the week the market was quite steady, but the publication of the American acreage report and the subsequent decline of prices in New York induced some liquidation here and the selling has been continued ever since, in spite of the partial recovery of American prices. Demand from abroad has been very poor and this is the chief factor responsible for the veering round of opinion; it is realised that only an improvement in the demand can maintain prices, and the further falling off has discouraged those who have been holding for an improvement. The July/November straddle is quoted to-day at 186 points, but it has been over 200 during the week. The Sakel/Ashmouni new crop straddle is 1,366 points about the same as last week.

Rumour is again rife that the Government has decided to sell its cotton. There is apparently a certain amount of truth in this, for the Government brokers have been authorised to show samples and receive bids; whether, however, reasonable offers will be accepted or whether the Government will hold out for a fancy price is a point which has yet to be determined, and we are not very sanguine of the cotton changing hands.

At the second July tender 1,500 kantars dockets were issued, bringing the total for the month to date to 13,750 kantars.

Uppers.—This variety has shared in the general decline and, apart from a little buying by commercial houses, has had no support whatever.

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The Ashmouni/American straddle has narrowed into 521 points against 614 points a week ago and 759 points a couple of months ago; this is the narrowest that the straddle has been for quite a long time and, with a very large short interest in October here, it may widen out against most unexpectedly.

The demand from spinners has been on the poor side; there has been a fair amount of inquiry, but this has been at cheap rates and for grades which are scarce, so that the business concluded has not been proportionate to the inquiry.

General.—The immediate future course of the market is difficult to forecast; New York fluctuations this week have been disregarded and the market has declined, whilst American has advanced. The decline here has been brought about, to a great extent, by local factors, and at the first signs of new crop inquiry on the part of spinners we think that we shall see a sharp reaction, especially in Uppers.

The week's receipts amount to 177 kantars, against 158,608 kantars; the stock in Alexandria stands at 1,838,830 kantars.

The official figures of arrivals and exports for the period September 1, 1927, to July 4, 1928, are as follows:—Arrivals: Sakellaridis, 2,413,901 kantars; Ashmouni and Zagora, 2,960,989 kantars; Pilon, 271,973 Kantars; Various, 218,510; Scarto, 137,421 kantars; total, 6,002,794 kantars. Exports: Sakellaridis, 2,516,847 kantars; Ashmouni and Zagora, 2,798,371 kantars; Pilon, 272,609 kantars; Various, 198,691 kantars; total, 5,786,518 kantars.

Spot: The market has been active throughout the week. Total sales amount to about 9,800 bales, of which we estimate 5,500 Sakellaridis, 4,000 bales Ashmouni and Zagora, 200 bales Pilon, and 100 bales other varieties.

Sakellaridis: Owing to the large premium for November over July holders are not at all disposed to sell, but prefer to wait till the July contract goes out. There has been a very good demand

for all grades of cotton and spot difference have considerably hardened.

Ashmouni and Zagora: Continue to be in good request and, with the exception of the good grades, there has been rather less cotton showing on the market. Spot differences are rather harder.

Pilon: Is still much sought after, but premiums have not altered. Other Varieties: White is practically non-existent. Some lots of Nahda have changed hands, but here, too, there is very little offering.

Crop, 1928.—Crop news is more or less as last week. The plant is making cotton normally under favourable climatic conditions. The temperature has been normal during the week and the slight Nadua attack in some districts of Upper Egypt has not increased. Humidity has been rather less. Water is plentiful.

Sir Arthur Slater, Director of the Financial Section of the League of Nations, is to visit Greece shortly.

The Persian Majliss has approved the Opium Monopoly Bill, which will provide control of all local and foreign transactions in opium and all its products.

The foreign trade of Bulgaria for the first quarter of the current year showed a marked increase on previous years. Imports amounted to 1,701,546,000 leva, as compared with 1,390,090,000 leva for the corresponding period in 1927 and 1,683,629,000 leva in 1925, the previous highest. Exports amounted to 1,425,127,000 leva, as compared with 1,173,761,000 leva for the same period in 1927 and 1,404,755,000 leva in 1926, the previous highest. The adverse balance stands to be corrected before the end of the year.

Stock and Share Markets.

LONDON EXCHANGE		Prices on July 23	Railways.		Prices on July 23	Banks		Prices on July 3
Government Stocks.								Rs.
Egyptian 4 p.c. Unified Debt	...	84½	Assam-Bengal	...	92	Imperial Bank of India	...	1,500
Do. Pref. 3½ p.c. 1890	...	74	Bengal Nagpur	...	102	Bank of India	...	95½
Do. Turk 4 p.c. 1891	...	91	Egypt Delta Light Rly.	...	215/16	Central Bank of India	...	26½
Do. 3½ p.c. Eg. Trib. Bonds '94	...	84½	Ottoman (Smy. t. Aid)	...	70½	Coal.		
Bulgaria 7 p.c.	...	88½	Southern Punjab	...	204	Baraboni	...	1
Greek 5 p.c. 1881	...	63½	South Indian	...	122	Bengal	...	400
Do. 5 p.c. 1884	...	63½	Rubber.			Burrakur	...	13
Do. 4 p.c. Rentes, 1889	...	49½	Ceylon Para Rubber Ord.	...	7/6	East Indian	...	18
Do. 5 p.c. 1890	...	63	Doolkalla (Ceylon) Rub. Est.	...	39½	Equitable	...	17
Do. 5 p.c. Funding Loan, 1893	...	63	Grand Cent. (Ceylon) Rubber	...	13/16	Pench Valley	...	25
Do. 4 p.c. Rails, Loan, 1902	...	60	Hewagum Rubber Co.	...	10/9	Ranegunge	...	204½
Do. 4 p.c. Loan, 1910	...	61	Kepitigalla Rubber Estates	...	1 1/4	Standard	...	55
Do. 5 p.c. Loan, 1914 (L.n. issue)	...	74½	Malayalam Rub. and Produce	...	31 1/4	Cotton.		
Do. 7 p.c. 1924	...	100	Shipping.			Bengal Nagpur	...	30
Do. 6 p.c. St. Bds.	...	91½	Anchor 5½ p.c. Prf.	...	8	Bombay Dyeing, etc.	...	906½
Palestine 5 p.c.	...	104½	Cunard	...	31½	Bowrah	...	330
Persia 5 p.c. 1911	...	87½	Furness Withy	...	38/6	Buckingham and Carnatic	...	180
Roumania 4 p.c. Ext.	...	71	Khedivial Mail Ord.	...	240	Cawnpore Textiles	...	34
Do. 4 p.c. Consolidation	...	48	P. and O. Deferred	...		Century	...	417
Sudan 5½ p.c. Guar. Bds.	...	108½	Tea.			Central India	...	564
India 3½ p.c.	...	71½	Assam Co.	...	29/32	Elgin	...	101
Do. 3 p.c.	...	61½	Bengal United Tea Ord.	...	21xd	Khatou Mankanji	...	82½
Do. 2½ p.c.	...	52½	Bramapootra	...	39	Muir	...	322
Do. 5½ p.c.	...	101½	British Indian Tea Ord.	...	41/16	New Ring	...	289
Do. 4½ p.c.	...	93½	Cachar and Dooars Tea Ord.	...	23xd	Phoenix	...	382½
Turkish 4 p.c. Unified	...	22½	Carolina	...	37	Svadeshi	...	492½
Banks.			Ceylon Tea Plantations Ord.	...	55/16	Jute.		
Agri. Bank of Egypt	...	7½	Consolidated Estates	...	31	Alliance	...	671
Bank of British West Africa	...	4½	Darjeeling Co.	...	223/32	Barnagore	...	310
Bank of Roumania	...	86/3	Dimbula Valley (Ceylon) Ord.	...	35/16	Budge Budge	...	640
Barclays Dom. Col. Pf.	...	25/9xd	Dooars Tea Ord.	...	325/32xd	Clive	...	50½
Lloyds	...	64½	Doolooogram Tea	...	14xd	Dalhousie	...	623½
Eastern	...	71/16	Doom Dooa	...	44	Delta	...	694½
Chartered Bank of India	...	22½	East Assam	...	41xd	Fort Gloster	...	1,126
Ottoman Bank	...	12	Empire of Ind.	...	21xd	Gourepore	...	1,168½
Imperial Bank of Persia	...	11½xd	Halem Tea	...	21	Howrah	...	664½
Land Bank of Egypt Ord.	...	16½	Imperial Ind.	...	223/32	Kamarhaty	...	667
Mercantile Bank of India A	...	35½	Jhanzie Tea Association	...	55/16xd	Kanknarrah	...	661½
National Bank of Egypt	...	34½	Jokai (Assam) Tea Ord.	...	43/16	Khardah	...	1,178
National Bank of India	...	55	Jorehaut	...	21/32	Kinnison	...	35½
Westminster	...	197/16xd	Lanka Plantations Ord.	...	15/32xd	National	...	567
Land.			Lungla (Sylhet) Tea Ord.	...	6½	Standard	...	860
Kassala Cotton	...	6½	New Dimbula	...	57/16xd	Union	...	
Sudan Plantations	...	47/32	Nuwara Eliya Tea Estates Ord.	...	33/16	Miscellaneous		
Mines.			Nedem	...	31/32	British India Corporation	...	4½
Balaghat Gold Mining	...	7/9	Ouvah	...	64	Bengal Paper Mills	...	3½
Burma Corp.	...	13/10½	Pabhojan	...	5½	Bengal Timber Trading	...	40½
Champion Reef Gold	...	11/4½	Standard	...	23/16xd	Burn and Co.	...	291½
Mysore	...	15/7½	Scottish Assam	...	31	Cawnpore Sugar	...	408½
Nundydroog	...	16/6	Scottish Tea and Lands	...	215/16	Champaran Sugar	...	22½
Ooregum Gold Mining Ord.	...	14/6	Upper Assam	...		Howrah Oil Mills	...	11½
Oil.			Insurance.					10
Anglo-Egyptian B	...	21/32	General Accident Fire and Life (£5, £1½ paid)	...	13	ALEXANDRIA		
Anglo-Persian Ord.	...	311/16	London & Lancs (£5, £1 paid)	...	31½	Prices on July 13, supplied by G. L. Mortero, Alexandria & Cairo.		
Do. 8 p.c. Cum. 1st Pf.	...	28	Royal Exchange (£1)	...	61	Agricultural Bank of Egypt	...	£723/32
Do. 9 p.c. Cum. 2nd Pf.	...	28/6	Sun Fire (£2 paid)	...	38½	...	...	£775
Do. 5 p.c. Debs.	...	96xd	Trade Indemnity (£10)	...	16	Alexandria Water Co.	...	£163
Brit Burmah	...	7/4½	Miscellaneous.			Assoc. Cotton Ginners	...	£11/16
Burmah Oil Co. Ord.	...	419/32	Alexandria Water Co.	...	16½	Behra Ord.	...	£E20
Do. 8% Cum. Pref.	...	26/9	Associated Cotton Ginners	...	16/6	Eiments d'Egypte	...	Frs. 125½
Phoenix Oil and Transport	...	14/14	Egyptian Hotels	...	7½	...	...	170
Steaua Romana	...	10½	Do. Markets Ord.	...	25/6	Comptoir Fin. & Com. d'Egypte	...	£5/16
			Do. Salt and Soda	...	27/6	Credit Foncier Egyptien	...	Frs. 1,138
			Mortgage Co. of Egypt 5 p.c. Pref.	...	8½xd	...	...	2,800
			INDIAN EXCHANGES.			Crown Brewery Priv.	...	Frs. 115
			Government Loans.			Filature Nationale d'Egypte	...	£313/32
			3½% Government Paper	...	75/7/16	Frigorifique d'Egypte	...	£7½
						Immeubles d'Egypte Soc. An. des.	...	£17½
						Land Bank of Egypt Actions	...	£16½
						...	...	£240
						Menzaleh Canal Navigation	...	Pt. 190

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*KASHGAR	9,000	July 26	...	Straits, China, Japan
NARKUNDA	16,500	July 27	Aug. 3	Australia via Bombay
*MANTUA	11,000	Aug. 3	Aug. 10	Bombay and Karachi
*CATHAY	15,000	Aug. 10	Aug. 16	Colombo and Australia
*MOREA	11,000	Aug. 10	Aug. 17	Bombay and Japan
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MATIANA	9,066	July 25	Aug. 3	East African Ports
*HATIMURA	6,666	July 28	Aug. 11	Bombay and Karachi
*MASULA	7,261	Aug. 3	Aug. 11	Madras and Calcutta
MANORA	7,888	Aug. 18	Aug. 25	Madras and Calcutta
MALDA	8,900	Aug. 22	Aug. 31	East African Ports
*GOICONDA	5,316	Sept. 1	Sept. 8	Bombay and Karachi
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cCity of Sparta	5,415	Aug. 4	Colombo & Calcutta
dcTrafford Hall	5,321	Aug. 15	Bombay & Karachi
City of Manchester	5,564	Sep. 4	Colombo & Calcutta
dbCity of Valencia	7,329	Sep. 5	Bombay & Karachi
ccCity of Cairo	7,882	Sep. 15	Colombo & Calcutta
cdCity of York	7,844	Sep. 15	Bombay & Karachi
cdCity of London	8,956	Sep. 27	Colombo & Calcutta
bCity of Nagpur	10,138	Sep. 27	Bombay & Karachi
bCity of Simla	9,468	Oct. 5	Bombay & Karachi

(b) Calls Marseilles. (c) Calls Naples. (d) Calls Port Sudan. (e) Calls Madras

MARSEILLES to STRAITS, CHINA, JAPAN.

City of Eastbourne	5552	Sep. 2	Singapore, Manila
City of Athens	6562	Sep. 29	Hongkong, Shanghai

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City of Poona	7,485	Sep. 1	Cape Town, Algoa
City of Palermo	4,699	Sep. 29	Bay, East London and Natal

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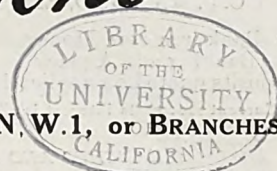
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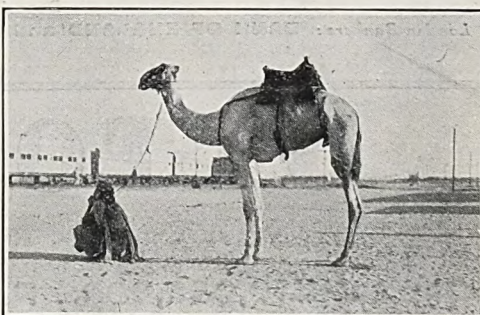
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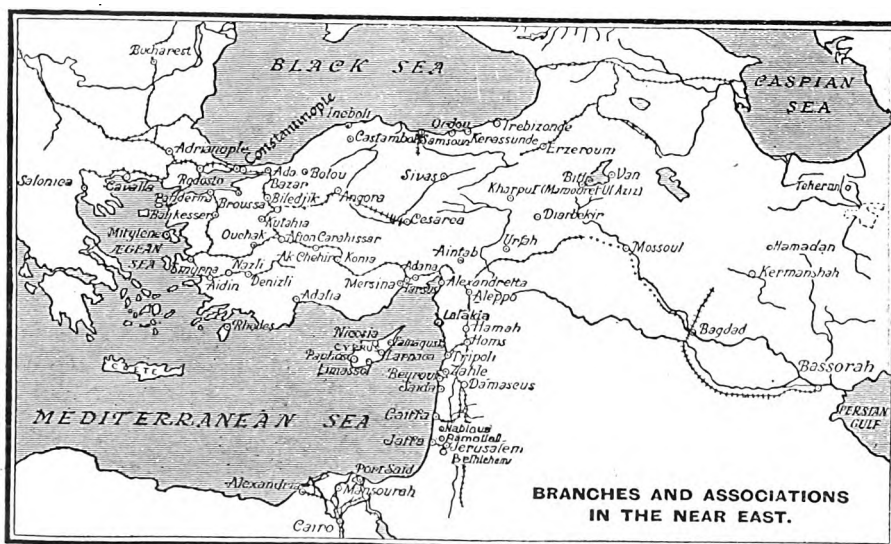
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Notes of the Week.

The Yugoslav Crisis.

The failure of General Hajitch to form a Cabinet seems to have been due mainly to differences of opinion regarding the value of new elections. The leaders of the Croat Peasant Group were adamant on the subject that there must be new elections, as it was unthinkable that their parties should continue to be members of a Skupshtina in which some of their number had been murdered. It was pointed out on the other hand that new elections offered no solution of the parliamentary deadlock. Parties are for the most part territorial; when a general election takes place the party representatives usurp the authority of the officials or the officials become mere party representatives, with the result that there is little opportunity of any radical change in the representation of the country. The natural corollary of this state of affairs is gradually coming home to the Yugoslav people; that is, until a Government has been long enough in power and is strong enough to overhaul the bureaucracy, to make it independent of parties, and in a word to purge the administration of the more glaring of its defects, Yugoslavia stands to flounder in the present political morass. On the subject of preventing power from passing out of their hands into the hands of one strong man most of the party leaders are prepared to sink their differences and to present a united front.

The Status Quo.

The Government now formed by Dr. Koroshetz cannot be said to offer any solution of the problem confronting Yugoslavia. A certain amount of personal unpopularity handicapped the late Prime Minister, M. Voukitchevitch, in his attempts to administer the country—his own Radical Party comprised a section strongly antagonistic to him—but his main difficulty was his inability to come to any working agreement with the Croats. In spite of the Government's majority in the Skupshtina the Opposition—in particular the Croat-Democrat group under M. Raditch and M. Pribitchevitch—could by their numbers hold up the business of Parliament. The new Ministry under Dr. Poroshetz leaves the parliamentary situation

much as it was; the Radicals may present a more united body now that M. Voukitchevitch is no longer Prime Minister and that they have agreed to serve under the Slovene Clerical leader, but the Croats, far from being won over to sweet reasonableness by the change of Prime Minister, labour, if possible, under greater indignation, as they regard Dr. Koroshetz as a traitor to the non-Serb element in the Kingdom, to whose interest it is to leaven Serb domination in Yugoslav affairs. Of the sixteen Ministers eight are Radicals, three are Davidovitch Democrats, two Slovene Clericals; Dr. Spaho is the leader of the Bosnian Muslims, there is one Croat Democrat, who is, presumably repudiated by his fellow Croats, and General Hajitch belongs to no party. In view of the latter's failure to form a Business Cabinet, King Alexander may have had no alternative to turning to the majority parties in the Skupshtina for a Government. One point has been gained in securing the consent of the Radicals to serve under a member of another party; this action represents their concession to popular feeling as a result of the recent murders in the Skupshtina. The next step lies with Croats who find themselves flouted in their demand for the dissolution of Parliament and the holding of new elections. In the meantime the time-limit fixed for the renewal of the Italo-Yugoslav Treaty of Friendship has been allowed to pass without any action taken by the Yugoslav Government to renew it or to obtain an extension of the time-limit. Dr. Marinkovitch remains Minister of Foreign Affairs in the new Cabinet, and seems bent upon having the Nettuno Conventions ratified by the present Parliament. If this is done, there will be no difficulty in securing an extension of the Treaty with Italy in spite of the fact that it has not been renewed, as was stipulated, six months before the date of expiry.

M. Venizelos' Programme.

M. Venizelos has taken advantage of his visit to Salonika to elaborate the programme of the new Government. The refugee population as a whole is solidly Venizelist, as from the outset it has adopted the view that King Constantine was responsible for the Greek disaster in Asia

Minor, although it followed logically upon M. Venizelos's own policy of a greater Greece at Turkey's expense. It was, therefore, among his warmest supporters that the Greek Prime Minister sketched the outline of his new policy for Greece, and, as usual, he showed that he had the courage of his convictions. The refugees were warned that they must abandon any idea of returning to Turkey, but that equally they might rid themselves of any fear of being involved in war with the Turks. Questions arising out of the exchange of populations still remain to be settled; but as soon as these are out of the way, M. Venizelos points out, there is nothing to prevent the establishment of friendly relations between Turkey and Greece. In regard to domestic affairs the Prime Minister's programme sets out to bring the country into line with the most advanced States, instead of allowing it to flounder in a morass of backward administration. Taxation is to be equitably distributed, economies are to be effected to provide money for public health, child welfare, campaigns against tuberculosis and malaria, roadmaking, drainage, assistance for agriculture and improvements in education. In regard to foreign affairs M. Venizelos stands for friendly relations with all Greece's neighbours and with the Great Powers. He hopes to satisfy Yugoslavia in the matter of Salonika and to make Bulgaria content with a commercial outlet at Dedeagatch. With Italy he looks forward to relations as close as those which Greece enjoys with Great Britain and France. After two years of administrative paralysis Greece may well wax enthusiastic over the promise of an immediate millenium; it will be the duty of the Electorate at the coming elections to see to it that other political parties are not allowed to put a spoke into M. Venizelos's wheel.

The Macedonian Organization.

The split in the Macedonian Revolutionary Organisation has been carried a further stage by the holding of a congress summoned at the instance of Ivan Mihailoff. He had been previously excommunicated by the other members of the Triumvirate; but the verdict of the congress, which apparently sanctioned the murder of General Protogueroff (on the ground that he had been implicated in the assassination of Todor Alexandroff) and approved Mihailoff's conduct of the affairs of the Organisation, suggests that the ban of excommunication has now fallen on George Popchristoff and Peter Shandonoff. The congress proceeded to elect a new central committee, associating one Kurteff and Drangoff, a son of a former Chief of Staff of the Macedonian Division, with Mihailoff. In view of the latter's reputation it may be supposed that the new Triumvirate will endeavour to justify the confidence reposed in them by the congress by a renewal of the terrorist campaign. It may, however, still have to reckon with those who do not approve of the murder of Protogueroff. A skirmish between partisans of the rival leaders has already been reported, but it would be more in keeping with the later tactics of the Organisation for each side to rely upon individual assassination.

The Situation in Egypt.

Events in Egypt may be regarded as pursuing what is, in all the circumstances, a normal course. The Wafd politicians do not propose to acquiesce in Mahmoud Pasha's action, if they can help it, and are engaged in testing the Government's line of defences at various points. So far honours rest with the Cabinet. Madame Zaghloul's return to Egypt from abroad was to be the occasion of a great demonstration at Alexandria, but she was taken ashore from the ship before the latter berthed in the harbour and was sent to Cairo, while the would-be demonstrators were still awaiting her on the quay. Deputies and Senators belonging to the Wafd decided at a meeting, called for the purpose, not to recognise the dissolution of Parliament, and to meet in session on the appointed day. A formal request was sent to the Government for the keys of the two buildings, but they were not forthcoming, and the session as proposed was forbidden. The legal profession,

anxious to prove that its statesmanship was at least as high as that of Egyptian schoolboys, called a three days' strike, by way of protest against the interference with the Constitution. When, however, it was realized that some of its members were gifted with a higher order of intelligence and that the Courts would still sit, the strike came to nothing. In the meantime the work of the Government proceeds. In the interests of more efficient administration the powers of Provincial Governors have been extended, as part of a scheme of decentralization, designed to relieve the Ministry of the Interior. The Minister of Public Works has left for London for a conference with Lord Lloyd, the Governor-General of the Sudan, the the Governor of Uganda, and irrigation experts on the subject of projected training works on the Nile. The matters in question have been long under consideration, but events in recent years have militated against the taking of definite decisions.

Native Policy in the Sudan.

The publication in the Sudan Government Gazette of the Powers of Sheikhs Ordinance 1928 serves to direct attention to the Sudan Government's native policy. No new development would seem to be indicated in the Ordinance, which does little more than introduce minor alterations in the wording of the 1927 Ordinance that it supersedes. In general terms the policy may be stated to be the support of the authority of native chiefs in regard to matters of tribal or local jurisdiction. Powers are granted to Sheikhs of tribes or districts, assisted by their tribal elders, or to Courts presided over by such Sheikhs and composed of their tribal or district elders, to punish offences committed by, and to settle disputes among, persons subject to their jurisdiction. Rules are carefully laid down for the conduct of these Courts, and the maximum punishment, whether by imprisonment or by fine, that can be inflicted is specified in each case. A Sheikh exercising individual powers may impose only a fine; Courts may try any offence except those enumerated in a schedule attached to the Ordinance; the settlement of civil disputes may be carried out in accordance with native custom, subject to certain rules, and within a limit of five pounds by way of costs; no judgment to which the members of a Court shall not have agreed unanimously shall be valid, unless it is a majority judgment and is approved by the Governor or the District Commissioner of the District. The policy of building up the authority of Chiefs is clearly a sound one; not only does it relieve British officials of much unimportant work, which has to be done, but it also simplifies administration and affords useful training for all concerned in the rudiments of ordered government.

The Hijaz Railway.

After many delays, the various authorities concerned in the running of the Hijaz Railway met in conference, at Haifa, on July 26. Those authorities are, of course, representatives of the Governments of Syria, of Palestine and Trans-Jordan, and of the Wahhabi Kingdom of the Hijaz. It is to be presumed that the basis of negotiations between Dr. Abdullah Damluji and the French and British representatives will be the Anglo-French declaration made at Lausanne in 1923, when an expression was made of willingness to co-operate with the Government of the Hijaz and with the Muslim world in the establishment of a Muslim Advisory Board (with headquarters at Madina) to advise the four Governments of Syria, Palestine, Trans-Jordan, and the Hijaz upon the running of the railway. It is stated that an agreement was then reached to devote the resources of the Railway to maintenance and administration, and, if possible, to the assistance of needy pilgrims. But since the War the revenues derived from the Hijaz Railway have, of course, been placed into the general Exchequers of the Mandated countries concerned; nor has there been any attempt at equitable distribution of the locomotives and rolling-stock, which have remained very much where they were just after the War. Thus Syria is reported to have ninety out of the total hundred

and twenty locomotives, although she is responsible for but 250 kilometres of the line; Palestine and Trans-Jordan to have twenty-six locomotives for some 600 kilometres; and for the remaining section of the line, to Madina, the Hijaz Government to have but four locomotives. Some compromise should, therefore, be possible, even if the necessities of the situation are not exactly as represented in certain Muslim quarters. The view of King Ibn Saoud has been stated by our Jidda Correspondent to be that the line should be treated as a single entity endowed under religious law for the use of Islam *in perpetuum*, but it is possible that some diminution of this claim will enable practical and useful results to be achieved by the Conference at Haifa.

Persia and Great Britain.

The present visit to London of the Persian Minister of Court, Taymoor Tash, is a pleasing indication of the better feeling engendered as between the land of the Shah and Great Britain by the passing of the recent Anglo-Persian Treaty; and we are glad to see that it is being given the prominence which it deserves. It is some years now since a Persian of such high rank graced these shores with his presence. The opportunity is, therefore, not to be lost of still further cementing the new friendship which appears to have arisen as a consequence of both British and Persian concessions in the matter of Anglo-Persian relations. As is well known, there still remain for settlement one or two questions, such as the repayment of debts or the recognition of Iraq, that make it impossible to claim absolutely that relations between Persia and Great Britain are exemplary; but there seems little doubt that the psychological plane of argument has been shifted to a higher level, and there is no reason at all why the problems still outstanding should not be soon and amicably settled. It is to be hoped that towards this consummation the visit of the Taymoor Tash will contribute in no small measure, and that, in particular he will take back to the Shah a lively sense of British sympathy with the present desires of the Persian nation.

The Arabs and Palestine.

Whatever recollections Lord Plumer, High Commissioner of Palestine, takes away with him of the forces at work in the Holy Land, that of the political ambitions of the Arabs will surely be one of the most vivid. For a few days ago he was presented with a long memorandum in which were laid down the views of the Arab Congress upon the inapplicability to Palestine of Crown Colony government and the desirability of establishing representative government. Such "absolute" government was stated to have caused the present wretched economic condition of the country, and the demand for a Parliament was based on the promise made to the Arabs under the Mandate and the allegation that Palestinians now lack political rights which they enjoyed before the War under the Turks. This statement Lord Plumer is said to have promised to convey to the Colonial Office, whence, however, it would appear doubtful that immediate satisfaction should be forthcoming. It has been asserted that official quarters in London are against the early establishment of a Parliament in Palestine; and, indeed, one cannot see how such a Parliament could well be established against the wishes of the Zionists whom Great Britain is committed to support. The whole political dilemma with which Britain is faced is thus, at the end of Lord Plumer's High Commissionership, once again brought into prominence. Iraq has a Parliament, Syria has a Parliament, Trans-Jordan, even, soon will have a Parliament; why not Palestine? Later or sooner Palestine must enjoy representative government, but that will be, presumably, when her Arabs are far more united than they now are. In considerable measure the future will depend upon economics, for unquestionably political demands will be more loudly and insistently urged when

and if the country is in an unsatisfactory condition than when and if substantial Budget surpluses are shown.

The Problem of the Yaman.

The problem of the Yaman, that is, the problem between the Aden Protectorate and the Zaidi Imam, shows, according to reports from Aden, distinct signs of clarifying. According, also, to recent replies in the House of Commons, it is presumed that a new situation has arisen as between the British and the Imam. The Zaidi forces are stated, as a result of bombing from aeroplanes and ground action by certain tribes in Treaty obligations with the British—notably those of the Jabal Radfan, led by the Amiri Amir Nasr of Dhala—to have evacuated the Protectorate. If this is so, it remains to be seen whether the Imam Yahya will acquiesce in this display of force, and agree to the present facts of the situation, or will attempt to reassert his will upon that part of the Protectorate which he claims as his rightful own. At this distance it is impossible to say what steps the Imam may take. There is a report that the Zaidi forces in the Lower Yaman have shown signs of disaffection towards him, and it is certainly true that in the other parts of this State, towards Hudaida, the Zaraniq have been giving considerable trouble. But the Imam does not strike one as a man who would tolerate signs of disaffection among his troops—if, indeed, there is any truth in such a rumour. It will be fortunate if, now that the British authorities have fulfilled their obligations towards shaikhs living within the Protectorate—the borders of which were drawn, of course, in agreement with the Turks, not with an independent Yaman—the opportunity is now swiftly taken for a consolidation of the Anglo-Yamani position without loss of prestige on the part of the Imam. The Aden Protectorate would stand to lose rather than gain by a multiplication of rulers living on its borders. The suggestion has been made that Sir Gilbert Clayton, after he has finished his present mission at Taif with King Ibn Saoud, should proceed to the Yaman to attempt to conclude what he failed to conclude in 1926. The feasibility of such a step, however, may depend upon three things: first, the present mood of the Imam Yahya, secondly, the degree of success in treating with the Wahhabis, and, thirdly, the swiftness with which the defeat of Zaidi forces and the evacuation of Dhala are followed up by generous negotiations. In the circumstances, we are still inclined to think that the wisest course might now be to invite to London a mission from the Yaman.

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THE MINORITIES PROBLEM.

If the League of Nations should ever wish to be rid of the problem of Minorities in the Balkans, it will have to adopt a different policy from that on which its treatment of the question has hitherto been based. Appeals to the better nature of the disputants may seem to accord with the League's province and will often meet with success in the case of Western States; but there has been nothing in the experience of the last eight or nine years to suggest that such appeals will solve a single dispute in Central or South-Eastern Europe. With a touching belief in the efficacy of the policy the Council has clung to it for several years in the case of the Hungarian Optants in Roumania. At the end of the last Session the problem was, in consequence, left precisely where it had been at any previous moment since the Roumanian Government in February 1927 withdrew its representative from the Mixed Arbitral Tribunal. A further resolution urged the Government of Hungary and Roumania to bring "this long dispute to a close by reciprocal concessions"; but the Council steadfastly refused to take the decisive action of settling the matter, once for all, over the heads of the disputants. Its difficulties are admitted, although in the question of the Optants it has persistently gone out of its way to avoid the step which it is authorized to take under the Peace Treaties—the appointment of a new member to the Mixed Arbitral Tribunal in the place of the Roumanian representative withdrawn by the Bucharest Government to prevent the Tribunal from exercising the functions for which it was appointed. The Council's basic fault would seem to lie in its ignorance of national psychology. Misled, perhaps, by the high standards which the various delegates to Geneva personally represent, it fails to realize how far administrative routine in the respective countries lags behind the achievements which the exceptional merit of the individual delegate appears to promise. Concessions in South-Eastern Europe, it is to be feared, are never made; they have inevitably to be wrung from unwilling donors. On the other hand, wherever mixed populations are to be found, injustices must be looked for, unless some means can be devised for exercising the supervision which, in the absence of higher moral standards, affords for the present the only effective deterrent.

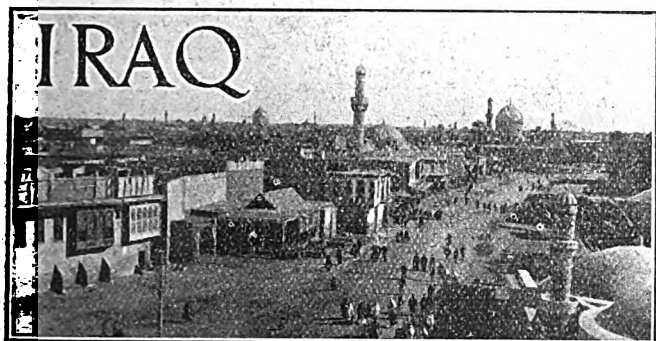
A communication sent on June 18 to the Secretary-General of the League of Nations from the Bulgarian League of Nations Union suggests that the Council will have once again to deal with a Minority problem which it might reasonably have supposed to be settled by its first intervention. The petition calls attention to what is described as a "new outbreak of injustices and mass cruelties in the Dobruja towards the Bulgarian Minority,

which are taking place after a short period of quietness following the intervention of the League of Nations in November 1927." It is not to be expected that any Balkan petition will avoid the pitfalls of exaggeration and unsubstantiated assertion; but in the present instance the signatories have the advantage of having had their previous statements confirmed at least in their main particulars as a result of the League's action. Invited by the League to supply information on the subject, the Roumanian Government carried out an inquiry; and, although the severe sanctions promised by it were not imposed, the mere inquiry had the effect of stopping for the time being the excesses under complaint. Once more, however, according to the evidence of the petitioners, the old abuses are being renewed. The threat of the League's intervention or the explicit orders of the Bucharest Government caused the local officials to put an end to palpable injustices; but there was no change of heart nor adoption of a higher moral standard, and, as soon as the fear of too much publicity or of the incurring of a rebuke from the League of Nations had passed, all concerned revert to that primitive code which knows nothing of fair play for aliens.

The trouble in the Dobruja turns on the Balkan axiom that no alien population can be expected to provide loyal subjects of their own free will, and that the only way to ensure loyalty is by persecution and oppression. That part of the Dobruja which was annexed by Roumania after the Second Balkan War as the price of her victory contains a Bulgarian population, which under fair treatment and a little toleration would, have eventually provided good Roumanian subjects. The internal troubles of Bulgaria provoked some reaction among these people, but not enough to cause the Bucharest Administration any real anxiety, if it could have ensured them tolerable government. Frontier difficulties supervened, and the Dobruja inhabitants were held responsible. A policy of securing their ejection by one means or another found favour with the Roumanian authorities, and to throw a judicial cloak over the procedure a Verification of Land Title-Deeds Law was introduced. The sting of this measure lay in the fact that the majority of the Bulgarian peasants possessed no title-deeds, but held their property by rights which could not have been challenged, if the land had remained Bulgarian. Simultaneously Macedo-Roumanian settlers and ex-Service men have been introduced into the Dobruja, and have been on the spot to accelerate the process of the expropriation of Bulgarian property. This Law, it will be noted, is no part of Roumania's Agrarian Reform, which would hardly be applicable to southern Dobruja, where no large estates exist. The land expropriated has not been given to local peasants, but to others brought into the region, for the purpose, it would seem, of dispossessing the Bulgarian population. To add to the grievance of the latter, the land has been seized at a time when it has been sown and before the crops have been harvested. It is not a matter for surprise that the wretched people have resented this treatment and that troubles have ensued, with the result that any disturbance of the peace is used by the authorities as evidence of original sin on the part of the inhabitants and an excuse for further molestation. Such, indeed, is the case as it has been presented to the League of Nations, and the latter, which took action in the matter last November, can hardly fail to call upon the Roumanian Government for fresh explanations. There are several aspects of the Minorities problem which defy remedy, because they are inherent in the new order; but the League of Nations should at least be able to safeguard some of the Minorities against the cruder forms of persecution.

*The Near and Middle East

From Our Own Correspondents.



Baghdad, July 10.

Parliament.

At the ninth sitting of the Chamber, the Parliament of Iraq decided to cable to the President of the Syrian Constituent Assembly a message of congratulation on its first meeting at Damascus on June 9. The Syrian President replied in a courteous telegram of thanks, which was read aloud in the Chamber amid much applause.

The appointment of Daud Beg Haidari as Minister of Justice having left vacant the post of Vice-President of the Chamber of Deputies, Marouf Effendi Ali Asghar, a Kurdish deputy, was elected in his place by a large majority.

The Latifiyah Agreement, which is a substitute for the Asfar Concession, has been referred to the Financial Committee for their report.

Parliament agreed to a bill exempting from Customs import duties the plant and pipes of a water supply scheme for Najaf. The whole of the plant is being supplied as an act of grace to Najafis by two wealthy Persian subjects, Haj Muin and Haji Rayyis al Tujjar. The project is receiving all possible support from the Government.

The attention of the Minister of Interior was called to the alarming reports in the local Press indicating that in the Basrah liwa a large number of Iraqis were adopting Persian nationality. At a later session the Minister, who had asked for written notice of the question, replied that the Government was alive to this danger, and had asked the Persian Government to abstain from "converting" Iraqis into Persians. The Cabinet was making exhaustive inquiries into the matter, and would later make a detailed statement to Parliament.

Replying to questions, the Minister of Finance stated that the Indian Customs and Excise Law, which is still in force in Iraq, was no longer considered suitable for this country and would shortly be abolished. A new draft Customs and Excise law had been prepared in the Ministry of Finance, and would shortly be submitted to Parliament; in the meantime the Iraq Chambers of Commerce had been asked for their views on the proposed draft.

The Iraq National Flag Bill has passed its third reading.

Subsidising the Anaiza.

A bill for providing for the payment of Rs.12,000 a month to Shaikh Mahrouth al Hadhal, Shaikh of the Anaiza tribe, caused a good deal of discussion in the Chamber of Deputies. This shaikh had been requested by the Government to mobilise an emergency Desert Camel Corps capable of dealing with *Akhwan* raiders. It was pointed out that the father of Shaikh Mahrouth, Shaikh Fahad, had in his lifetime drawn no more than Rs3,000 a month as Government subsidy. The ex-Minister of Education (Saiyid Abdul Mahdi Chalabi) described subsidies to tribal shaikhs as "instruments confessing the weakness of Government in maintaining order and security in the desert," and urged that the Government should take the matter into its own hands; he maintained further that the

shaikh in question was not very influential, and would be helpless without the backing of Government.

The Prime Minister, in reply, said that Shaikh Mahrouth was a tribal leader of first-class importance, his father before him having been paramount shaikh of the Anazia. The mobilisation of an emergency Desert Camel Corps was a purely temporary measure, intended to avoid the expensive maintenance of a permanent force.

Nouri Pasha as Said (Minister of Defence) then reviewed the course of events since the first raid at the Busaiyah Post. It had been decided at a private conference to build three police posts, and to garrison them by troops under the orders of the Ministry of Defence. Later, however, two further raids made it necessary to call in the assistance of the British Royal Air Force, whose participation in the defence of the tribes was found indispensable. But another raid at Gurshan made it necessary to take still further defensive measures; the Royal Air Force protected a certain section of the southern frontier, and in order to double the Iraq defence at other sections it was decided to mobilise a section of armed cars as well as an emergency Desert Camel Corp, both for a period of three months. At this time Shaikh Mahrouth came to Baghdad and informed the Government of his fear that many of his tribesmen would go over to King Ibn Saoud unless immediate steps were taken for their protection; and as it was impossible to do this in a few days, the Government had no alternative but to charge Shaikh Mahrouth with the task of mobilising an emergency Camel Corps. The Government was at present awaiting the result of the negotiations then in progress with King Ibn Saoud, but would probably have to ask Parliament to vote further expenditure before the end of the summer.

Irrigation.

In spite of the high flood conditions prevailing in April, the river fell very rapidly this year, and by the end of May the levels were well below the average. Fortunately no difficulty has been experienced in providing canal water for cultivators, as small demands have been made. Work has begun on the new concrete weir across the river Diyala, which is expected to cost Rs.225,000 and to be completed by the end of October. The drainage work on the swamps near Karbala is going on, and the Dagharrah and Diwan-iyah regulators are finished except for the roadways across them. Proposals are in hand for strengthening and repairing the bunds damaged during this year flood, and all breaches have been closed.

General News.

The Minister of Finance (Yusuf Beg al Ghanima) gave a farewell dinner to Mr. R. V. Vernon, who left Iraq this month after three years' service as Adviser to the Ministry of Finance. The Prime Minister emphasized the value of Mr. Vernon's work in connexion with the settlement of the Ottoman Debt question, which he characterized as "a great task worthily achieved."

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During a short stay in Syria Nouri Pasha (Minister of Defence) had two interviews with the French High Commissioner and his deputy, at which they discussed topics of interest to the East in general and to Arabs in particular. To the representative of a Baghdad vernacular paper Nouri Pasha stated it as his impression that the leading Syrian politicians and the Constituent Assembly were in favour of having a king as their ruler, provided that they were allowed to make their own free choice. He thought that the Syrians and the French authorities were making a real effort to co-operate for the development of Syria in a spirit of reconciliation.

Abdul Karim Beg al Saadun, brother of the Prime Minister, has been appointed a Senator by royal *iradah*.

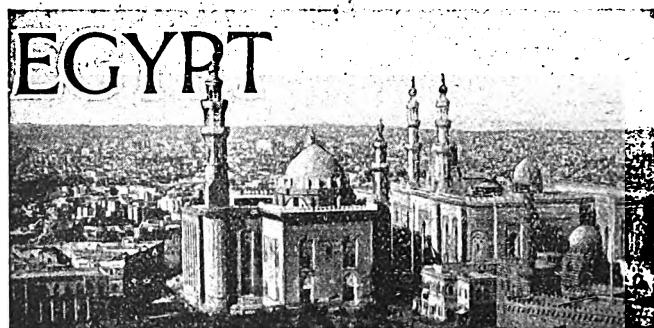
A serious fire occurred in one of the khans of the Suq al Safafir on July 6, resulting in the destruction of merchandise valued at Rs. 300,000. There was no loss of life.

The Baghdad shoe industry, which employs 8,000 workers, is protesting against the new Customs duty on imported leather. The ever-increasing importation of foreign-made shoes by retailers is a real danger to the local industry, which seems likely before long to be altogether submerged.

A special effort is being made by the Police to check the all-too-common cruelty to animals in Baghdad, no less than 200 cases having been brought before the Courts during the month of June; but unfortunately the local magistrates are still reluctant to impose adequate penalties for such offences.

The Turkish Petroleum Company has again struck oil, this time in a well at their Tarjil station, on June 15. The well is under control, and is now being tested for production.

A flying accident at Mosul on July 4 resulted in the death of Flying Officer Kay, whose machine struck the telegraph wires and fell into the Tigris. His mechanic escaped with slight injuries.



Cairo, July 23.

The Country's Attitude.

The dissolution of Parliament by Royal Decree on Thursday July 19, for three years, fell on Egypt like a bomb-shell. It had been expected that Parliament would be dissolved some time before the end of the month, but only in order to hold elections which, according to the Constitution, should have been held by the end of September. It had been expected that the Government would contrive to postpone elections, re-arranging constituencies or modifying the law; but it had never been expected that they would stand up in this manner against the whole Wafd and Nationalist parties, the former of whom have so far held a very large majority in the country. In fact, the country is still a little bewildered, and it is difficult as yet to find out what is the real feeling. How far the country is behind the Wafd in their opposition it is difficult to say, for there has been an indication lately that the middle-class Egyptian especially is tired of all the political intrigue and foolishness of the Wafd and will be only too pleased if the present Government is able to carry on an efficient and strong administration, settling some of those many internal problems which face the country. It has begun to be realized by many former friends of the Wafd that they have dismally failed in their administration of the country; the *fellaheen* care little what form of government there is provided that their cotton crop is good and they obtain sufficient necessities of life. They can, however, be worked upon to create disturbances, as has been shown in the past, and this is what the Wafd may endeavour to do. Already they have tried to start a campaign in a certain section of the Press to persuade people not to pay taxes, and it was to prevent such attempts to stir up trouble that the present Cabinet suspended the freedom of the Press; that is, they can suspend or suppress a newspaper by administrative means.

A Benevolent Dictator.

There is no doubt that Mohamed Pasha Mahmoud sincerely desires the good of his country, and that no good would ever have been achieved by continuing the parliamentary régime. He realizes the grave responsibility which he and his colleagues have assumed, and he is not afraid of the rôle that he has assumed as "benevolent dictator." He realizes that the only thing that will justify his drastic action will be success. He and his colleagues are brave men to face the country unaided, as they have done, and to tell it home-truths about its past behaviour. Nahas Pasha and the Opposition have repeatedly accused them of being supported by the British, saying that they are dependent on "the bayonets of the foreigner." The step of dissolving Parliament for three years, was, however, taken purely on their own initiative. The only way that they can be said to be backed by the British is that, if there should be serious disturbances in the country, Britain would naturally help the existing Government, whatever its complexion, to preserve order.

Strong Measures.

But the Government's own measures for the preservation of order have been more than adequate. The Wafd decided to hold a big meeting at Tanta on July 20, which the Government proscribed; the Wafd insisted, however,

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on attempting to hold their meeting, and proceeded to Tanta from Cairo on the day arranged. The Government, however, had prepared against all eventualities, and on Wednesday Cairo station was busy with the departure of detachments of the Egyptian Army for all the various important provincial centres, taking with them tents and provisions for a week. At Tanta from early morning of Friday, the day of the meeting, the police were preventing the crowds coming into the town from the country, and when in the evening the members of the Wafd arrived there were five hundred police ready in the town and a large military force with steel helmets and bayonets fixed. The result was that no serious disorder occurred except the throwing of stones and chairs at the police. In spite of their ill-success at Tanta the Wafd decided to come to Alexandria for the meeting which they had arranged for July 22. This was also proscribed, but the Wafd were allowed to hold a tea-party at a private residence.

Opposition Movements.

On Saturday evening the members of the Egyptian Bar Association announced that they had decided to carry out a three days' strike as a protest against the present régime. The Cabinet held a meeting on Sunday morning, and decided to issue a circular to all the Judges saying that the strike would not be taken as an excuse for the adjournment of any of the Court cases.

The Wafd Manifesto.

The Wafd Manifesto was issued at the House of the Nation yesterday and was signed by Nahas Pasha. It is a curious oratorical document, accusing the Cabinet largely of things for which the Wafd themselves are responsible and of which they are themselves accused. It states that a great calamity has fallen on the nation. Egypt is suffering from a retrograde movement at a time when Syria, Iraq and India are progressing and enjoying a constitutional régime. It proceeds to say that the Cabinet has paralysed its own conscience by breaking its oath to respect the Constitution. The foreigner is going to make use of the present Cabinet to further his own ends. He is going to make the natives fight one another so that citizens will forget about their claims to independence, being intent upon their local disputes. The Cabinet is trying to break up the nation into different sections, so that there will be internal strife, and the evil results of such social crisis are known only to God.

There is a rumour gradually spreading that the Wafd is going to try to do all it can to institute a republic; how much truth there is in this story it is as yet hard to say.

Failure of Parliamentary Regime.

It is as much a disappointment to the British as to anyone else that the Egyptians should so far have failed in carrying out their parliamentary régime, for it was after all the British who took a principal part in drafting the Constitution. The past Cabinets have failed because either they were unable to effect any reforms, or, like the Sarwat Cabinet, they were intent on trying to settle their relations with England to the detriment of all other pressing questions at home. And this obsession about the foreigner's staying unbidden in the Egyptian house con-

tinued when the Nahas Cabinet came into power. The Nahas régime did nothing to improve the economic condition of the country, but endlessly discussed the tyranny of England. By intrigue and threats the supporters of Nahas Pasha gradually enlarged their party, which was one of their principal aims; anyone who expressed himself opposed to the decisions of the party was treated in very summary fashion; and Governmental posts were dealt out to those of the party who had behaved themselves the best. The result was that conditions in the country were going from bad to worse. It is only necessary to motor through any part of the Egyptian countryside for the space of an hour to see under what terrible conditions the majority of the inhabitants live. The only drinking supply serves almost everywhere as both wash-tub and sewer, and if it were not for the health-giving properties of the sun, Egypt would certainly be swept with recurring plagues.



Belgrade, July 19. (Delayed).

A Political Experiment.

For the first time since the creation of the Triune Kingdom a General on the Active List has been entrusted with the task of forming a Government, and the political situation centres round the War Office. On M. Raditch's refusal to attempt to form a Government to work with the present Parliament, in which his friends had been killed and he himself wounded, the political situation in Yugoslavia presented immense difficulties. Considerable alarm was aroused in Belgrade political circles by the speeches of M. Predavatz, one of the leaders of the Croatian Peasant Party in Zagreb, in which he exaggerated the differences between the Serbs and Croats, insisted on the fact that they had never united, and claimed that they could never become one nation. This was interpreted as an attack on the unity of the State, and the leaders of the four coalition parties were called to the Palace for consultation. A little later M. Pribitchevitch called to inform the King that there was no truth in these suggestions, and that, while the Peasant Democrat bloc was working against the present régime, they were certainly not out to destroy the State, for the unification of which both he and M. Raditch had made so many sacrifices. This declaration had the effect of restoring confidence, and renewed efforts were made to find a way out of the difficult situation. These have taken the form of negotiations for the formation of a "neutral" or non-party Government, composed of higher Civil Servants, University professors, lawyers and judges representative of all provinces and sections of the Yugoslav people—all eminent men and public

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workers, yet not involved in the embittered strife of party warfare which is ruining this country. This difficult task has been entrusted to General Hajitch, who for many years has been Minister of War.

A "Non-Party" Government.

General Hajitch has the confidence of the greater part of the Yugoslav people, and the choice of candidates with whom he has so far conferred has been extremely wise. He has also made a thorough study of the question of foreign relations, and for this purpose M. Rakitch, Minister in Rome, and M. Yefitchitch, Minister in Vienna, have been called to Belgrade. M. Juritch, Minister in London, has also arrived, and it is believed that he will become Minister of Finance, if General Hajitch forms a Government. It is not yet clear whether this Government is intended to work with the Skupshtina or not. The members of the old Coalition, who control a great majority in the present Parliament, in the name of parliamentarism naturally insist on the new Government's working under its control, but the Opposition declare that any attempt to work with the Skupshtina in which Croatian blood was shed will be considered as an insult and a challenge and will cause the trans-Sava representatives to leave Belgrade for good. General Hajitch has refrained from saying anything definite on this point. It is understood that the non-party Croats who have been interviewed are willing to enter a neutral Government which would carry on the administration until the autumn, when the time is ripe for elections, and then carry through fair and free elections. They would not enter a "Working Government." The situation has been complicated by the fact that M. Raditch has recovered sufficiently to begin to speak and to write copiously again, and has made many violent attacks on Belgrade and demanded complete "Home Rule" for Croatia.

Good Harvests.

The brightest feature in the whole situation is the fact that reports from all over the country state that the wheat, barley and rye harvests has been wonderfully good, and that, given rain, the maize and fruit will be equally good. After the lean years just experienced, political troubles were inevitable, and it is very probable that, if this year is a good one and prices are well maintained, many of the present difficulties will fade away.

A Loan for Yugoslavia.

Dr. Bogdan Markovitch, Minister of Finance, returned to-day after a long absence in France and Britain. He is reported to have declared that a loan has been concluded on the London market, but that owing to the low rate of Yugoslav exchange on the New York market, which would have too bad an effect on the rate of issue, this will not be issued until the autumn. M. Pribitchevitch yesterday issued a statement attacking the loan on the ground that the terms were for too hard, but it is officially stated that the data on which he bases his criticism are not correct.

Macedonian Troubles.

On July 13, Ivan Momtchilov, a Bulgarian refugee, who has lived for about two years in Yugoslavia, shot Zyiko Lazitch, Head of the Department of Public Security, and then shot himself. Momtchilov died from his self-inflicted wounds without ever fully recovering consciousness, but fortunately M. Lazitch was not seriously wounded and is rapidly recovering. M. Lazitch's very goodness made

the attempt on his life easy. It is well known that anyone, whatever his status, coming from Southern Serbia and asking to see M. Lazitch, whether he wants work in Belgrade, a scholarship to study at one of the State Universities, or a small loan, is always admitted at once. For this reason M. Lazitch is highly popular in Macedonia, whither he has been sent repeatedly to clear up messes made by less tactful and less kindly officials. Momtchilov gave a false name, claimed to come from Shtip, and was immediately admitted to see M. Lazitch, who is one of the chief officials in the Ministry of the Interior. While M. Lazitch looked at the slip of paper handed him, Momtchilov drew a small revolver and shot at him twice, wounding him over the ear, and then shot himself through the temple.

An Object of the "Komitajis."

A foreign journalist who has lived long in Sofia drew my attention to the fact that the officials who are murdered in Yugoslavia by the Bulgarian *komitajis* are almost always honest, kindly men popular in Southern Serbia. He suggested that this proves that the *komitajis* are working purely for the political aims of keeping Yugoslavia and Bulgarian apart and causing trouble in Macedonia, and not, as they maintain, for the humanitarian aims of protecting and avenging the wrongs of their Macedonian brothers. Were this the case, they would assassinate the corrupt officials who oppress the people, of whom numbers undoubtedly exist, and not the Kovatchevitchs and Lazitchs who are honestly striving, often against great opposition, to make the people happy and contented in their new country.



Sofia, July 17.

Assassination of Protogueroff.

The great Macedonian leader, Alexander Protogueroff, the oldest member of the Central Committee of the Macedonian Revolutionary Organization, was assassinated in the streets of Sofia, on July 7, by emissaries of his young and impetuous rival Ivan Mihailoff.

General Protogueroff was one of the great figures of Macedonian history. Born in 1867, at Ochrida, he was one of the first pupils at the Military School at Sofia, and as such took part in the first Serbo-Bulgarian war of 1885. He carved out a career in the Bulgarian Army, and interrupted it in 1902 to pass into the ranks of the young Macedonian Revolutionary Organization, to which he remained faithful until his death. He particularly distinguished himself at the head of detachments of revolutionaries during the great rising of Macedonia against the Turks in 1903, in the course of which he covered himself with glory and wounds. Later, during the Balkan Wars, Protogueroff, who was still only a Colonel, commanded the Macedonian legion, of which in 1915 an independent division was formed under his command. After the Armistice, which found him a Lieutenant-General, Protogueroff, like Todor Alexandroff, was arrested and imprisoned by Stambolisky, but these two Macedonian leaders soon escaped, with the help of numerous partisans, and set to work on the reconstruction and consolidation of the Revolutionary Organization, the strictness of which was considerably relaxed during the War—in the hope of a just peace which would make this conspiratorial institution superfluous.

Owing to the work of organization done by these two

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men, the Macedonian Organization, curiously aided by the deplorable Serbian administration in Macedonia, soon attained a degree of power unknown hitherto, even in its period of greatest prosperity. But the germ of Bolshevism was introduced into it, and a struggle ensued between Autonomists and Federalists. This came to a head in the crisis of 1924, when Todor Alexandroff was murdered, by means of a Bolshevik plot. The crisis was overcome by the Revolutionary Congress, meeting in February, 1925, which placed on the Central Committee, in addition to Protogueroff a voivod, George Popchristoff, and an energetic young man, Ivan Mihailoff, who had previously been Secretary to Todor Alexandroff and who, in this capacity, had directed the terrorist activity of the Organization. But in this Committee, the fierce energy of Mihailoff—at the time of his election but a youth of 28 years of age—could with difficulty accommodate himself to the *bonhomie* of the debonair Protogueroff (who at the age of 60 was inclined towards Theosophy and began to dabble in mysticism) and antagonism soon showed itself, all the more so since the ex-Secretary of Todor Alexandroff could not rely on the help of the third member, George Popchristoff, who was a very conscientious and scrupulous man.

Position of Ivan Mihailoff.

In fact, Ivan Mihailoff gradually assumed control of the Revolutionary Organization, and he was arranging a new congress, which should have met last spring, to rid himself of his two irksome colleagues (or at least of the "old veteran"), so as to rejuvenate the institution. In this he would have succeeded, had he not come into conflict with the political representatives of the Organization—Bajaroff, Parlitcheff, and Tomalevsky—who, taking into account the international situation and especially the situation of Bulgaria after the War, often intervened against Mihailoff, to restrain his terrorist activity. The effective head of the Committee having finally turned against the representatives, who hold their mandate, not from the Committee, but from the Congress, they (the representatives) set to work openly against Mihailoff, preparing a vast coalition at the head of which was, naturally, Protogueroff, who, with the help of Popchristoff and of a certain number of other revolutionary leaders, seriously threatened the all-powerful will of Mihailoff in the Congress of the Organization. And so the rupture came, and the shots were fired; on the pretext of avenging the death of Todor Alexandroff, with which the others had dared to accuse Protogueroff.

Crisis in the Organization.

On this, the latent crisis in the Macedonian Organization broke out, involving Macedonians in the risk of a civil war. This contingency was avoided, at least for the moment, thanks to numerous exhortations to both sides. It remained to save the legality of the Macedonian Organization, in which the act of Ivan Mihailoff was equivalent to a *coup d'état*. It was to this end that the following *communiqué*, published by the Central Committee and countersigned by the political representatives of the Organization, was directed:—

"In the night of July 7, Alexander Protogueroff, member of the Central Committee, who at the time was outside the limits of action of the Macedonian Internal Revolutionary Organization, was assassinated. The assassination was carried out by order of Ivan Mihailoff, also a member of the Central Committee.

"According to the Statutes of the Macedonian

Internal Revolutionary Organization, the members of the Central Committee have equal rights and it as a whole is responsible for all its acts to the Congress. It is impossible, therefore, for one member of the Central Committee to decree the death of one of his colleagues. That cannot be allowed in any organization. By this violation of the statutes of the Organisation, Ivan Mihailoff has placed himself outside the laws of the Organization.

"In conformity with the statutes of the Organization, after the death of a member of the Central Committee, the place of the dead is taken by the first of the reserve members elected by the Congress. This is Peter Shandanooff.

"Thus reconstituted, the Central Committee announces that, in collaboration and in strict accord with the representatives abroad (the Political Bureau), it will continue to work for the liberation of Macedonia until the gathering of the next Congress. The Central Committee begs public opinion not to judge the Macedonian Internal Revolutionary Organization by the acts of Ivan Mihailoff. In the course of its long existence of thirty years the M.I.R.O. has given ample proof that it is not an anarchist group and that it is subject to laws which are equally binding on all its branches, large and small, and on all its members.

"The Central Committee hopes that in the future, as in the past, the civilized world will give its sympathy to the work of liberating our country—Macedonia."

CYPRUS.

Nicosia, July 18.

The Weather.

Great heat prevails in the plains, but there have been heavy rain storms at Nicosia. There has been a great rush to the hills, especially to Platres, where the usual gay season proceeds. Hotels are well patronized.

Marriage of the Acting Governor.

Mr. Nicholson, Colonial Secretary, who is at present administering the Government, was quietly married at Limassol, on July 12, by Canon Newham, to Miss Richards, on her arrival by the mail steamer. After lunch they proceeded to Mt. Troodos, to "Government Cottage."

The Locust Bean.

A new vision has been unfolded for the carob (locust bean) industry, which has long been an important branch of agricultural industry. A prosperous development, as Sir Ronald Storrs has recently stated in London, should await the carob, in connexion with photographic film manufacture, as soon as the extracted membrane, now opaque, can be, by chemical process, rendered transparent. The bean, or pod, has hitherto been chiefly used in England as an ingredient of cattle foods. Cultivation of the carob tree could be enormously extended in the island.

Release of Prisoners.

July 12 was a happy day for a number of both long and short-sentence prisoners, whose conduct had been exemplary, for they were released on that day of jubilee. One of the former, a Greek, who had proved an expert in carpet making, was appointed, on his release, to be teacher of the art in the Central Prison of Nicosia.

General News.

The thanks of H.M. the King have been conveyed to the Governor, for his telegram of congratulation on the occasion of His Majesty's Birthday.

M. Venizelos has replied to a telegram of congratulation sent by the Greek Archbishop to that statesman.

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THE ARABS OF THE SUDAN.

Mr. H. A. MacMichael delivered the Burton Memorial Lecture before the Royal Asiatic Society on July 20, at 74, Grosvenor Street. Lord Ronaldshay, who mentioned that the first medal in memory of Burton had been awarded three years ago to Mr. St. John Philby, presided; and after Mr. MacMichael's lecture was over he presented him with the medal.

The subject of the lecture was "The Coming of the Arabs to the Sudan." Mr. MacMichael first explained that, but for a few bodies, mostly refugees, the Arabs did not reach the Sudan by the Red Sea, but *via* Egypt. The motives which brought Arab tribesmen to Egypt in 639 A.D. were partly religious and partly economic. When the Byzantine province of Syria had fallen, the Arabs streamed into Egypt with Amru ibn al Asi. A few settled in the towns; many pushed westwards in alliance with Berber tribes to Tripoli, Tunis, Algeria, Morocco, and even Spain; but many others, who had brought their flocks and sheep and camels with them, remained in Egypt. These last remained, of course, as nomads.

Now the Nile had been a trade route for ages past, so that the Arabs, in moving southwards to the Sudan, were not penetrating an unknown land, checked though they were by the negroid Christian Kingdom of Dongola.

The Arabs who sojourned in Egypt were a medley of tribes; some Qahtanites (from the Yaman), others Adnanites, that is Ishmailitic (from Central and Northern Arabia). But the genealogical claims of the Arabs were of doubtful authenticity. Arabs were very quick to take advantage of coincidence of name. Yet it was as tribal units that the Arabs entered Egypt in the seventh and following centuries. Many Gudham, for instance, were settled from the conquest until about the year 1400 in the Eastern Delta; some of them appeared later in the Sudan among the Kababiah of northern Kordofan. The Guhayna (and it was from an Abdullah al Guhani that half the Arabs of the Sudan claimed descent) came from the Hijaz; numbers of them invaded the Beja country (Red Sea hinterland). The Kenana and the cognate Quraysh came from the Hijaz and the Tihama; the Fezara came from the neighbourhood of Mecca.

But few of these tribes (or of the many others represented in the Sudan) came to the Sudan via the Red Sea; the movement took place through Egypt and up the valley of the Nile. The reason for migrating from Egypt to the Sudan were: better pasturage for animals, less fear of

the tax-collector, and more hope of loot and slaves. Egypt was not an ideal country for the nomad, owing to the negligible rainfall and the superfluity of cultivation. The Sudan, on the other hand, closely resembled Arabia itself in its desert grazing grounds, the bleak, sun-blackened hills of wasted standstone, and the more kindly valleys fed by springs or rainfall. The Red Sea was in fact no more than an accidental rift between two parts of the same country. All the broad central belt of the Sudan, the fringes of the heavily-watered marshy area to the south of it, and the habitable parts of the desert to the north of it, were now predominantly Arab.

By the middle of the ninth century the Arabs were numerically preponderant in Egypt. With the rise of Ibn Tulun in 861, however, the Turks, Berbers, and Mamluks began their long reign—which ceased only with the conquest of the country by Selim I of Turkey in 1517. To this state of affairs, the Sudan offered an obvious means of escape to the Arabs; an immediate opportunity was provided in the expeditions despatched against the Nubians.

The Christian Kingdom of Nubia, with its capital at Dongola, had been founded in the sixth century, and its negroid people converted to Christianity shortly afterwards. It lasted for 600 years after the Arab conquest of Egypt; but in the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries it entirely crumbled.

After the collapse of Dongola, the Rufaa, in the sixteenth century, with headquarters at Qerri (north of Khar-toum) allied with the Muhamadan Sultan of the negroid Fung, with capital at Sennar on the Blue Nile. These Fung founded a dynasty which lasted until the Turko-Egyptian conquest of 1821. With this alliance the doors of the Sudan were wide open, but there was no further evidence of tribal movement into the Sudan on a grand scale.

The Arabs now in the Sudan might be divided into three groups, determined by the geographical conditions of the country, which were—desert in the extreme north, then open steppes with shallow *wadis*, then richer, sandy country, then (on either side of Latitude 12 degrees) a broad belt of thickly wooded country, and then the vast, sub-tropical country.

The claim of the mixture of Arab and black to be true Arabs varied: it was strong among the sallow camel- and sheep-owning nomads of the north and even among the dark, hawk-eyed, cattle- and horse-breeding Baqqara and certain of the northern riverain groups, but slight among most of the sedentary villagers.

It was the policy of the Sudan Administration to avoid every form of unnecessary interference with the tribal life, and to support, within reasonable limits, the authority of the shaikhs. The result was that, with security and prosperity, the Sudanese shaikh was now ruling over nomads possessed of a far higher sense of responsibility than were their cousins in Arabia.

After the lecture, Sir John Maffey, Governor-General of the Sudan, referred to Mr. MacMichael's relationship with Lord Curzon and mentioned hereditary ability. It was with the help of such learned and sympathetic men as the lecturer that his Administration was ruling the Sudan. Its policy was to support the rule of tribal leaders rather than to foist modern Western notions of democracy upon them. For the carrying out of such a policy he thought the Anglo-Saxon race peculiarly well suited.

CORRESPONDENCE.

The columns of THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA are open for the discussion of subjects of general interest to its readers. The publication of such letters must not be taken, however, as indicating that the views expressed by the writers are those of THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA.

MODERN TURKEY.

To the Editor of THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA.

Sir,—In your issue of July 19, you very kindly published a long account of my address on "Turkey in 1927," before the Central Asian Society. I thank you for that report.



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At the same time I wish to correct certain phrases in that report which, though not altogether incorrectly quoted, yet do not give the meaning I intended to convey.

(1) I am not prepared to say that the Turks "had failed in the way of small shops." In Caesarea Turks have effectively replaced the expelled Christian traders. Elsewhere they are trying to do the same thing. They do not, however, take kindly to the routine side, the humdrum side, of making money on a small scale. As lenders of money they will probably never succeed.

(2) Few Armenians have returned to Turkey. In the future, I think, some may be able to go back. In the villages there are no Armenians, but in all the large towns a few have remained. These are mainly Catholics and appear to thrive.

(3) I gave the Railways and the Bosphorus Ferry Service as examples of the efficiency that Turks can show. I noted at the same time their amazing inefficiency in some other matters; and the queer unaccountable contrasts that are always cropping up in the Turkish character and which need to be studied.

(4) As to Caesarea, I endeavoured to paint it as typical of modern Turkey—an old world town to which the railway has just come, but has not as yet affected its life; the attempt of the Turks to replace the expelled Christian traders; the capable, vigorous Governor beating against the massed inertia of the people and the procrastination of the lower officials; everywhere the promise of great changes—but as yet only the promise.

(5) I tried to describe the position in Turkey to-day—its rulers efficient and with high resolve fighting against immense difficulties to revive and to reorganise a tired, battered people and an impoverished country; a land potentially rich, but hardly touched through lack of men and capital. As in Caesarea, so throughout Turkey there is everywhere the promise of great things ahead—but as yet only the promise.

(6) I did not intend to say "nothing promised to come out of what Turkey was doing," as you have quoted me. I will put my meaning as follows: "There is in Russia, for good or bad, a new spirit, a faith, a hope, a vital drive, and in the next generation this will produce something—it may be something fine, it may be a monster, I cannot say. Of a similar spirit in Turkey I could detect no stirring, but as yet the time has been so short that it is not fair to judge. In fact the rulers of Turkey are fighting against great odds and they are still forced to destroy more than they can create."

(7) Finally, I said that I believed that a little sympathy, a little holding out of the hand of friendship on our part, would help the rulers of Turkey and that a stable, well-governed Turkey would be a great asset to the British Empire.—I am, etc.,

F. H. C. ARMSTRONG.

Paris, July 21.

THE VISIT OF TAYMOOR TASH.

Taymoor Tash, Minister of the Court of the Shah of Persia, arrived in London on July 26. He was met at Waterloo Station by Mr. J. B. Monck, representing the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and by Sir Robert Clive, the British Minister to Persia. In the afternoon Taymoor Tash was received by the King at Buckingham Palace and afterwards attended the Royal Garden Party. The following day His Highness placed a wreath at the Cenotaph, and in the evening was entertained at dinner by Sir John Cadman and the directors of the Anglo-Persian Oil Company at the Savoy Hotel. The Lord Mayor, the Persian Minister, Mirza Eissa Khan Fayz, and other distinguished guests were present. On July 30 he was entertained by Sir Austen Chamberlain, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.

Count de Chambrun, the new French Ambassador to Turkey, arrived in Constantinople last week.

NEWS IN BRIEF.

Two Junkers aeroplanes purchased in Germany and the big machine that was presented to King Amanullah during his visit to Germany arrived last week in Kabul. The acting Foreign Minister, who had stayed behind in Herat owing to illness when on his way back with Royal travellers, was a passenger in one of the machines.

In order to prevent all possibility of further collisions between members of the rival groups in the Macedonian Revolutionary Organisation and to enforce respect for public authority, the Bulgarian Government is stated to have ordered the disarmament of the partisans of both sides, throughout Bulgarian Macedonia.

Owing to the continuance of the drought in certain parts of Anatolia, the Turkish Government last week appointed a commission to visit Konia to investigate what further relief measures were required. The Turkish Red Crescent has voted £T500,000 (£50,000) for relief in the Konia area.

It is officially announced that the following have been selected as Probationers in the Sudan Political Service: H. P. Arber, C. W. Beer, L. M. Buchanan, C. de Bunsen, C. A. Flux Dundas, A. M. Hankin, H. R. P. Harrison, A. W. Hill, T. H. Hunter-Blair, T. C. Livingstone-Learmonth, J. K. K. Morrison, P. J. Sandison. For Education: D. H. Hibbert.

THE YUGOSLAV CABINET.

The following is a list of Ministers comprising the new Yugoslav Cabinet which was completed on July 27.

Father Auton Koroshetz (Slovene Clerical)	Prime Minister and Interior.
*Dr. Marinkovitch (Democrat)...	Foreign Affairs.
*General Hajitch (no party)	War.
*Dr. Mehmed Spaho (Bosniak)...	Commerce.
*Dr. Milan Groll (Democrat)	Education.
M. Vlada Andritch (Radical)	Agriculture.
*M. Milorad Vuitchitch (Radical)...	Justice.
M. Petar Markovitch (Democrat)	Mines and Forests.
*M. Bogoliub Kuyunitch (Radical)	Posts.
M. Daka Popovitch (Radical)	Agrarian Reform.
M. Niko Subotitch (Radical)	Finance.
M. Angelinovitch (Croat Democrat)	Public Works.
M. Baritch (Slovene Clerical)	Social Welfare.
M. Zwetkovitch (Radical)	Public Worship.
M. Stanitch (Radical)	Communications.
M. Mihailovitch (Radical)	Public Health.

*Held the same office in the late Cabinet.

FROM LONDON TO THE BLACK SEA BY CAR.

We hope to publish next week the concluding instalment of Mlle. Stancioff's article with the above heading.

ISLAMIC LITERATURE.

ENGLISH TRANSLATION OF THE HOLY QURAN WITH NOTES. By Maulvi Muhammad Ali, M.A., LL.B., President, Ahmadiyya Anjuman Ishaat i-Islam, Lahore. Leather Bound, 50s.; Pluvinson, 40s.; Cloth Bound, 30s.

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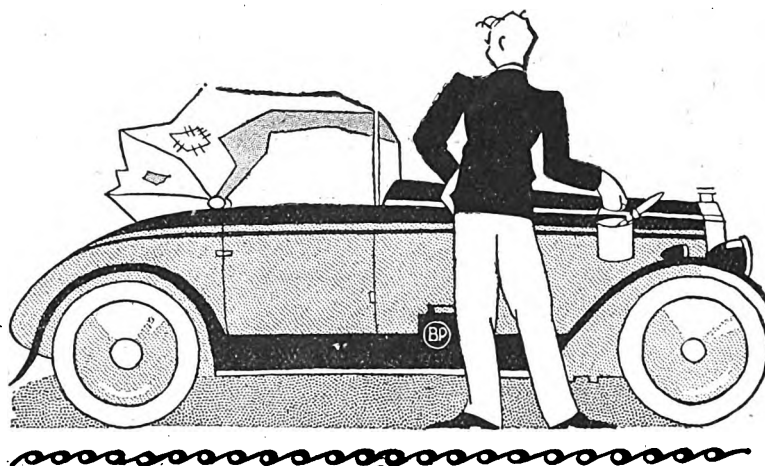
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THE WEEK AT HOME

London, Tuesday Morning.

Rifts in the Conservative Lute?

Although the enemies of the Conservatives are perhaps naturally inclined to exaggerate the seriousness of the rifts within the Tory lute, it cannot reasonably be doubted that over the question of Protection some sort of crisis is arising in that Party. More than two hundred Conservative Members of Parliament recently asked for an extension of the system of Safeguarding, and there have been fierce mutterings of protest at a recent "Free Trade" speech by Mr. Churchill.

Curiosity reached a high point on Saturday, when the Home Secretary, whose modesty is possibly not his most conspicuous virtue, declared that between the present time and the General Election next May or June the Conservatives must seriously consider the extension of Safeguarding. Now the Prime Minister and the Chancellor of the Exchequer, as Sir William Joynson-Hicks knows well, have considered it. They have rejected it. What, then, is to be the result of this conflict of advice?

Patently the organizers of the Conservative Party realise that the country as a whole will not stand Protection, however sincerely Conservative Members of Parliament may believe it to be in the best interests of the nation. Patently, also, there is the necessity for more discipline in the Party, if it is to be triumphant at the Polls next year. No Party can stand a Home Secretary who is apt to arrogate to himself the prerogatives of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, not to mention those of the Foreign Secretary. The trouble is, however, from the Tory point of view, that in the Cabinet itself the egregious Sir William Joynson-Hicks has considerable backing. Only Mr. Baldwin and Mr. Churchill, in fact, seem to be quite convinced that to hoist Protection is to lower the Conservative flag.

Party Politics and Independence.

How impossible it is for a Party man really to be independent in these days is shown by the fate of Sir Basil Peto, the Conservative M.P. for Barnsable, from whom the Government "whip" has just been withdrawn. The faith that is in Sir Basil has caused him more than once to oppose the Government; with the result that this very excellent Tory is left high and dry.

Sir Basil's particular politics are of no great importance. It is true that his views on such matters as Safeguarding, the Irish Loyalists, and the Naval Prize Bill would probably not commend themselves to the country at large. But the point is that he is punished for his independence. A good Tory, he is, in other words, a poor Party man.

Popular sympathy will surely be with him, for no one likes to see the spirit of man crushed under the huge Party machine. Of course, the disadvantages of independence are obvious, but it is a question between principle and expediency.

They order these things better, I fancy, in the Labour Party, in which very wide ranges of conviction and of activity are tolerated. Yet the truth remains that for the man who thinks and takes his politics independently (the man, for instance, who would vote for Mr. Stanley Baldwin on the obviously correct ground that he is the best Liberal in England) the choice is very small.

The New Archbishop.

Although there had recently been set on foot a movement for appointing a young, enterprising Archbishop of Canterbury, whose pulsating, revivifying influence should have made the road of ecclesiasticism a more glorious adventure, no one was really surprised at the Archbishop of York's having been chosen to succeed Dr. Davidson. Like the present Archbishop, whom he is to succeed next November, Dr. Lang is the son of a Scottish Presbyterian

it ought
The impo.

—his father was Moderator of the Church of Scotland and Principal of Aberdeen University.

The general impression appears to be that the path of wisdom has been carefully trodden in this appointment. Fears have been expressed in some quarters over Dr. Lang's Anglo-Catholicism, but although this is distinctly marked, it is not, I am told, of the extreme order. It will be very interesting to see how the new Primate sets about his urgent duty of restoring discipline in the Church, and whether his policy will differ from that of Dr. Davidson, whose partner he has been for some twenty years.

Science and Religion.

Governmental publications are not the common repository of both wit and wisdom, but it is astonishing what treasures may be found in Reports that look forbidding enough. For example, the Annual Report by the Chief Registrar for Friendly Societies contains passages that will provoke anger, mirth, and opposition.

Sir George Robertson, the Registrar, speaks of the application for exemption from local rates made by a Christian Science Church, by the Swedenborg Society, and by the Thesophists, on the ground that these bodies were instituted solely for the purpose of science or literature. He rejects all their claims, on the ground that these bodies are primarily religious. He says that to call such a system as that taught by Mrs. Eddy a "science" is ridiculous; that the value of the works published by the Swedenborg Society is not literary, but theological and doctrinal; and that Theosophy is a dogmatic religion, not a science.

This Report is well worth studying for its frank analysis of certain modish systems of living.

Standardising English Pronunciation.

Among those who never have any doubts upon the correct pronunciation of English, there can be heard considerable lament at the standardising process which is manifest in England, and which the B.B.C. Committee on the Pronunciation of English will—because of its learned persuasiveness—undoubtedly hasten. For those who do know better rather glory in the varieties, dialectical and accentual, of English speech; that such things as the broad vowels of the North or the burr of the West should ever give way to the thinner patter of the South, would, they think, be a calamity.

But such a disaster cannot happen for many years. Admittedly there must be an approach to uniformity, and that approach must be to the educated speech of the capital, London. Everything in what we call Progress, facility of communications, wireless, and so on, must tend towards this. In our lifetime, however, there will continue to be more than one right way of pronouncing the language.

The Railway Agreement.

Bouquets are being showered upon the railwaymen, and particularly upon Mr. J. H. Thomas, for the agreement by which a reduction by two and a half per cent. is being made in the wages and salaries of all concerned in the railways. It is claimed that the road to real statesmanship has been pursued, and evidently the railwaymen are inclined to think that no better terms could have been reached.

They are probably right. Yet one should remember that a reduction of sixpence in the pound to a man whose salary is £3,000 a year is not quite the same as a similar reduction to a man whose wages are £3 a week. This agreement was, however, freely arrived at, and is now being regarded as the model for similar agreements in other large industries. The best part of it is probably the clause by which this reduction is stated to be only temporary; the old standard agreement remains the basis for future negotiations. But when will the opportunity for returning to it occur?

ALTER EGO.

PERSONAL AND GENERAL

TO-DAY

August 2, 1928 (New Style).

July 21, 1928 (Old Style).

Saphar 14, 1347 A.H., of the Muslim Calendar.

Ab, 5689, of the Jewish Calendar.

The King and Queen received the Dowager Maharani of Cooch Behar on July 25.

The Maharaja of Patiala left London on July 30, for Germany.

The Bulgarian Minister left London on July 28 for abroad, on two months' leave.

Dr. and Miss Muriel Brock have left London to visit America, India, and Egypt.

Mr. S. R. Das embarked in the Malwa at Marseilles on July 27, for Bombay on return from leave.

The Maharani of Kapurthala left Claridge's Hotel at the end of last week for Paris.

Ibrahim Bey Fahmi, Egyptian Minister of Public Works, is due to arrive in London this week.

The Maharani of Baroda left Immingham on July 28 in the Orient liner Otranto for a cruise to Norway.

Lord Lloyd, High Commissioner for Egypt, left Alexandria for Europe in s.s. Heluan on July 28.

Sir Oswald Bosanquet left London on July 26 to join the Malwa at Marseilles for Bombay.

The Prince of Wales received at St. James's Palace on July 27, the Maharaja of Patiala, Sir William Tyrrell, and Sir Abe Bailey.

Sir Ronald Storrs, Governor of Cyprus, was present at the reception given by the Cyprus Brotherhood on July 28 at 12, Archer Street, W.1.

Sir Philip Grey-Egerton returned last week, after a shooting trip in India, to 50, Berkeley Square, where Lady Grey-Egerton is also in residence.

His Highness Taymoor Tash (Minister of the Court of the Shah of Persia) had the honour of being received by the King and Queen at Buckingham Palace on July 26.

The Sultan of Muscat and Oman, accompanied by Mr. B. S. Thomas, was received at Buckingham Palace on July 25, by the King.

His Majesty received Major A. K. Macpherson (Officer-in-Charge) and the King's Indian Orderly officers, at Buckingham Palace on July 26, and took leave of them upon their return to India.

PROPOSED ENGLISH CHURCH AT TROODOS, CYPRUS.

WANTED !

A permanent church on Troodos for the needs not only of residents (military and civilian) but of the visitors who are coming in growing numbers each year to this popular hill station of the Near East.

It is proposed that a stone building be erected on a site, to be allocated by the War Office, near the Parade Ground, at a cost if possible not exceeding £500.

The Special Committee includes H. L. Jones, Esq., Major L. F. Layton, O/C Troops, Norman Petrides, Esq., Dr. A. H. Unwin, Henry Williamson, Esq., and the Chaplains of Nicosia (Rev. H. Buxton) and of Limassol (Rev. L. Lindsay).

The Managing Director of the Cyprus Asbestos Co. has kindly promised a generous cash contribution and also building materials produced by the Company at exceedingly low price.

Contributions should be sent direct to the TROODOS CHURCH FUND, c/o H. L. Jones, Esq., Ottoman Bank, Nicosia.

Mme. Lessinoff, wife of the Counsellor of the Bulgarian Legation in London, sailed on July 28 in the Berengaria for America. She will return to London in October.

Colonel Sir Ronald Storrs (Governor and Commander-in-Chief of Cyprus) had an audience of his Majesty, and Lieut.-Colonel Sir Arthur Bannerman (upon relinquishing his appointment as Political Aide-de-Camp to the Secretary of State for India) had the honour of being received by the King at Buckingham Palace on July 28.

A farewell luncheon was given by Sesostri Sidarouss Bey, Egyptian Chargé d'Affaires, to Sir William and Lady Tyrrell, at Claridge's Hotel on July 27. There were present: Sir William and Lady Tyrrell, the French Ambassador, the Brazilian Ambassador, Madame Regis de Oliveira and Mademoiselle Regis de Oliveira, the Turkish Ambassador, the Governor-General of the Sudan and Lady Maffey, Sir A. M. Hassanein Bey, Mr. John Murray, Mr. Stephen Gaselee, Mr. and Mrs. G. Neville Bland, Hussein Sirry Bey, Mr. D. P. Hall and Miss Hall, Mr. J. M. Furness, Mr. Georges Cattai, Mr. and Mrs. R. A. Radi, Mr. F. Nawardi, Mr. Y. Noor El Din, Mr. M. Gamal El Din, Mr. M. Makhoul, Mr. F. Abdullah, and Mr. H. Khatib.

Professor Gilbert Murray was on July 25 elected President of the League of Nations International Committee on Intellectual Co-operation in succession to the late Professor Lorenz.

Mr. C. H. Griffith, deputy general manager of the Egyptian State Railways, has resigned, and it is reported that he has accepted an important post with the Pullman Car Company.

At the monthly meeting of the general committee of the Church Missionary Society held in London on July 24 the Bishop in Persia gave an account of the present situation in that country. It is more than 50 years since the Society began a mission in South Persia, and there are now four centres of medical, educational, and general Christian effort. The Church in Persia is small, but it is claimed to be growing year by year, and the Bishop is appealing for recruits from England to help him in every branch of the work.

Following a discussion on July 26 between Professor Capps, the Director of the American School of Archaeology in Athens, and officials of the Greek Ministry of Education, an agreement in principle was reached in regard to excavations on the site of ancient Athens. Under the agreement, according to the Athens correspondent of *The Times*, the American School will be granted a permit to excavate for the present the site between the Theseion and the Stoa of Attalos—namely, about half the extent originally proposed. It is proposed to begin work this year as soon as arrangements have been made for the settlement elsewhere of the occupants of the first 20 houses to be taken over.

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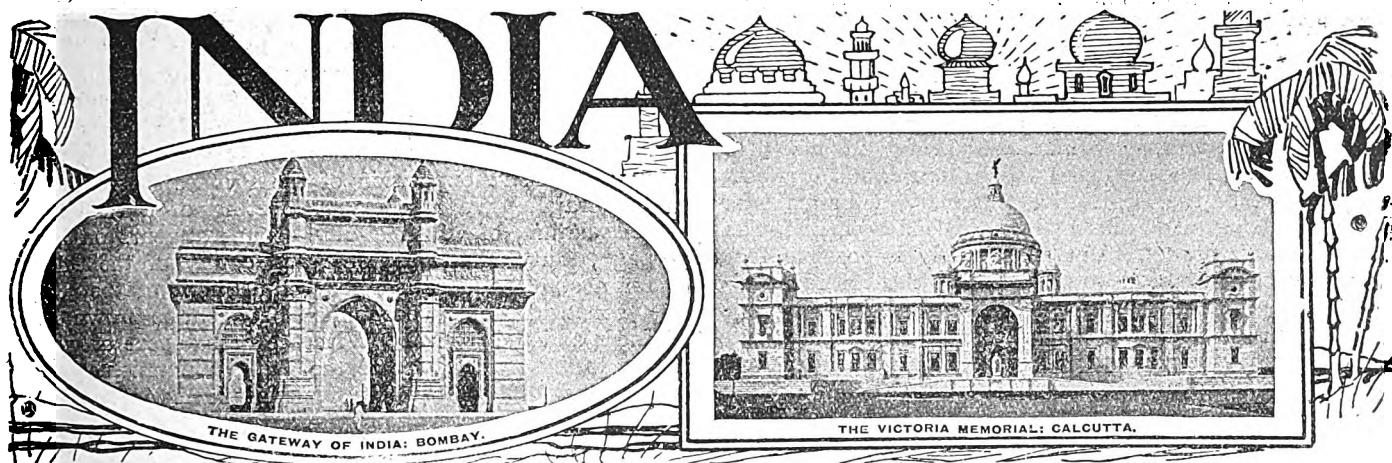
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THE IMPORTANCE OF BARDOLI.

The trouble in Bardoli may at first sight seem a local concern of the Bombay Government. In reality, however, it is a matter of first importance, and, if the Provincial Government fails to deal with it with reasonable firmness, the consequences may well be disastrous throughout India. The facts are simple enough. As we have already indicated, the Bardoli taluka is one of the richest portions of a district which is itself one of the most fortunate as regards climatic conditions in the whole of India. As in other portions of India, the cultivators hold their land from Government, the ultimate owner, on an assessment which holds good for thirty years, after which time it may be revised at the pleasure of Government. The theoretical right of Government to increase it as may seem fit is indisputable. As the last settlement took place in 1896, the revision is already overdue: in fact the cultivators have had two years beyond the fixed period, at the old rates settled when agricultural prices were much lower. It is equally indisputable that owing to the War, the opening of world markets for Indian produce, particularly cotton, and the general rise in prices, the agriculturist gets far more for the crops on his land than he did 32 years ago. Government, whose expenses have increased at least proportionately, can naturally claim a higher rent for the land than they did more than a generation ago, especially when it is remembered that the rent, or assessment, now fixed is to hold good for the next thirty years, and cannot be increased in the meanwhile, whatever the further rise in prices. In accordance with the usual practice, the Settlement Officer submitted his proposals for the revision of the assessment. He was an Indian officer of good standing and reputation. It is not disputed, at least by the fair-minded critics of Government, that his work was done carefully. He came to the conclusion that, in view of the increase in the value of the produce, an enhancement of 30 per cent. could reasonably be made. It is admitted that he based this opinion mainly on the gross value of the crops: nor is there intrinsically any unfairness in his doing so. The right of Government to a share in the gross produce is not merely traditional in India: it is the recognised principle in Indian States everywhere. When the proposals came to the Settlement Commissioner, that officer pointed out that it was possible to allege that the costs of cultivation had also risen: and he preferred to base his calculation of the fair increase of the assessment that could be made on the rental of such lands in the taluka as had been let by their occupants to tenants. The principle of calculating on the rental basis of leased lands has been recommended, as the fairest possible, by a majority of Committee which lately inquired into this very question of revision of assessment.

Provided that a sufficient number of cases of rented land can be found, and that the cases are examined to see that they are not greatly affected by extraneous considerations, calculation based on free rentals is doubtless the fairest, though it ought not to exclude a consideration of agricultural values. The important point in this case, however, is that,

though the Settlement Commissioner preferred his own method to that of his subordinate, his own conclusion was that the assessment should be increased by 29 per cent.: that is only one per cent. less than the original proposals. The closeness of the results arrived at by two different methods would appear to be a proof of their correctness. The Bombay Government, however, which has not been marked of recent years by any great administrative backbone, and is particularly open to pressure from Gujerat, reduced the increase to 22 per cent., and again on yet further consideration to 20 per cent. That Government also appointed the most senior of its officers, Mr. Hatch, to consider the complaints, but he was unable to find any substance in them. The Servants of India Society, an unofficial body formed for social service, then instituted an inquiry of its own. The *bona fides* of their members who conducted the inquiry need not be called in question: but none of them had any experience of settlement work, and one has, for several years, conducted his social work with an anti-Government bias. Their criticism, however, merely amounts to a suggestion that the rentals which served as a basis for the Settlement Commissioner's calculations, had not been examined with sufficient care. No evidence of real value is brought forward to support this suggestion: the rentals were often ascertained from registered documents; and in any case the possibility of an occasional error was surely covered by the reduction by Government of the increase in assessment from 29 to 20 per cent. On the merits of the case, therefore, there is no little ground for the refusal to pay the increased assessment. A similar or larger increase has been made, and is being paid without difficulty, in the neighbouring taluka of the same district.

The merits of the matter, as we explained last month, have little to do with the real agitation. It will be remembered that Bardoli was chosen by Mr. Gandhi as the trial ground for his movement of Civil Disobedience in 1921. If it be asked why this taluka had the doubtful honour, and undoubted misfortune, of being thus selected it may be remembered that it lies in the heart of Mr. Gandhi's native stronghold of Gujerat. It contains a large number of prosperous Hindu cultivators, orthodox and even bigoted in their views. It has also a large population of the depressed or Kaliparaj classes, who are entirely under the subjection of the superior Hindu classes. Finally it has a close connexion with the Hindu traders of South Africa, who in spite of complaints of oppression and unfair treatment, manage to make money in the Union, and who can be trusted to lend financial help in any political or racial struggle. It is true that Mr. Gandhi, genuinely shocked at the Chauri Chaura violence of 1921, called off the Civil Disobedience Movement. The agitation, however, did not cease. Ashrams were multiplied throughout the taluka: and there can be little doubt that Mr. Gandhi is once more playing with fire, and stirring up passions which he cannot control, though he will doubtless lament the violence to which they must inevitably lead. Mr. Gandhi is admittedly the brains of the movement, and his son is taking a prominent share in its activities. The

actual leader, however, is Mr. Vallabhai Patel, who is hailed as the Lenin of the movement. He is described as "General" by his followers, who are administered on a military basis. We may smile at the idea of the Gujarati Hindu as a soldier: but we must recognise the harm which a vain and ambitious man can bring on his deluded followers. Doubtless the intervention of his brother, the President of the Legislative Assembly, with his offer to pay a thousand rupees monthly to the agitation, has its serio-comic aspect. But it is surely impossible for the Government of India to countenance the President of one of its legislative bodies, whose salary is paid for the performance of his duties with decent impartiality, contributing out of that salary to an agitation admittedly subversive of the system of Government.

The local aspects are serious enough, but, as we have said, the consequences, if the Government of Bombay admits defeat, or even shows further weakness, will be far more serious. We are told that the malcontents in Madras Presidency are watching the results in Bombay. Similar questions will arise all over India, where the Government is the great landowner. Inasmuch as the Government of Bombay had already twice revised its Settlement Commissioner's proposals, and had appointed an officer to inquire into them, it seems an undue yielding to agitation to offer further inquiry. Such an inquiry might be justified if the agitation agreed to abide by its results. The idea of any such agreement is, however, repudiated by the agitators. The Government of Bombay must therefore decide between governing and abdicating its functions in favour of Mr. Vallabhai Patel.

CURRENT TOPICS.

The Opening of the Case.

As we anticipated, the proceedings at the first meeting in London of the Indian States Committee last week, were merely formal, the Committee, over which Sir Harcourt Butler presided, deciding merely to receive the opinion of counsel on the constitutional position of the States. The formal submission of the opinion, which was signed by Sir Leslie Scott and four other leading counsel, and, it is understood, extends to some twenty printed pages, was made by the Chancellor of the Chamber of Princes, the Maharajah of Patiala. The Chancellor was accompanied by several other members of his Order belonging to the group which has engaged Sir Leslie Scott's services for the presentation of their case. The latter, we understand, now comprises some sixty-eight Princes who are members of the Chamber in their own right (including all the members of the Standing Committee), thirty-five rulers represented in the Chamber and one hundred and twenty rulers not so represented. At the conclusion of the proceedings the Butler Committee adjourned their meetings until the middle of October, by which time it is expected Sir Leslie Scott will be in a position to present and argue the considered opinion of the group as to, first, their grievances in respect of the existing constitutional position and practice, and second, the nature of the revision required to adjust the present administrative machinery to modern conditions. That there are still differences of opinion among the Princes as to the precise form which the alterations should take—Hyderabad, Baroda and Mysore are the outstanding examples of those States which have so far declined to join the Standing Committee of the Chamber in the new organization—is a matter of common knowledge. "I think it is fair to say, though," his Highness the Maharajah of Patiala stated on the eve of the opening of the case, "that we are all agreed that there must be something like a federation for India; and by federation I mean nothing more than a machinery which will enable British India and Indian India to meet together at the top, and to discuss jointly, in a manner consonant with the interests and importance of each, all policies and proposals which affect India as a whole. Concerning details,

as will be obvious, there is plenty of room for difference of opinion; but on these broad lines, that is to say, the strength of the Princes' case, the importance of finding a remedy and the necessity of some federal scheme—I think I may say that there is entire unanimity among us."

And anybody who studies the admirably concise but comprehensive exposition of the Princes' case which the Maharajah gave at the last meeting of the East India Association, of which a full account appears on another page, must admit the force and equity of their demand for a stable and satisfactory adjustment of the relations—constitutional and economic—between the Crown, British India and themselves. With the first aspect of what, as the terms of reference to the Butler Committee indicate, is a two-fold problem, we dealt last week in some detail. The other aspect is the steadily growing importance of affairs of common interest to the States and to their neighbour. British India tariff legislation, particularly that on protective lines, is an outstanding case in point. The co-ordination and control of railway policy throughout India is another, and further illustrations readily occur to mind. The opinion that developments in such directions have reached a stage when regular constitutional methods of consultation between the States and British India ought to be established has long been crystallising in authoritative quarters. Some of the leading ruling Princes, His Highness reminds us, pressed upon the Paramount Power definite schemes for dealing with the situation over ten years ago. The institution of the Chamber of Princes was itself an expression of general agreement upon the need to take special measures to that end. Unfortunately those who have been most closely concerned in its working complain that as a basis for co-operation between British India and the States the Chamber has wholly failed of its purpose. And meanwhile the urgency of the problem has increased, as the outcome of the practical administration of the reformed Constitution of British India, tenfold. A glance at any map will reveal the economic interdependence of the latter and of the States which occupy nearly a third of the Indian Empire, and will emphasize the Maharajah's contention that the prosperity of India as a whole is largely dependent upon effective co-operation between the governing authorities in British India and those in the Indian States.

Labour Unrest in India.

After a short period during which the country was relatively free from labour troubles of serious dimensions, India has lately been in the throes of a strike epidemic of unprecedented extent and virulence. The 128 separate disputes reported in 1926, we pointed out recently in these columns, represented, in point both of days lost and work-people involved, a smaller number than in any of the six years during which regular statistics have been compiled. This comparatively peaceful state continued into 1927, only about 25 strikes, some of them very paltry, being recorded during the first quarter of last year. And a notable and very satisfactory feature of all these disputes was the almost entire freedom from acts of sabotage and violence. Unfortunately, the improvement has not been maintained. The current year has not only seen a recrudescence of the trouble but upon more extended lines and in a far graver form. The situation has developed with bewildering rapidity since the end of March, but the figures for the first quarter of 1928—the latest available—are sufficiently impressive. Between January 1 and March 31, 58 disputes occurred, the number of men involved being 83,570 and the days lost 1,005,000—the latter figure being practically the equivalent of that returned for the whole twelve months of the two previous years.

(At the same time, to describe the latest developments as symptomatic of labour unrest in the sense in which the term is understood in this country is greatly to underrate their significance. The avowedly Communistic aims of the self-constituted leaders, both Indian and European, the clearly proved complicity of outside agencies known to be

hostile to our rule in India, and the violence and "direct-action" tactics employed from the very beginning of the trouble mark a new and more sinister phase in the history of industrial progress in that country. That the Government of India has itself largely to blame for a situation which threatens to become a real menace to law, order and good government, is unquestionable. But its dilatoriness in re-introducing the legislation for the prevention and settlement of industrial disputes, with the somewhat chequered history of which we dealt in a recent issue, is not the only complaint which can be lodged at its door. For at best compulsory arbitration, even supposing an equitable and workable system can be found, must only be a palliative in existing conditions, and leaves the real problem untackled. Accordingly we welcome the action taken last week in Madras and we hope that not only will the trial of the ringleaders be arranged as expeditiously as possible, in order that the maximum moral effect may be obtained from any deterrent sentences which may be imposed, but that steps will further be taken to prohibit the entry into British India in future of persons of any nationality holding professed Communist views. 7

CALCUTTA LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Calcutta, July 12.

The Statutory Commission and Bengal.

A few days before the debate began in the Bengal Council on the resolution that that Council should follow the lead of the Punjab and the Burma Councils, and appoint a Committee to act with the Statutory Commission, I had some talk with an Indian, a journalist prominent among the Swarajists of the Province. In answer to my question, whether the Bengal Council would decide for or against co-operation, his ready answer was that it would decide against, and by a majority of nine votes. "If the voting should go the other way," he went on, "and the Council decide to appoint a Committee, the majority in favour of that course will be the same, nine." The actual voting last Tuesday must, then, have occasioned a good deal of surprise; for, first, the Swarajist amendment to the resolution, the supporters of which sought to postpone the decision indefinitely, was defeated by 82 votes to 45, while the resolution itself was carried by 72 votes against 50. The Muhammadan vote was the decisive factor. All the Muhammadan members present voted for the resolution except two, one of those voting against it, and the other, Sir Abdur Rahim, did not vote. Needless to say, all the European and Anglo-Indian members voted for the resolution.

The decision of the Council meets with general approval, with much more indeed than is expressed openly; and the example of Bengal should have its weight with those Councils which have not yet come to a decision, and it may have some influence with those Councils that have already decided, and have decided for the boycott, but might reverse that decision. Less and less, it may be predicted, will be heard of the boycott. It may sound a little ungracious, and not in a Locarno spirit, to remark that, should the boycott collapse, which seems most improbable, an extremely pertinent question will be, "What amount of real statesmanship can there be in those leaders who began it with such an air of assured victory?" It would have to be asked, for the whole Simon inquiry turns on it. If these politicians have little real statesmanship in them, which is the belief regarding them of most impartial observers, then the new constitution must be one that does not assume for its successful working the possession by the parties of a great deal of statesmanship, for as the leading politicians of to-day are, so will Indian politicians for long enough continue to be.

The "Incident" of the Debate.

What is variously spoken of as the "incident" of, or the "breeze" in, the debate occurred when, to give it in the words of the *Statesman's* summary, "Mr. J. M. Sen Gupta, the Swarajist leader, alleged improper conduct by official members and His Excellency the Governor in sponsoring the Government resolution, despite Sir John Simon's statement that the formation of provincial committees must be confined to non-official members." On the President's stating that Mr. Sen Gupta must come to his private chamber after the debate, and exhibit his proofs, and on the Swarajist leader's saying that he would not do so, the President ruled that the portion of the speech in question must be expunged from the official report.

There is a valid distinction to be drawn between confining the formation of the provincial committees to non-official members and deciding whether there are to be such committees, or not to be any. There is even a distinction to be drawn between the official members taking part in the selection of those seven non-official members who should form a committee and their appointing one or more of their own number to the committee. Such distinctions Sir John Simon clearly meant should be drawn. Why the apparently small matter is worth dwelling on is because it is another instance, as the boycott was one, in which a leader of a party has shown a lack of understanding of what is worth putting forward in policy or debate, and what is not worth it. If there are to be representative institutions with increased powers and responsibilities, there must be a surer guarantee than is now apparent that there is at command that minimum of competence without which the business of such institutions cannot be intelligently conducted.

It may be said all the same that the implications of the President's ruling on Tuesday are extremely unsatisfactory. Is every speaker who alleges improper conduct on the part of the Governor or the executive to be summoned to the President's private chamber, there to exhibit his proofs? And will it depend on the President's being satisfied, whether the man's speech is reported in full, or with a part expunged? What a field would thereby be opened to any subtle minded member who wished to make the President's existence a burden to him! What a field for a party practising obstruction! Surely, too, it could not be good for the executive or the country, that the executive should be considered so holy and sacrosanct, that it must not be accused of improper conduct. How far the Governor's acts may be properly made the subject of debate is a more difficult question. There is sound sense in the feeling in England that the King's name must never be dragged into debate. The Governor is the King here.

East Indian Railway Strike.

It would appear that the East Indian Railway strike at Lilloah, Asansol, and Ondal is at last on its speedy way to the much-wished for end; for the strike was "officially" called off on Monday. Mr. K. C. Mitra, Secretary of the E.I.R. Union, addressing a mass meeting at Howrah, attended by about 2,000 men, confessed that the Union's resources were exhausted, and that he could not ask the men to hold out any longer. He offered to lead them back to work the next day. Each man, before being admitted, had to sign a promise that he would work, and not just perform *saiyagrah*. There has been a steady streaming back to work since Tuesday, for it has been more than a drift. This is true of all three places. There has been a welcome absence of late of the name of Mr. Philip Spratt, in the reports of the strike. The strike had lasted for 134 days. There is to be no pay given for the time the workshops were closed; so one may now consider the bad Karghpur precedent as buried. The authorities, one imagines, were determined that whatever it might cost it should be.

Co-operative Movement in India.

The co-operative movement in India has made remark-

able progress during the last twenty years, statistics just issued showing that there are now 89,071 societies, with a membership of 3,422,000 and capital amounting to nearly seventy crores. The rapidity of the growth of the movement in Bengal is commented on in the Report of the Department of Agriculture, which has this among other matter: "Another class of societies . . . is the co-operative irrigation society which has for its object the construction of new sources of irrigation and the improvement of those already in existence. Co-operative societies of this character have done good work in the Bankura and Birbhum districts . . . where they now control an irrigable area of over 23,000 acres. The organization of these societies is reported to have changed the whole outlook of the people and to have strengthened their economic position. Their development would have been more marked had it not been for the lack of expert guidance and advice." There are even now Co-operative Anti-Malaria Societies. The possibilities of this movement have been recognized by the Government, which has assisted by giving annual grants, amounting to date to about Rs.70,000.

BOMBAY LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Bombay, July 14.

The Bombay Legislative Council.

The Poona session of the Bombay Legislative Council which commences shortly promises to be an interesting one. A discussion will most probably arise on the Bardoli question on which the Gujerat members of the Council feel very keenly; there is the Fragmentation of Holdings Bill to which the Deccan members are strongly opposed; and, lastly, there is the appointment of the Council Committee to work with the Simon Commission opposed by the Swarajists and the other boycotters. Though none of these three parties would be able to offer an effective opposition to the Government, it is feared that acting together they may defeat the Government at every point. Each party has stipulated that, as the price of its support, the other must be willing to reciprocate. The result is likely to be that, if Government suffers a defeat on any resolution, it will be successfully opposed on all the others. If the Government could settle the Bardoli question before the Council meets it can look to the support of the Gujerat members. But the Council assembles on July 23 and there is hardly any possibility of the Gujerat members being conciliated in the intervening period.

Bardoli.

Sir Leslie Wilson has gone to Simla to consult the Viceroy about the Bardoli matters. The Revenue Member of his Government has come, I understand, to the conclusion that Government are facing a crisis at Bardoli the intensity of which they had not hitherto realised. It is expected that Government will yield to the demand for an inquiry though it will by no means be an independent and impartial one. The Gujeratis, it is to be feared, will not accept this compromise, and, while at a certain stage they could easily have been appeased by this offer, the matter has been allowed to drift for such a long time that the demands of the leaders of the disobedience movement have, like that of the Sibyl, increased with lapse of time and nothing will now content them but an "independent and impartial" inquiry, by which they mean an inquiry which finds that the assessment has been too heavy.

Relief for Strikers.

The proposal that the Municipal Corporation of this city should grant for the relief of the women and children of the strikers Rs.1,000 a day was thrown out. The chief danger in such a scheme is that there will be a rush from the villages and it will not be possible to distinguish the mill workers from the others. The resolution was brought forward as an election "stunt" and even those who sup-

ported it had not much enthusiasm for the scheme. Election time is near at hand and many who have shut their eyes to the mistakes of Government when they were safe from their electors, have suddenly discovered the iniquity of those in authority and consider the time taken up in writing letters to the Press well spent.

Mayor's Fund.

Dr. Deshmukh, President of the Corporation, has started a fund for the relief of the strikers to which many of the millowners who opposed the idea of a municipal grant have generously contributed. Some of the millowners had also consented to put at the President's disposal their mill crèches for the use of the children of the strikers. Dr. Deshmukh, at the informal meeting of the members of the Corporation, at which he made this announcement, suggested that they should not rest content with helping the strikers but should endeavour to bring the strike to an end and that they should urge on Government the necessity of appointing a conciliation board to settle the dispute as only by mediation could the strike be ended. Dr. Deshmukh was only fair to the millowners when he advised the audience to get the strike ended as he could not otherwise take their money to support the strikers. The extremist labour leaders, however, look at it in a different light. At one of their recent meetings at Thackersey Hall a speaker advanced the ancient argument of *timeo Danaos et dona ferentes*, which has caught the imagination of the strikers.

Government and Ministers.

Sir Chimanlal Setalvad, in his inaugural address at the Institute of Political and Social Science held yesterday at the Servants of India Society, attacked the method of appointing Ministers under the system of dyarchy as ill-suited to the requirements of the time. Sir Chimanlal has for long been associated with the Bombay Government and he has had inside experience of the working of the reformed constitution. His words, therefore, cannot be disregarded as wild fulminations against the Government. "The way in which Ministers are appointed in India," says Sir Chimanlal, "is the very negation of the principle of Constitutional Government. A person is chosen as Minister not because he has a party committed to a definite policy, but because he suits the purpose of Government. All that Government desire is that their measures, particularly the measures required by the Reserved Departments, should be smoothly carried through. They select Ministers who can give a greater number of votes to the Government. There is a regular bid for the post of a Minister and the person that gives the highest bid gets his chance. By giving the Ministership and the salary of Rs.4,000 attached to it, Government not only buys over a person but along with him they buy 14 or 15 votes, according to the bid that that person might have given."

Part III. of Volume I. of the Report of the Royal Commission on Agriculture in India, consisting of the evidence of officers serving under the Government of India and of witnesses from minor provinces, has been published by H.M. Stationary Office (price 1s. 9d.).

The Marquis of Reading, presiding at a luncheon of the British Indian Union at the Hotel Cecil, on July 28, said that the Union was doing much to foster a better understanding between the British and the Indians, which was a matter of vital importance. Mr. S. R. Das, the Law Member of the Government of India, who was the guest of honour, said that the Union was helping in the right direction. Sir M. Shafi and Sir M. Dadabhai spoke in praise of Lord Reading's efforts to extend the activities of the Union.

The Right Hon. Satyendra Prasanna, Baron Sinha of Raipur, P.C., K.C.S.I., of Delhi, India, and of Queen Anne's Mansions, London, S.W. who died on March 5, aged 64, domiciled in India, left property in England valued for probate at £538, and in India valued at Rs.2,974,753, making the total value of the estate at current rates about £223,600. He left Rs. 10,000 each to the Hospital attached to the Belgatchia Medical College, the Trustees of the Sadharan Brahma Samaj of Cornwallis Street, Calcutta, the Trustees of the Bhowanipour Sanmilani Brahma Samaj, the Sambhunath Hospital, Bhowanipour, and the Calcutta Orphanage of Bulloram, Deys Street, Calcutta.

"THE INDIAN STATES AND THE CROWN."

At a largely attended meeting of the East India Association on July 24, Major-General the Maharajadhiraj of Patiala, Chancellor of the Chamber of Princes, lectured on "The Indian States and the Crown." In the absence, owing to family bereavement, of Lord Ronaldshay, Sir Walter Lawrence presided on what is believed to be the first occasion on which a Ruling Prince has addressed a gathering of that nature.

The Maharaja of Patiala said that it was difficult to understand the relations between the States and the Crown unless one realised the great importance of the position which the former occupied in the actual geography of India. The territory of the States lay across, and from one point of view dominated, the whole of India—in fact the Indian States were so situated that the main arteries of communications, which were vital both for the safety and the well-being of the Indian Continent, ran principally through State territory. He asked whether this did not seem to argue that the prosperity of India, as a whole, is very largely dependent upon effective co-operation between the governing authorities in British India and in the Indian States.

After a brief historical retrospect of the various phases through which the relations between Indian States and British India have passed since the early days of the Company, the Maharaja showed how economic progress and enlightenment had brought in their train a growing consciousness that the position of the Princes was unsatisfactory; and that those rights and privileges which they believed themselves entitled, according to their treaties and engagements, to enjoy were in practice infringed very often in deference to the imperious political and economic requirements of British India. Early in the present century the new generation of Princes became alive to the necessity of some organization for the promotion of their common interests in place of their previous isolation, while the new generation of British administrators realised that the time had come when such a combination was essential.

Accordingly when the late Mr. Edwin Montagu came to India in 1917, a number of Princes, with whom the Maharaja of Bikanir and he had the honour to be associated, were ready to present to him a scheme intended to afford a basis of co-operation between the Indian States and the Government of British India, as well as to provide the means of rectifying the particular difficulties which the Princes had begun to experience in the working of the existing system. The scheme contemplated the creation of three separate pieces of machinery; a Council of Princes, a permanent Advisory Board, and a system of arbitration. The Chamber of Princes was intended to enable the States to speak with a common voice, and thus to provide the foundations upon which negotiations between the States as a whole and British India as a whole could be based. The permanent Advisory Board was to be associated with the Political Department in the management of everyday relations between the States and the Crown, in order to ensure that the Princes' point of view was adequately represented when policies were framed. The system of arbitration was devised to secure the impartial decision of justiciable matters in dispute between States inter se, and the States and Government.

"I am speaking," he continued, "with the fullest sense of responsibility when I say that we were able to convince Mr. Montagu and Lord Chelmsford of the strength of our case. . . . But the fact remains that while the Joint Report endorsed what I may call the externals of our recommendations, it deprived our proposals of the scope and functions which we had postulated." The Chamber of Princes was set up, but under conditions which made it almost useless for their purpose. The Advisory Council of the original proposals was represented to-day by the Standing Committee of the Chamber of Princes, with none of the functions which the Princes themselves had prescribed for it. The system of arbitration was represented by a Government resolution which enabled Government,

when it so desired, to employ the forms of an impartial arbitration to settle differences between itself and a State; but allowed Government to accept or to refuse the result of the arbitration as seemed to it more desirable.

Since the Chamber of Princes was set up in 1921 its members had pursued the policy of doing the best with what had been given them. Until a couple of months ago they had no control over their own agenda or their rules of business; but now through the liberality of Lord Irwin, they had achieved the first of these two points. The Chamber had performed the useful purpose of building up a very strong body of public opinion among the Princes in support of a definite line of policy.

"This line of policy," he continued, "may be briefly defined, first, as a fixed endeavour to bring home to every ruler a sense of common responsibility to the Order of Princes as a whole; secondly, a deliberate encouragement, by every means, of efficiency and good government in the States; thirdly, a fixed determination to press for what we regarded as our undoubted rights under the treaties."

As time went on the Princes, finding their position becoming increasingly difficult, approached the Viceroy in person to ask for an impartial and authoritative inquiry. They had become increasingly conscious of the fact that while there was never any intention on the part of the framers of the Reformed Constitution in British India to trespass upon the rights of the States, yet in actual practice these had been affected very deeply. In a great variety of directions—for example, the fixing of the rupee ratio, the introduction of protective duties, experiments with prohibition and the like—they found themselves most deeply and vitally affected by policies in the framing of which they had no hand.

The terms of reference to the Indian States Committee, now sitting under the able Chairmanship of Sir Harcourt Butler, were not as comprehensive as the Princes originally desired; but they believed that the investigations of the Committee could do them nothing but good, since they would enable them to put forward at least some portion of their case in all its strength. Regarding the precise form of constitutional machinery they hoped to see established, there were still some differences between the Princes. But it was fair to say that they were all agreed that there must be some machinery to enable British India and "Indian India" to meet together at the top, and to discuss jointly, in a manner consonant with the interests and importance of each, all policies and proposals affecting India as a whole. The Princes were unanimous in believing in the strength of their case, the importance of finding a remedy, and the necessity of some federal scheme.

He emphatically declared there was not, and could not be, any ill will on the part of the Princes towards the Nationalist movement in India. They, like all the greatest of the Nationalist leaders in British India, were firm believers in the value of the British connexion. They had not the slightest desire to thwart the progress of British India; indeed, they hoped to run a friendly race with them along the lines of national development. Not only had the States the will to improve, but very real improvements had in the course of a few years been carried out. It was the characteristic tendency of the States in these days to lay down the lines of a stabilized administrative system, which should be independent of changes in the personality of the Ruler, and which should operate with something like the same consistency and steadiness as characterized the work of Government in advanced countries.

The Maharaja concluded: "And here again let me speak very plainly. It has sometimes been said that Rulers of Indian States are autocrats. I do not quite know the full implications of that term to Western ears; but this I do know; that no Indian Ruler can resist, or would dream of resisting, the public opinion of his people. That is not our conception of kingship at all; nor is it the idea which our people hold. To us, kingship is an office which has rights and which has obligations. The two are indissolubly linked. The same is true of the subject. He has his rights just as he has his obligations; and the King can no more

transgress the former than he can permit the subject to transgress the latter.

"One last word, and I have done. It may seem to my hearers that I have said very little upon the the subject of the relations between the Indian States and the Crown. In reality, as I hope reflection will show you, I have really said a great deal; for I have done my best to explain to you as effectively as I can in the time at my disposal the manner in which Indian States themselves conceive of this relation; and the manner in which they believe it can best be implemented, for the benefit of Great Britain and the Empire, of India herself, of British India, and of the States."

Lord Lamington, president of the Association, who was detained at Harrogate by medical orders, wrote that, whatever reactions the changes in administration in British India might have on the Indian States, he thought that if those changes were to be successful they must be modelled on the forms and in the spirit of administration in the Indian States, rather than on the lines of our Western bureaucratic and representative institutions.

Sir Lennox Russel, late Resident in Hyderabad, said that by taking the bold step of ventilating in public the subject of the relations of the States with the Crown and the organization of the Princes for joint action the Maharaja had added to the notable services of his illustrious house.

Sir Michael O'Dwyer said there was no Prince in India who achieved more for the British cause in the Great War than the Maharaja of Patiala. The States differed markedly in treaty rights and status and relative importance, and it was very difficult to find any common denominator. But there were certain points on which the Chamber of Princes could "function" for their common good. In one instance mentioned by the Maharaja, that of the imposition of high protective duties on steel and other manufactures, he felt that the interests both of the masses of the people and of the Indian States had been disregarded. If, as the Maharaja had suggested, the Princes were disappointed with the outcome of the examination of their position in the Montagu-Chelmsford Report, it was because that document, in Chapter X., as in the chapters on British India, did not take sufficiently into account local conditions. The Princes had a very strong claim upon us when they asked for re-adjustment of relations, and their wishes should be met, subject to the proviso that British paramountcy remained unimpaired, and that in the last resort the British Government should have the right to interfere on behalf of the people of a State suffering from maladministration.

Sir Louis Dane said that the Indian States were the greatest sheet-anchor we had in India, and it was certain that if we stuck to them they would stick to us. He announced that the Maharaja had accepted a vice-presidency of the association.

THE STATUTORY COMMISSION.

THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA understands that Sir Philip Hartog, Chairman of the Auxiliary Committee on the Growth of Education, the appointment of which was announced in its issue of June 7, has arrived in England and is in conference, with the two members of the Committee resident in this country, with the Simon Commission respecting the lines of the inquiry.

In a questionnaire drafted by the Chairman and his colleagues in India before his departure, information is sought as to whether the growth of education during the past decade may be considered satisfactory. Recipients are required to submit their replies under specific headings, and, in the event of their answer being in the negative, to indicate the reasons which, in their opinion, may be held responsible. In particular, opinions are invited on the application of compulsion in primary education and on the

value of moral and religious instruction of special classes of the population. Questions of agricultural education are excluded as having been recently investigated by the Linlithgow Commission. Witnesses are invited to submit separate memoranda on any departures or experiments with which they are personally acquainted. The replies are to be submitted not later than August 22.

Sir Philip Hartog leaves for India again on August 23, and, on his return, the committee will begin a tour of the country to receive the reports which the Provincial Governments have prepared for its information. After visiting Madras and Burma, the Chairman and other members of the Committee will be joined at Bombay by Sir Amhurst Selby-Bigge and Sir George Anderson. The inquiry, as our Calcutta Correspondent recently pointed out, is necessarily general in character and it is intended that it should be completed by the end of the year.

APPOINTMENTS.

The King has been pleased to approve the following appointments:—

Sir William Malcolm Hailey, G.C.I.E., K.C.S.I., I.C.S. to be Governor of the United Provinces in succession to the late Sir Alexander Phillips Muddiman, K.C.S.I., C.I.E., I.C.S.

Sir Geoffrey Fitzhervey de Montmorency, K.C.I.E., K.C.V.O., C.B.E., I.C.S., to be Governor of the Punjab in succession to Sir Malcolm Hailey.

Mr. Alexander Montague Stow, O.B.E., I.C.S., to be a member of the Executive Council of the Governor of the Punjab in the vacancy created by the appointment of Sir Geoffrey de Montmorency as Governor.

Sir Provash Chandra Mitter, C.I.E., to be a Member of the Executive Council of the Governor of Bengal in the vacancy caused by the death of the late Maharaja Kshausish Chaudra Ray Bahadur of Nadia.

Saiyid Fazl Ali to be a Puisne Judge of the High Court of Judicature at Patna in succession to Sir Basanta Kumar Mullick, Indian Civil Service, whose retirement will take place shortly.

A DITCHER'S VIEW OF INDIA.

"THE ORDINARY MAN'S INDIA." By A. C. Brown. (London: Cecil Palmer. 10s. 6d.)

Mr. Brown tells us that he served in the Army during the War, in Mesopotamia. We imagine that he must have been an intrepid soldier. He certainly displays a quite unusual supply of "nerve" in printing this book, and reckless bravery in tackling Hindustani, of which he proudly claims a "working knowledge." He appears to have been in charge of the one English Calcutta "pictorial" weekly for some years. Judging from his excursions into politics and other deeper matters, we presume that the editorial pen was employed in the *Empress* in discussing matters of less importance. He seems to have spent all his time in the European quarters of Calcutta, with a trip to Darjeeling and one to Rangoon. His qualifications for writing a book on "India" are, therefore, far from evident. From a mass of miscellaneous information, much of it wholly inaccurate, we gather that for the "ordinary man" India would not be too bad a place if it were not for the Indians, of whom the author has, incidentally, no knowledge at all. A book of this kind might do infinite harm if it were to be taken seriously, but of this we hardly think there is much danger.

C. S-W.

Major-General Sir Christopher Rice Havard Nicholl, K.C.B. (late Rifle Brigade), of Headworth Square, Chelsea, S.W., Crimean and Indian Mutiny veteran, who also saw service in the Ashanti War, and who died on March 31, aged 91, left unsettled property of the gross value of £2,401, with net personality £2,312.

Commercial and Financial Section.

NOTES AND NEWS

170, Strand, London, W.C.2,
Tuesday Morning.

The New Yugoslav Ministry.

From an economic point of view the main interest attaching to the composition of the new Yugoslav Government lies in the fact that both the Minister of Finance, Dr. Bogdan Markovitch, and the Minister of Communications, General Milosavlyevitch, of the late Cabinet have been omitted. The former, it may be supposed, is paying the penalty of his failure to conclude a loan in London, although according to his own statement the loan has to be regarded as already concluded, but its issue is postponed on account of the unfavourable political conditions in Yugoslavia. General Milosavlyevitch was identified with a large programme of railway construction, and it remains to be seen whether the new Minister of Communications is prepared to inherit a ready-made policy or has views of his own on the subject. While the late Minister was engaged upon "future music" dissatisfaction with the existing state of affairs was growing. As an example may be taken the state of the railway which gave Zagreb through connexion with Split. The great hopes founded on this line have failed to materialize as it is found that the line, in particular the new section that linked up the two formerly unconnected portions, had been so indifferently constructed that it can bear only light trains and these only at slow speeds.

The Bulgarian Meat Concession.

Two years ago a British concern, the Bulgarian Development Company, with a capital of £500,000, obtained a concession for the export from Bulgaria of pork and other products. This company was to construct in Bulgaria model abattoirs and refrigerators, and to organise a regular shipping service between Bourgas and Varna and Great Britain. Unfortunately there were difficulties in connexion with the provision of the requisite capital, and another company has been formed with the title of the Anglo-Bulgarian Corporation to take up the concession, the transfer of which has been agreed to by the Bulgarian Government. The agreement provides *inter alia* that the new company shall construct the necessary abattoirs, refrigerators, etc., not later than July 28, 1930. Further, the company is to organise in 1929 a direct shipping service between Bulgaria and Great Britain with a minimum number of six voyages out and home. The delay which has ensued in carrying out the concession, which is of such importance to Bulgaria, is greatly to be regretted. The new company has before it a considerable field for the development of Bulgarian trade with Great Britain, and the success of its activities will unquestionably have a marked influence on the market in Bulgaria for British products.

Motor Competition in Egypt.

At the meeting of the Egyptian Delta Light Railways the Chairman, Sir Montagu Sharpe dealt in detail with the difficulties with which the railway has been confronted. Motor competition has been a most serious handicap,

and it is being met in the only possible way by the establishment of competitive motor services and by lower fares. In one district the measures taken have been so successful that it is stated that it is believed that the competition has been overcome. Granted, however, that in Egypt and other countries the railways succeed in holding their own by entering the terrain of their rivals, the fact remains that the competition has revealed the existence of a means of locomotion more useful in certain conditions than a railway. That is the all important fact, and, as I have already had occasion to point out in these columns, it is going to colour railway extensions in the future. The construction of a railway by itself is not likely to be contemplated in the future, but any scheme will probably provide for motor services covering the region which the line is designed to serve, thus providing in advance for the development of competition.

An Olive Pest in Cyprus.

The production of olives and olive oil constitutes an important feature of the industries of Cyprus, and while the Island has over 3,000,000 olive trees in production no active steps have been taken since the War to deal with the olive-fly which is the cause of a very heavy loss in the olive crop each year. A memorandum which has just been issued by the Government of Cyprus emphasises the importance of the olive crop and states that it has been decided that measures shall be taken forthwith to combat the olive fly. The figures given with regard to the olive crop are very interesting. The yield of olives in 1927 was 18,520,000 okes of the value of £462,500, while the production of olive oil was 1,865,065 okes of the value of £149,205. Cyprus, however, is an importer of both olives and olive oil. In 1927 the imports of olives totalled 3,195 cwt. and of olive oil 244 cwt, against which the Island exported 194 cwt. of olive oil. It is pointed out in the memorandum that during the last two years there has been a big increase in the import of olives, particularly in 1927, in spite of the fact that the production was the largest since 1920 and more than three times that of the previous year. Given that the island has 3,000,000 olive trees in production it is maintained that the production for the best years is far below what it should be. On an average minimum production per tree of 8 to 10 okes of olives the production of olives, it is stated, should be from 24,000,000 to 30,000,000 okes. It is anticipated that the measures

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Bengal and North Western Railway.

A feature of the Indian railway returns generally in the last year has been the great improvement in the results, and the report of the Bengal and North Western Railway for the half year ended March 31 last adds one more to the list of satisfactory returns. The gross earnings of the company for the period amounted to Rs.1,95,15,042, an increase on the figures for the corresponding period of 1927 of Rs.3,52,651. On the other hand, the working expenses at Rs.69,08,795 show a decrease of Rs.1,02,281, and the net earnings have increased by Rs.4,54,932. With this improvement for the half year it is not surprising that the Board are recommending an interim dividend and bonus of 9 per cent. as against 8 per cent. for the same period of 1927. It may be noted that the return in the ordinary stock has risen in five years from 11 per cent. to 18 per cent., and it will be interesting to see whether the present decision foreshadows a further slight increase in the yearly return. Given the satisfactory maintenance of the traffic returns such a development would appear to be at least probable.

The Rubber Position.

It is a good many weeks now since I referred to the rubber position, and there has been no real need to mention it until now, for the outstanding features of the situation have been unchanged. At long last, however, the steady and continuous decline in the London stocks has begun to have its effect, with the result that price of spot rubber has been up to 9 9-16d. and promises within the next two months or so to go higher. The trifling increase of a hundred odd pounds this week cannot, incidentally, be regarded as of any real significance. The market has all along been governed by fears of what may happen after November, but the view is now gaining ground that the position then will not be nearly so serious as has been anticipated. Hence the more cheerful atmosphere which now prevails.

SUDAN GUM ARABIC.

With reference to the position in regard to Gum Arabic in the Sudan for the period May to June 30 Messrs. Boxall and Co., of Khartoum, report as follows:—

Arrivals in Kordofan Stations from May 20 to 30 amounted to 460 tons against 555 tons for the corresponding ten days during 1927, whilst in June arrivals amounted to 851 tons as against 934 last year. The decrease for the whole period is 12½ per cent., but it must be remembered that last year's arrivals were exceptionally small, whilst there were stocks in the Sudan then which are apparently non-existent now, if we rule out gum held against forward contracts. Moreover owing to the early rains a large part of gum arriving is rain damaged.

The only stations now bringing in gum are El Obeid, Nahud and El-Odaiya.

From May 20 to June 11 prices at El Obeid continued steady; afterwards the market stood at 3d. more until the 26th, when a further 3d. was paid and a steady rise set to the end of the month. The total rise during the above period was 2s. 9d. per cwt.

Higher prices, however, were paid outside the market to obtain such small stocks as were available, and with all exporters wishing to keep prices as low as possible in view of small demand from overseas, the actual increases in prices do not show to the full extent the nervous state of the market here owing to the small arrivals and insignificant stocks.

The demand during June was certainly small, but it was certainly as large as, and probably exceeded, the arrivals and available stocks. In view of the low and falling prices of past years buyers overseas were possibly sceptical of the increased prices asked, but the position has not improved as the days passed, and we doubt if the requirements of the past week can be booked irrespective of repeatedly increasing prices.

Stocks, as before mentioned, we believe are insignificant, if we rule out gum held against forward contracts. Between Jan./June this year there were 2559 tons of Kordofan Gum in excess of the arrivals for January/June, 1927, but against this there was the lack of old-crop stocks at the end of 1927, as against the estimated 2,900 tons at the end of 1926. Besides this it is estimated that the inferior Hashab is about 100 tons less in 1928 than in 1927, but we have no absolutely correct figures as yet on which to base this assumption. Lastly the exports of January/May, 1928 exceed those of January/May, 1927 by 2062 tons Hashab, and so we have the explanation of small or insignificant stocks in the Sudan this year as against last.

Yet the stocks last year were by no means excessive and barely lasted out the requirements of the closing months of 1927.

The future of prices will, of course, be decided by demand from overseas; but, unless it is much less than last year, then prices must rise.

The actual gum available during 1928 and, therefore, the probable total export we estimate to be much the same this year as last, the different factor being the exports this year as against last year reducing the stocks on this side.

Exports for the five months ending May, 1928 amounted to 13,429 tons, as compared with 11,132 tons for the corresponding period in 1927. Of the total, 2,652 tons were exported to Great Britain; 2,983 tons to the United States; 2,254 tons to France, and 1847 tons to Germany.

The output of the Anglo-Egyptian Oilfields for the week ended July 27 was 5,424 tons.

The Automobile Association is officially informed that the International Travelling Pass will in future be recognised in all parts of Yugoslavia (Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes). The letters to be shown on the oval nationality plate are "S.H.S." (Serb-Hroat-Slovene). Before the War Serbia and Montenegro had adhered to the International Convention of Paris, 1909, on which the Pass is based. The new nation, constituted after the War, has not adhered to the Convention, but has now agreed to recognise the pass.

The Greek Minister of Foreign Affairs, M. Carapanos entertained Admiral Sir Frederick Field, British Commander-in-Chief Mediterranean, at the Hotel, Petit Palais, at an official supper on July 26. The following morning the Admiral visited M. Venizelos, who returned the visit. The Admiral gave an official supper in his flagship, followed by a dance. Horse races in honour of the British Fleet took place at the Hippodrome at Phalerum on July 29, and the Admiral and the officers and band of the flagship were present. British officers were the racecourse officials.

The Jerusalem Correspondent of *The Times* reports that Field-Marshal Lord Plumer, the outgoing High Commissioner of Palestine, performed what was almost his last function by laying the cornerstone of the new Y.M.C.A. building in Jerusalem which has cost \$750,000 (£150,000). The building stands to the north of the railway station and will dominate the rapidly developing south-western district. The Orthodox and Armenian Patriarchs, the Syrian Metropolitan, and other religious heads took part in the ceremony, while representatives of most of the religious and civil communities and organisations, including leading Jews and Moslems, were present.



The Postal Account

It is often supposed that to live a long way from the nearest branch of a bank, or to be constantly unable to go to the bank in person, is a handicap to the enjoyment of the full advantages which, it is admitted, a banking account offers. Perhaps it is assumed that to conduct an account by post involves 'more letter-writing', or is costly, or is not welcomed by the Bank. It is the aim of the Westminster Bank to dispel such misconceptions by a leaflet entitled *The Postal Account*, which explains the convenience of the method, and offers some clear suggestions.

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TANKER CHARTERING.

Messrs. John I. Jacobs and Co., in their tanker chartering review for the half-year ended June 30, state:—

The necessity of finding markets for an ever-increasing production has resulted in the expansion of the petroleum trade and the absorption of all new tanker tonnage as it has come into the market. To date, no new tonnage has had to lie up for lack of employment. Generally speaking, owners of tank vessels have experienced a better half year. Competition in the petroleum trade has shifted from that of production to that of marketing.

The large ship-building programme mentioned in our last two reports is visibly coming to its end, and ship-builders are receiving new orders on a very limited scale. It is computed that about 48 motor tankers are now building or on order and that about 10 are fitting out preparatory to delivery. These figures only take into account vessels intended for deep sea trading, and over 6,000 tons d.w. Very few steam tankers are now being built except for special trades, such as that of the Maracaibo Lake in Venezuela, where a special type of vessel is required in order to cross the bar.

There are now in commission about 10,500,000 d.w. of tankers. At the quarter ending March, 1928, Lloyds' returns showed 93 tankers building with a gross tonnage of 637,232 as against the peak figure last year of 775,600 tons gross. Lloyds' returns for the half-year ending June 30 last show 80 tank vessels of all sizes building and a gross tonnage of 539,722.

With the increasing reliability and efficiency of the internal combustion engine, the percentage of motor vessels building continues to increase, and this is now the recognised method of propulsion for tankers. The world figure of motor ships building for all trades now exceeds by 362,000 tons the total for steamships.

World production of crude petroleum increased in 1927 by some 15 per cent., the greater part of which arose in the United States, but all the major producing countries participated, with the exception of Mexico. Oil continues to be diligently searched for in all four quarters of the globe, and important finds are reported in New Zealand and Australia, whilst even Southern Patagonia shows signs of becoming an oil-producing country. Improved methods or refining are altering the proportions of the various grades of oil obtained from the crude.

It is likely that freight rates during the coming half of the year will on the average be rather below those for the period just reviewed, but with a continued expansion of the world's oil consumption owners may look to the future with a measure of optimism.

TENDERS INVITED.

Tenders are invited for the following contracts, and must be made by the dates mentioned.

(Particulars of tenders marked D.O.T. are to be obtained from the Department of Overseas Trade, 55, Old Queen Street, S.W.1.)

EGYPT.

Flanged Beams.—The Stores, Egyptian State Railways, Telegraphs, and Telephones, Saptieh, Cairo, invite tenders for the supply of 48 broad flanged beams and 12 steel joists, approximate total weight of 136 tons, for Sharabia subway. October 2, and for 9296 kilos solid drawn copper pipes. October 3.

Pulverising Plant, etc.—The Director General, Tanzim Department, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of (1) One plant for pulverising limestone; (2) Two stone crushers. September 29.

Cards for Tickets.—The General Management, Egyptian State Railways, Telegraphs and Telephones, Cairo Station, invites tenders for the supply of 15,500,000 blank cards for railway tickets. August 30.

Brass and Copper Wire and Rods.—The Superintendent of Stores, Egyptian State Railways, Telegraphs, and Telephones, Saptieh, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of 17,215 kilos brass and copper wire and rods of various dimensions.

Steam Roller.—The Tanzim Department invites tenders for the supply of a 5 ton tandem steam asphalt road roller. August 20. (D.O.T.)

Chloride of Lime.—The Director of Stores, Department of Public Health, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of stabilised chloride of lime, 35 per cent. chloride, required for the year 1928-1929. October 2.

THE SUDAN.

Steam Launches. The Inspector General of Irrigation, Sudan, Khartoum, invites tenders for the supply of three steam launches for use on the Upper Nile. September 1.

YUGOSLAVIA.

Lathes.—The Acting British Consul at Sarajevo reports that a leading local firm of ironmongers, engineers, and contractors is desirous of receiving tenders from British manufacturers for the supply of two lathes, height of centres, 150 mm., distance between centres 1,500 mm. August 2. (D.O.T.)

FORTHCOMING SAILINGS.

The following are the sailings for the Near East and India, the ports of departure and closing dates for cargo being given in parentheses:—

Anchor Line.—S.s. Elysia for Bombay (Birkenhead, August 7). (For passenger sailings and dates see advertisement.)

Anchor Brocklebank Line.—S.s. Mahrona for Calcutta (Birkenhead, August 16); s.s. Mahanada for Calcutta (Birkenhead, August 30).

Bibby Line.—S.s. Herefordshire for Port Said, Port Sudan, Colombo, and Rangoon (Birkenhead, August 8).

British India Line.—S.s. Hatimura for Bombay and Karachi (London, August 11); s.s. Masula for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, August 11).

Cunard Line.—S.s. Bothnia for Gibraltar, Genoa, Leghorn, Naples, Palermo, Messina, Catania, Corfu, Bari, Venice, Trieste, and Fiume (Liverpool August 18, and Swansea August 21); s.s. Bosnia for Malta, Patras, Piræus, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, and Constantza (Liverpool, Glasgow and Swansea, August 25).

Johnston Line.—S.s. Aviemore for Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, August 4); s.s. Dromore for Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, September 1).

P. and O. Line.—S.s. Ranpura for Bombay (London, August 17); s.s. Kaiser-i-Hind for Bombay (London, August 31).

Prince Line.—S.s. Egyptian Prince for Tunis, Malta, Alexandria, Jaffa, Haifa, Beyrout, and Cyprus (Manchester, August 18); s.s. Sailor Prince for Tunis, Malta, Alexandria, Jaffa, Haifa, Beyrout, Tripoli, Alexandretta, Mersina, and Cyprus (London, September 1); s.s. Algerian Prince for Tunis, Malta, Alexandria, Jaffa, Haifa, Beyrout, and Cyprus (Manchester, September 1).

Ellerman and Papayanni Lines.—S.s. Andalusian for Gibraltar, Malta, Alexandria, Jaffa,* and Haifa* (Liverpool August 4); s.s. Pola for Algiers*, Patras, Smyrna, Constantinople (Liverpool, August 4); s.s. Manchurian for Genoa, Leghorn, Naples, Palermo, Messina, Catania, Bari, Gruz,* Ancona,* Venice, Trieste (Liverpool, August 4, Swansea, August 9); s.s. Assyrian for Malta, Alexandria, Jaffa,* and Haifa* (Liverpool, August 18); s.s. Mardinian for Oran*, Algiers*, Piræus, Volo*, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, and Constantza (Liverpool, August 18, Swansea, August 18). *Subject to sufficient inducement. Cargo taken on through Bill of Lading to:—Algerian Ports via Algiers; Morocco ports via Gibraltar; Tripoli (Barbary) via Malta; Syria and Cyprus via Alexandria; Greek outports via Piræus or other convenient port.

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THE WEEK'S FINANCE.

(By Our Financial Expert.)

London, August 2.

The fortnightly settlement on the Stock Exchange was concluded without the disclosure of any difficulties, and while the general tendency of markets remains uncertain there was a slightly better tone in evidence after the conclusion of the settlement. The gilt-edged market has eased off a little as a result of the approaching holiday season. Two of the principal railways have announced their interim dividends for the past half year. The London Midland and Scottish distribution of $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. was a little better than the market had anticipated, and the saving of a million in expenses which the directors divulged in the dividend statement was regarded as a bull point. The Southern pays the full $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. on its preferred ordinary stocks, the question of the dividend on the deferred being left as usual until the end of the year. While the results so far disclosed may be regarded as reassuring, the outlook will not really brighten until gross revenues begin to show an increase.

The Post Office Savings Bank.

Many readers of this column have a Post Office Savings Bank account and are therefore interested in all proposals relating to these accounts. The Post Office Savings Bank has been subjected to a good deal of criticism, and particularly on the ground that it has not adopted the postal cheque system in operation on the Continent. This latter point of criticism has been investigated by a committee, whose report has been published this week. The committee cannot recommend the adoption of the postal cheque system, but it suggests "as a tentative step," in the hope of "encouraging a wider expansion of banking habits and economy of currency," that cheque facilities should be offered to depositors. The majority of the committee propose that limited cheques should be made available—

that is, a book containing cheques for a given sum—£1, £2, etc.—up to the amount of the depositor's balance, the view being that there are dangers in offering the unlimited cheque facilities of the joint stock banks. It remains to be seen whether the Post Office adopts this recommendation and it also remains to be seen whether, if adopted, it meets a popular demand. It is conceivable that in certain circumstances the facilities would be very useful. In any case, indications of a desire on the part of the Post Office to experiment with a view to improving its services would be welcome, and the more so when the experiment is in the direction of stimulating thrift.

Argentine Railways.

The leading Argentine railways, which have been built by British Capital, have completed their financial year—ended on June 30—amidst many uncertainties. As regards gross revenue, however, the year, was by no means unsatisfactory. One company—the Central Argentine—shows an increase of no less than £1,067,000; the Buenos Aires and Pacific also records an increase. The Buenos Aires Western and the Buenos Aires Great Southern, however, show modest declines. These returns, it should be remembered, compare with a year in which revenue was exceptionally good. But there have been developments which have tended to offset the favourable revenue position. On the one hand, the Government has ordered a revision of tariffs in the users' favour; and on the other hand, certain employees have demanded an increase in wages. The situation as regards the Government's demand is somewhat easier, the company concerned—the Buenos Aires Great Southern—having this week acceded to the Government's request. Presumably the Government's demand was not unreasonable. In any event, the companies have pursued a very conservative financial policy, with the result that it seems unlikely that dividend distributions will be affected. In recent weeks the junior stocks have declined slightly, the return in each case now being around $\frac{7}{8}$ per cent. There appears to be no substantial ground for uneasiness, especially as the outlook from the revenue point of view continues favourable.

The Popularity of Foreign Stocks.

During recent weeks the investing public has displayed a keen appetite for overseas loans issued on attractive terms. This week, for instance, the State of San Paulo 6 per cent. sterling loan, issued at $\frac{94}{100}$, was heavily oversubscribed. Moreover, during recent months many overseas loans have shown a considerable measure of capital appreciation. While this is satisfactory to holders, it increases the difficulty of finding new stocks which are attractive to investors with money to invest in this direction. Brazilian Stocks have lately been buoyant and in some cases have reached prices at which they appear fully valued. In many respects the European reconstruction bonds are still among the most attractive overseas investments. The German 7 per cent. sterling bonds, finally redeemable 1949, give a return of £6 7s. od. per cent. Turning further afield, Japan is held in high esteem by many investors. The 6 per cent. bonds of 1924, finally redeemable 1959, give a return of £6 3s. od. per cent.

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BEIRA—Beira Shipping Agency.
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EAST LONDON—Messrs. Dunn & Co.
PT. ELIZABETH—Mackie, Dunn & Co.

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SALONIKA FAIR.

The Department of Overseas Trade is informed that the Third International Fair at Salonika will be held from September 16 to 30 next. The last two fairs have, it is claimed, shown an increasing measure of success and the British Commercial Secretary at Athens is of opinion that British firms should consider the advisability of participating or instructing their local agents to participate in this enterprise, which, he reports, attracts buyers from Greece and from the surrounding countries.

Pamphlets containing the regulations for the Fair and application forms may be obtained from the Department of Overseas Trade, 35 Old Queen Street, London, S.W.1. Firms interested should address their enquiries to La Foire, Internationale de Salonique, 11, Rue Papakiriatzu, Salonika, Greece.

Motors and Motoring.

By G. B. B.

The use of sheeting piles has been general for some time and every engineer knows that these are usually much lighter than they would have to be to hold up against the earth pressure behind them were the latter calculated out in the usual way. As Mr. R. N. Stroyer pointed out recently in a paper read before the Institute of Civil Engineers, it is not so generally recognised that the earth pressure and the resulting bending moment on the sheeting vary with the thickness of the latter and that, within certain limits, the thinner the sheeting the smaller is the bending moment therein. It seems opportune to point out that the problem of thin sheet walls has attracted the attention of engineers for some considerable time, and the first attempt to throw light on the apparent discrepancy between the light scantlings of sheeting and the earth pressure it was supposed to withstand was made eighteen years ago by Dr. H. Ehlers, who was at the time engineer to the Hamburg Port Authority. He carried out a good many investigations on existing wharves of the type used in the neighbourhood, and he found beyond doubt that in all cases the sheeting was stressed extremely highly when basing his calculations on the usually accepted formulas for earth-pressure the average working stress being about 4,000 lb. per square inch, which for timber immersed in water, seems astonishing. His explanation of the discrepancy was to the effect that two planes of rupture were formed instead of one, the head of the sheeting piling being immovable as well as the toe and that therefore a double frictional or arching action took place between the two planes of rupture as soon as the sheeting began to deflect. To take this into account he proposed calculating the earth pressure in the usual way, but employing higher working stresses of 3,000 to 4,000 lb. per square inch when timber was employed.

New Type of Omnibus.

A new type of omnibus has recently been placed on the road by the London General Omnibus Co., Ltd., the vehicles being four-wheeled, with pneumatic instead of solid tyres. Otherwise, they are on the general lines of the familiar N.S. type. The tyres are single on the front and double on the rear wheels, and the new buses seat 24 passengers on the lower and 26 on the upper decks. The old arrangement of seats, which has proved so convenient, has been retained and the side windows, which can be raised or lowered, instead of being movable horizontally, as in the older vehicles, are provided with winding handles; the upper three windows at the front, behind the driver, are, however, pivotted. To prevent the accumulation of used tickets a receptacle is fitted at the door,

and altogether the vehicle is a distinct improvement on previous types.

Miscellaneous.

I have been going through the figures recently issued by the Indian Railway Board and was struck by the efforts being made to increase efficiency and to reduce working costs. The Board, for instance, have considered the desirability of adopting various standard types of coaching stock bodies for use on all State railways, with the object of reducing the cost of manufacture and maintenance. A workshop of the State railways and these samples were afterwards inspected by a Committee who decided to amend the specifications, incorporating all suggested improvements, and to have five more sample bodies built. This has been done and the new bodies are now under construction. It may be that when they are completed, some minor alterations will be necessary or advisable but apart from that, a definite decision as to standardisation should be reached.

I am informed by the Institute of Metals that the Council of that body has accepted a cordial invitation from the Association of German Engineers and the German Metallurgical Society to hold the autumnal meeting of 1929 in Germany, probably at Dusseldorf. There seems no real reason why this invitation should have been accepted, as no particular benefit will be derived from it by members of the Institute. The cost of the visit will be far higher than most members will imagine, and these meetings generally mean no more than receiving a printed copy of a Paper or so—which may or may not be looked at—and a round of visits to parks and museums.

I hear that the Low Temperature Carbonisation Co., have opened up another retort at Barugh, Yorks, to meet the increasing demand. I had the pleasure of going over the Barugh works a short time ago and am pleased to learn that Coalite is now making rapid strides in popular esteem.

A Readership in Islamic Law, the first of its kind in Europe, has been established at the University of Vienna.

The Egyptian Residency moved from Cairo to Alexandria on July 30.

The Kaiti Sultan Omar bin Awad of Mokalla in the Hadramaut passed through Aden last week on his return from the pilgrimage to Mecca.

A contract has been obtained by Hick, Hargreaves and Co., Bolton, for a 1,500 i.h.p. drop valve engine, together with boilers, super-heaters, connecting piping, and crane, for India.

A Sofia message states that following the receipt of news that the Disconto-Gesellschaft has reconsidered its attitude, the negotiations for an international loan for Bulgaria has taken a favourable turn.

Sir Kenneth D. Stuart, of the firm of Stewart Thomson and Co., shippers, Manchester, has been elected a director of the Manchester Ship Canal Company, to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Mr. Allan Hughes.

The traffic receipts of the South Indian Railway Company for the week ended May 12 amounted to Rs.12,78,737, making the total from April 1 Rs.75,10,678. For the corresponding periods of the previous year the totals were Rs.12,54,408 and Rs.72,30,512.

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EDUCATION AND INDUSTRY.

A special committee of the Federation of British Industries has recently drawn up a report on education in relation to industrial administration. The committee is of opinion that during the last fifty years an industrial revolution, comparable with that covering the break-up of the Guild system, has been taking place, and it holds that it may be necessary to scrap old methods of management and control in the same way as old processes. With this prospect in view, it examines the question of the development of education facilities to cover the subject matter of administration for industry and commerce.

The subject is one of special interest to countries less advanced in industrial development than Great Britain, which may reasonably expect to benefit by British experience and will be on the look out to follow along any new ground that may be broken over here. Quite recently a severe shock has been administered to thoughtful people in Turkey on learning that a textile factory at Angora, started with a great flourish of trumpets only a year ago, is now heading for bankruptcy unless the Government comes to its rescue. It is difficult to suppose that lack of business experience is not at the bottom of the failure, whatever other contributory causes may be discovered. The Turks have had to turn their hand to business in a hurry; it is inevitable that they should be lacking in the experience which comes from careful schooling in every department. They are further handicapped by anxiety to proclaim success before it has been achieved.

Even in countries where industry is more highly developed than in Turkey technical education presents an urgent problem. Slovenia is a case in point. The textile industry there has experienced a notable expansion since the War; factories have been enlarged and modernized, and foreign firms have established branches in the country. In spite however, of the penalisation of foreign competition by a tariff wall and the fact that the home requirements are far from being adequately met, the industry is troubled by cost of production owing to the shortcomings of the personnel. Steps are now being taken to found a textile school in Kranye or Maribor for the training of workers in all grades of the industry.

Similar conditions may be found throughout the Near East; and it may, therefore, be of interest to summarize the findings of the special committee of the Federation of British Industries. They concern, it is true, the higher ranks for the most part; but the mere enumeration of the items in a large undertaking that call for knowledge and supervision at the head serves in itself as a first step in the process of education.

Science of Administration.

On the subject of the science of administration the report says:—

It would be extremely difficult for any two persons to agree what was meant by administration, but for the purpose of this report it is considered to cover (a) Discovering the best method of carrying out any function concerned with industry. (b) Ensuring that the method is put into practice.

This simple division suggests two main sides of management problems, the craft side and the art side. The craft side is the side of the expert, whether scientific or commercial; the art side can be regarded as the general administration side in which leadership and the power of blending the various experts into one team, is, perhaps, the most essential characteristic.

America is often regarded as the home of scientific administration of industry. And although much more may have been done in America on a public scale and also in commercialised development and the training of administration experts, there are factories in other parts of the world in which administration is of as high an order as in the States. It may be that the birth of the movement in the States was due to the difficulties concerned with

the labour market, as without doubt the development in France by Fayol was due to the poorness of certain mineral deposits. It thus seems that in these two cases we have two of the chief costs in manufacturing, i.e., labour and material, as being the sources from which sprang serious consideration of management as a science.

Principles of Administration.

The report continues:—

The above definition of management, namely, (a) Discovering the best method of carrying out any function concerned with industry; (b) Ensuring that the method is put into practice, leads us to a consideration of the main functions of industry, namely, the purchase of something, the doing of work on what is purchased and finally the sale of the manufactured product. To obtain an organisation which will allow these functions to be satisfactorily carried out necessitates finance and the employment of consultants, or one might call it an intelligence service, covering many subjects. In regard to finance many questions arise including not only the provision of capital but also legal aspects. The organization once established, administration resolves itself into the direction of effort necessary to ensure that the various functions in the buying, manufacturing and distribution sides of the undertaking are being carried out efficiently and that in carrying them out the best practice is being adopted with due consideration of commercial aspects. When one considers the hundreds of varying functions carried out by the personnel of industry it is quite apparent that, although there may be some general principles of administration, the actual practice of administration needs the most expert consideration of some one branch of industry or even perhaps an individual works.

It is, however, on the common principles that attention will be focussed and not to the details of study or even of practice as these must be dealt with by particular trade organisations.

Suggested Development.

The following paragraphs contain suggestions for consideration of education authorities providing courses with special bearing on administration practice.

A word of warning must be issued to possible students and to educational authorities providing the courses. Leadership is a personal factor; if it is not present external influences, such as educational facilities, will not provide it. It is realised, however, that modern leadership requires knowledge besides personality; it is to this knowledge that attention must be given. Wherever it is possible it is strongly advisable that some form of selection of students for courses should be applied, as, quite apart from the necessary personal equation or the personal characteristics, it must be realised that in the higher ranks

FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

Country.	Method of Quoting.	Parity of Exchange.	Latest Quotations
Alexandria.....	Piastre to £	97½	97½
Amsterdam ...	Florins to £	12.107	12.08
Athens	Draehma to £ ...	25.22½	375
Belgrade.....	Dinars to £	25.22½	276½
Berlin	Marks to £	20.43	20.34½
Berne	Francs to £.....	25.22½	25.22½
Bombay	Sterling to Rupee	18d.	17 57/64—59/64
Brussels	Belga to £.....	35	34.90
Bucharest	Lei to £	25.22½	796
Budapest	Peu to £	27.82	27.88
Calcutta	Sterling to Rupee	18d.	17 57/64—59/64
Constantinople	Piastres to £	110	97½
New York	Dollars to £	4.86 2-3	4.85½
Paris	Francs to £.....	25.22½	124.06
Prague	Kronen to £.....	24.02	164
Rome	Lire to £	25.22½	92.82½
Sofia	Leva to £	25.22½	674
Teheran	Krans to £	48	48
Vienna	Sch to £	34.58	34.43
Warsaw	Zloty to £	25.22½	43½

of administration, posts are very limited in number. There is, however, a much wider field lower down, and perhaps it is for the under-manager type that courses could be best framed.

Problems concerned with purchasing, manufacturing and selling have constantly to be faced, and it is for the purpose of widening the knowledge and thus limiting the possibility of error in judging as to how these problems are to be solved that administration courses should be directed.

The detailed references under the main headings are general in character. They have been made so deliberately, as the requirements of the districts will determine which of the main sections would have to be elaborated, and it has to be remembered that the various branches of industry have also their particular requirements. It is considered, however, that the main headings used would cover comprehensively any particular necessity of a district or a trade.

For the higher executive training the courses must be necessarily of a general survey character, but sections could be elaborated for the purpose of meeting the requirements of the specialists and under-managers.

It is felt desirable to emphasise the importance of a general economic knowledge in all students undertaking courses in administration. In those cases where students have not done such a course it is essential that some time be given to the fundamental principles of economics, quite apart from their particular application in individual sections of the administrative course. For ease of reference the following suggestions have been divided under three main headings: (a) Finance; (b) Production; (c) Distribution. Each of these subjects have over-riding legal limitations which should be dealt with specifically in the sections.

Finance.

These lectures should cover the provision of capital for setting up a manufacturing or distributing enterprise, and also for the financing of the working of such enterprises. As such the various forms of business, i.e., a private company, a private limited company, a limited company, amalgamations and associations including corporations and holding companies, public utility undertakings and voluntary associations, need consideration. This would also cover various types of capital. Working Capital would necessitate consideration of Banking methods, loans, discounts and credits. Exchanges, speculation and investments including commodities as well as stock script are also subject matter which are necessary for an appreciation of movements of currencies as reflected by foreign exchange. Normal Accountancy, that is, trading accounts including balance sheets would also be dealt with in this section: Taxation and Rating; Insurances, contributory schemes, etc.; Bankruptcy.

Production.

Lay-out of works with special reference to routine. Stores and application especially as a cost factor. Machine Standards. Costing and rate fixing. Labour (a) selection and training, (b) methods of payment, individual agreements, collective bargaining, Trades Unions and Employers Federations, (c) welfare and social aspects. Government regulations—The Factory Acts. Public Health Acts and Industrial Manufacture. Nuisances including smoke and liquid effluents. Patents and other forms of monopoly. Standardisation and simplification. Research.

Distribution.

Advertisement and publicity, Press advertising, Exhibitions, Catalogues, Posters, Trade Marks, Business Correspondence, Cinema and Wireless.

Marketing, Trade Channels, wholesale and retail. Commission Merchants, brokers and exporting houses. Brands. Trade Marks. Transport, Road Railway, Shipping and Air. Transport documents. Insurances and Risks.

Selling. The personal factor. Knowledge of commodities, languages and general commercial practices in particular countries. Trade Agreements. Sales Service as an Intelligent service.

Statistics.

Trade statistics including production, consumption and marketing movements. Interpretation of statistics. The use of statistics in determining manufacturing policy.

IMPORT AND EXPORT PROHIBITIONS AND RESTRICTIONS.

The International Convention for the Abolition of Import and Export Prohibitions and Restrictions and a Supplementary Agreement were signed at Geneva on November 8, 1927, and July 11, 1928, respectively. The principal provisions of these instruments and their annexed Protocols are as follows:—

Subject to the exceptions mentioned below, the Parties undertake to abolish within a period of six months from the date of the coming into force of the Convention, all import and export prohibitions or restrictions and not thereafter to impose any such prohibitions or restrictions. During this period, each of the Parties will adopt all appropriate measures in order to reduce existing prohibitions and restrictions to a minimum and will refrain from imposing any new prohibitions or restrictions.

Prohibitions or restrictions relating to the following matters are not prohibited by the Convention on condition, however, that they are not applied in such a manner as to constitute a means of arbitrary discrimination between foreign countries where the same conditions prevail, or a disguised restriction on international trade:—

- (1) Public security.
- (2) Moral and humanitarian measures.
- (3) Traffic in arms, ammunition and implements of war, or, in exceptional circumstances, all other military supplies.
- (4) Protection of the public health or protection of animals and plants against disease, degeneration or extinction, insects and harmful parasites. This includes measures taken against harmful seeds, plants and animals.
- (5) Protection of national treasures of artistic, historic or archaeological value (export only).
- (6) Gold, silver, coins, currency notes, bank-notes or securities.
- (7) the extension to foreign products of the régime established within a country in respect of production of, trade, and transport and consumption of native products of the same kinds.

This paragraph must be interpreted as in no way interfering with the practice followed by certain countries of subjecting the importation of their products to certain conditions as to quality with the object of preserving the reputation of those products and at the same time of offering a guarantee to the foreign purchaser. It is, however, intended to prohibit recourse to any system of classifying or defining products which is employed as an indirect means of restricting the importation of foreign products or of subjecting importation to a régime of unfair discrimination.

Prohibitions or restrictions the sole object of which is either to prevent imported goods from escaping the payment of the Customs duties applicable thereto, or in exceptional cases to prevent the importation of certain goods which would reduce the revenue from the duties imposed on certain other goods, may only be established or maintained if no other effective means exist of securing the said revenue.

8) Measures applied to products which as regards production or trade are, or may in future be, subject within a country to State monopoly or to a monopoly exercised under State control. This provision has solely in view monopolies each of which applies only to one or more specific articles.

Prohibitions or restrictions applying to prison-made goods are not within the scope of the Convention.

In view of the existence in certain countries of situations of fact or of law which prevent these countries from immediately undertaking, as regards certain specified products, some of the engagements entered into under the Convention, reservations may be made in respect of certain temporary exceptions which the countries concerned undertake to withdraw as soon as the circumstances from which they arise cease to exist. These are known as Paragraph 1 exceptions.

As the abolition of certain import or export prohibitions or restrictions would involve certain countries in grave difficulties, and as moreover these prohibitions or restrictions do not prejudicially effect the trade of other countries, reservations in regard to these exceptions have been permitted. (These are known as Paragraph 2 exceptions). By allowing exceptions of this category, it is not intended to give recognition to their existence, but merely to indicate that the necessity of abolishing them is not so imperative in view of their slight importance in international trade.

Among the exceptions agreed to by the conference held in October and November, 1927 were the following :—

Paragraph 1 Exceptions.

Czechoslovakia : Coal, coke, lignite briquettes (import and export).
Hungary : Scrap iron and scrap of other metals and alloys (export).
Scrap iron and scrap of other metals and alloys (export).
Roumania : Scrap iron and scrap of other metals and alloys (export).
Used machinery for industrial installations (import).

Paragraph 2 Exceptions.

Egypt : Live-stock (exportation subject to licence) (export). Eggs, during certain months of the year (export). Organic fertilisers, including pigeon-manure, slaughter-house offal and dried blood (export).
Roumania : Ores or iron, copper and manganese. Crude oil (export).

The Convention contains a declaration that, by accepting in the case of Roumania, in consideration of her exceptional situation of fact and of law, the reservation concerning crude oil as a paragraph 2 exception, the Parties have not in any way agreed to measures of prohibition or restriction for this product, which they regard as being of very great importance for the world market. They feel confident that as soon as circumstances allow her to do so, Roumania herself, acting in the spirit of the intention of the Parties in agreeing to paragraph 2 exceptions, will abolish this prohibition, and in the meantime, that she will take into account the interests of the neighbouring contracting countries. The Roumanian Delegation fully associated itself with this declaration.

The conference held in July, 1928 agreed to further exceptions including under Paragraph 1 exceptions the export of "Rose trees and roots and shoots" from Bulgaria.

The exceptions set out above will be valid only if the prohibitions or restrictions to which they refer were in force on November 8, 1927.

Nothing in the Convention affects the right of any country to adopt measures prohibiting or restricting importation or exportation for the purpose of protecting, in extraordinary and abnormal circumstances, its vital interests. Should measures of this character be adopted, they must be applied in such a manner as not to lead to any arbitrary discrimination against any other Party. Their duration must be restricted to that of the causes of circumstances from which they arise.

If the importation or exportation of goods is subjected in pursuance of legislation to certain regulations in respect of the manner, form or place of importation or exportation, or the imposition of marks, or to other formalities or conditions, such regulations must not be made a means of disguised prohibition or arbitrary restriction.

The Convention, although signed by a number of countries, is not yet in operation, and in order to be brought into force, it must have been ratified or acceded to by at least 18 countries. Ratifications must be deposited before September 30, 1929. Any country may, at the time of ratification or accession, make the entry into force of the Convention in so far as it is concerned conditional upon the ratification or accession of any or all of the following countries but no others :—

Austria, Czechoslovakia, France, Germany, Great Britain, Hungary, Italy, Japan, Poland, Roumania, Switzerland, Turkey, United States of America, Yugoslavia.

If the conditions required under those provisions are fulfilled, the Convention will come into force on January 1, 1930. In the contrary event, the countries which have ratified will decide after October 31, 1929, whether they desire nevertheless to bring the Convention into force.

Owing to the position in the United States in consequence of a short Session of Congress in the year 1928-29, it has been agreed that if the ratification of the United States has been asked for by any country and has not been deposited by September 30, 1929, the Convention shall come into force on January 1, 1930, provided that all the other countries on which the entry into force of the Convention depends, and the total number of which would in this case be reduced to 17, shall have ratified or acceded

to it before September 30, 1929, and provided no objection is raised before November 15, 1929, by any of the countries which have made its entry into force, so far as they were concerned, conditional upon the ratification or accession of the United States. If any objection is raised, the countries which have ratified will decide whether or not the Convention shall come into force.

After November 7, 1930, any country may denounce the Convention, on giving six months' notice, if any one of the paragraph 1 exceptions still exists.

After November 7, 1932, any country may denounce the Convention, on giving six months' notice, if it then considers that any one of the exceptions allowed at the Conference held in July, 1928, has impaired the effects of the Convention.

Apart from the above provisions, the Convention may be denounced on twelve month's notice at any time after the expiration of five years from the date of its coming into force.

The Convention of 1927 has been signed by the following countries :—

Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Chile, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Egypt, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Great Britain, Hungary, India, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Luxemburg, Norway, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Roumania, Siam, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, United States, Yugoslavia.

The supplementary Agreement has been signed by the same countries, with the exception of Bulgaria, Norway, and the United States. Norway has promised to sign, and Bulgaria and the United States will enjoy the benefit of the exceptions granted in their favour if they sign before August 31 next.

CYPRUS CROP REPORT.

The following report has been issued on Cyprus crops in June
Wheat : Threshing continues.

Barley : Threshing continues ; production estimated at approximately the same as last year. Quality poor in certain localities.

Oats : Production estimated at less than 50 per cent. of last year's crop.

Vetch, Chichling Vetch, Ochrus Vetch, Lentils and Chick Peas : crops very poor.

Onions : Production expected to be good ; price 1s. 2d. to 1s. 8d. per stone.

Potatoes : Production good. The crop in the Famagusta district has been attacked by *Lita Solanella* which has impaired the keeping qualities ; as a result there has been a rush for sale and a consequent drop in prices.

Oranges : This crop has been greatly affected by abnormal weather conditions and fruit continues to drop ; production is expected to be poor.

Vines : Production very good, but there is a fear of damage by excessively hot weather.

Carobs : The crop is estimated at 40 per cent. less than that of last year.

Olives : Production estimated at 20 to 30 per cent of last year's.

Cotton : This crop is at present growing normally.

Figs : Early figs have started to ripen. The main crop is expected to be very good.

Melons and Water Melons : The first crop of this fruit is now on the market. The area under the crop is considerably less than that of last year owing to lack of rain at the right season.

Tobacco : The area under tobacco has been extended this year. Picking of leaves has started for both cigarettes and Latakia tobacco. It is hoped that the quality, owing to the advice of a special Government expert from Greece, will be greatly improved.

MARKING OF THREAD FOR BULGARIA.

The British Vice-Consul at Varna reports that an Order has been issued by the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Labour to enforce the provisions of the Weights and Measures Law in so far as regards the marking of thread, manufactured in or imported into Bulgaria. After a period of six months from the date of the Order (i.e., after December 5, 1928) all thread imported into or manufactured in Bulgaria must, when offered for sale bear a mark which gives the length of the thread in metres.

Company Meeting.

FURNESS, WITHEY AND COMPANY.

"Carriers for the Whole World."

A Strong Balance-sheet.

The thirty-seventh annual general meeting of Furness, Withy and Co., Ltd., was held on July 25 at Furness House, Leadenhall Street, London.

Sir Frederick W. Lewis, Bt., who presided, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said:—Our capital account remains unaltered at £5,500,000 divided into 1,500,000 5 per cent. Preference shares and 4,000,000 Ordinary shares. Sundry creditors, credit balances, and bills payable at £2,717,313 are down by approximately £450,000, and as shown on the face of the balance-sheet, this amount includes provision for taxes and also for the final dividend which I will shortly have the pleasure of proposing to you.

This item of sundry creditors includes current account balances due to our associated companies for whom we act as bankers, and consequently the actual amount due to independent creditors is very much less than the figure appearing in the balance-sheet. Naturally, the amounts due to our affiliated companies are just as much liabilities as amounts due to outside creditors, but there is this difference—that as we control the destinies of our subsidiary companies, we also control their finances. Therefore, the effective liability which appears under the heading of sundry creditors in our balance-sheet is considerably less than would appear to be the case, in addition to which, of course, the outside creditors embrace the ordinary working balances of our offices all over the world. In view of the extent of our business, I think it will be obvious that the amount of the creditors' item is not excessive.

Assets.

Turning now to our assets, there has not been a great deal of variation in the figures, but in fact there has been some alteration inasmuch as the two principal items, shipping property and investments in associated companies, etc., and British Government and industrial securities, which together stand at £8,277,422, show an increase of close upon £100,000, notwithstanding that the annual depreciation allowance of £200,000 has been written off. Freehold properties, dock warehouses, wharves, etc., less depreciation, stand at £289,005. Debtors, including steamers' current accounts, show a reduction of £250,000 at £1,057,306, and finally cash, deposits, Treasury Bills, etc., stand at £835,143, as compared with £1,052,482 a year ago. Altogether, from a balance-sheet point of view, I think you will agree that the position disclosed is exceedingly satisfactory, and the same can also be said of the profit and loss account, to which I will now refer.

Profit and Dividend.

I am in the somewhat difficult position having to reconcile the results of a satisfactory year's operations with the fact that the shipping industry is still in the throes of acute depression. So far as the figures are concerned, including the amount brought forward from last year, there is a balance of £821,564 to the credit of the profit and loss account as compared with £753,814. This is partly due to last year's increased carry-forward, but all the same there is an actual increase in the trading profit of some £24,000. There have already been paid the two half-yearly dividends on the Preference shares—£60,000—and we propose to set aside £200,000 for depreciation, leaving £561,564 at our disposal. I referred last year to our intention to alter our method of dividend payments, on the general grounds of economy and convenience to shareholders. Hitherto it has been our practice for many years to pay two half-yearly dividends of 2½ per cent. on the Ordinary share capital, and to declare a bonus according to the results apparent when the annual accounts are before us. It will be within my recollection that in accordance with the procedure which I foreshadowed at our last meeting, an interim dividend was declared in October last, and paid at the end of December, of 5 per cent., less tax, and I now have pleasure in submitting that a final dividend be paid of 5 per cent., less tax, making 10 per cent. for the year.

This compares with a distribution of 7½ per cent., free of tax, a year ago, and at the present rate of income-tax is equal to a dividend of 8 per cent., free of tax, and therefore represents a slight increase. This recommendation will leave a balance of £241,564 to be carried forward to the current year's accounts, which incidentally is an increase of nearly £50,000 compared with the amount brought in.

Financial Policy.

It is quite a customary thing to build up an increased carry-forward in anticipation of a possible reduction in profits in the succeeding year, and whilst this is not in our minds in the present instance, I am frank to state that if it were it would not be unjustified by the continued depression with which we have to labour. I am well aware that this may appear to be inconsistent with the increase in our profits last year, but this increase is entirely due to the policy upon which our company has been built up, and in fact the direct earnings of our shipping property show a material

reduction compared with the previous year. However, it is fortunate that, speaking generally, the various undertakings in which we have interests have prospered, and that is the explanation of our increased profit, notwithstanding the general depression.

The development of our business continues along normal lines in the belief that we must prepare ourselves for the improvement which will eventually come unless all preconceived ideas of trade cycles and precedents are to be confounded.

EGYPTIAN DELTA LIGHT RAILWAYS.

A Difficult Year.

Effects of Motor Competition.

The annual general meeting of the Egyptian Delta Light Railways, Ltd., was held on July 27, at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, E.C., Sir Montagu Sharpe, K.C. (the Chairman), presiding.

The Secretary (Mr. F. J. Horne) having read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors,

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said: When we last met, in July, 1927 there was a general consensus of opinion among the financial element in Egypt that a gradual improvement might be anticipated in the prosperity of that country, and I then had reason at least to hope that the year with which we are now dealing would be a more prosperous one for our railway. I have, however, with much regret, to inform you that my hopes have not fructified, and that, as you may have already seen from the published accounts, the past year has again been a most difficult and lean one.

There are several reasons for this depressed condition of affairs,

(a) The increase in competition from motor passenger and goods vehicles.

(b) The reduction in the cotton-growing acreage, which is enforced by law in conformity with Government regulations.

(c) The existing system of municipal taxation.

(d) Lack of money among the fellaheen, attributable to high rents, low prices of cotton during the year 1926-1927, and the general fall in the market value of cereals.

The effect of those adverse factors upon our coaching traffic will be obvious to you. During the year we carried, as a result of necessary reductions in fares in order to cope with competition by road, 8,694,911 passengers, or 220,919 more than during the year 1926-1927, while our total receipts were only £194,038, as compared with £209,017, a decrease of £14,978. We have pressed forward the only possible policy—namely, of improving train services and reducing fares in districts where motor competition exists, and this we have only been able to accomplish through the service of the "Sentinel" tractors which have been adopted by us. We now have 49 of these running, 12 of which were sent out during April of this year, and our agent and general manager refers to the results obtained from them as being "the one satisfactory feature about the last two-year's working." I think we may safely assume that, but for these tractors, our coaching receipts would have been far lower.

Our difficulties are accentuated from the fact that the traffic is short-distance traffic, the kind most affected by road competition, that nearly all our lines run alongside agricultural roads, while our competitors are subject to no control or taxation.

Another serious problem with which we faced is that of the method of administration of the municipal tax system. The present system is generally recognised as being inimical to all transport interests, being open to every kind of abuse.

In the majority of the municipalities taxes are only collected on inwards and outwards goods transported by railways and no collection is made on goods carried by road and water.

Under existing conditions, even if taxes are imposed on road or water-borne goods, these can in most cases be evaded, adequate night and day supervision on roads and canals being impossible.

In any case the receipts in smaller municipalities would not cover the cost of collection.

Continuous representations have been and are being made to Government, with a view to an amelioration of these conditions, but, notwithstanding that the Egyptian State Railways suffer equally with ourselves from the present system, these efforts have so far been unsuccessful.

In order to compete with motor competition, we have in some districts already arranged for the organisation of experimental goods lorry services, which will enable the collection of unginned cotton from the villages for delivery direct to the ginning factories and the carriage of other produce by road.

Should this prove successful, it is proposed to institute regular services by the purchase of lorries, which will become part of our scheduled system.

Our aggregate gross earnings for the year from all sources have, as a result of the circumstances I have outlined, been reduced to £315,028, as compared with £342,605 during the previous year, a decrease of £29,577.

The resolution was carried unanimously.

Cotton and Cotton Goods.

THE LIVERPOOL COTTON MARKET.

Messrs. Reynolds and Gibson report as follows for the week ended July 25:—

Egyptian Futures.—Sakel Contract.—For the major portion of the week this market has met further pressure, pessimistic trade advices, lower American values and weak Alexandria reports inducing liquidation of old long accounts and encouraging the working up of a short interest. The tone throughout has been unsettled and nervous and values have at times moved rapidly; resistance to further declines from the present level appears to be working up, however, and an instance of what may happen, should any unfavourable crop news or improvement in the trade offtake be experienced, has been furnished to-day. At the opening, Novembers were dealt in at 18.60d., without any particular feature in the trading; towards noon some Alexandria buying started to move prices upward, and, with the spot inquiry giving a little encouragement, the whole list quickly hardened 50 to 60 points, with contracts difficult to get hold of. This certainly gives colour to the opinion that the technical position has greatly improved as a result of the very substantial drop experienced during the course of the past three weeks. The sharp advance in Alexandria this morning is attributed to rumours that the Government are about to publish an acreage estimate showing a reduction of about 9 per cent. Conservative quarters cable us that they consider this premature and improbable. Crop accounts continue satisfactory, except that complaints of too much humidity are being expressed. In view of the fact that the Sakel area planted is certainly smaller than last year and also owing to the probability of a moderate carry-over, values will be very susceptible, should adverse conditions be encountered during the next few weeks. Reports from the fine spinning sections both in this country and on the Continent have latterly been far from reassuring, and, whilst spinners are showing more interest at the present reduced level, business is very slow in developing. We still consider that sentiment in the market will be governed to a large extent by the action of the American Exchanges; certainly, until we get nearer the marketing of the Sakel new crop and a clear idea of its possibilities, we would advise avoiding the "short side"; on the other hand, we think "bullish" operations should be kept within very reasonable proportions until distinct signs of increasing trade support begin to be shown.

Upper Contract.—In conformity with the action of other markets this contract has shown an easy undertone for the greater part of the present week. The declining tendency has brought out liquidation and sentiment has veered round to the "bearish" side. Rather more trade support has been in evidence at the lower level now obtaining, and orders from America have had to be filled out of the local stock owing to the exhaustion of certain grades in Alexandria.

The current position was depressed to 38 points under November at one period, but has since closed up again, holders becoming more optimistic owing to the improved demand and anticipations of further orders from overseas buyers. The November/October American straddle difference narrowed-in at one time to about 280 points, but owing to the recently improved support has hardened again to the neighbourhood of 300 points. The situation appears very open and we consider that commitments either way should be limited to moderate proportions.

Egyptian Spot.—During the early part of the week prices continued to fall, and interest in actual cotton was very difficult to arouse. During the past few days, however, a better undertone has been in evidence and a considerable improvement in the local inquiry has lately been seen. Such a severe drop has been experienced that it is small wonder that inquiries from spinners, with a view to testing the market, are now becoming quite a frequent occurrence. At the moment, trade reports are so bad that the impetus to buy is lacking, and, without a distinct change of sentiment taking place either in Egypt or America, it is difficult to see where the required impetus is coming from. A feature of the week has again been a persistent inquiry, both for Sakel and Upper direct with Alexandria, and it is an interesting pointer towards the state of the market that it should now be diverted to this country. The Liverpool stock of Uppers, as we have pointed out before, looks very reasonable. At the moment, there is a fair supply available, but any marked improvement in the offtake, particularly if assisted by America, would tend to cause a very tight situation for this cotton. The bulk of the inquiry here has been for Upper this week and the qualities mostly in request were from 13½d. to 13¾d., and 13¾d. to 14½d.

In Sakel, a fair general inquiry has been witnessed, but only a limited business has resulted. The American inquiry has called attention to the poor selection of staple cotton available here, and we would advise any spinner, who is likely to find himself short of supplies before the end of the season, to be early in the market when buying recommences.

A small inquiry for White Egyptian has been seen, but other growth, such as Pilon, Nalda, etc., together with Sudan and Tokar Sakel, have all suffered from neglect. C.i.f. business has been very quiet, and forwardings to spinners for the week ending the 20th inst. were returned as 4,012 bales Egyptian and 2,219 bales

Sudan. Estimated spot sales, 1,900 bales Egyptian and 300 bales Sudan. Quotations of Sakel show a net decline on the week of 10 points and those of Sakel and Upper are 25 points lower. F.G.F. Sakel to-day, 19.45d. F.G.F. Pilon to-day, 14.60d. F.G.F. Upper to-day, 13.85d.

THE EGYPTIAN MARKET.

The Alexandria Commercial Company, in their report for the week ended July 19, state:—

Since our last report the futures market has been quite active, but the activity has consisted principally of liquidation sales, and the result has been a severe drop; the tone at the close of the market to-day was heavy. The week's summary of price movement is as follows:—Sakellarides, July, 36.95 dollars, 20.30 dollars down; November, 38.75 dollars, 2.36 dollars down; January, 38.98 dollars, 2.22 dollars down. Ashmouni: August, 25.90 dollars, 0.95 dollars down; October, 26.65 dollars, 0.80 dollars down; December, 26.85 dollars, 0.90 dollars down.

Sakellarides.—The drop, on the week, in this variety is over 2½ dollars. The week has been a succession of poor markets; speculators have been getting rid of purchases which they have been carrying for months, and the professional element have added their quota to the pressure by selling short. Demand from abroad has been very poor, and the revival which the consuming centres promised a couple of weeks back has shrunk to nothing; even inquiry has been rather less this week. The Sakel/Ashmouni straddle has narrowed into 1,210 points against 1,366 last week, but at this difference new straddle buying of November Sakellarides has come out. The market is healthier for the shake-out; but there is still a fair speculative position open, and a further decline is not unlikely.

Uppers.—Uppers have fluctuated in sympathy with American and show a loss of about 80 points on the week. Spinners' purchases have been on the poor side. There has been quite an appreciable inquiry, but the prices offered have been on low and not all the inquiry has resulted in business. The Ashmouni/American straddle is unchanged on the week at 521 points. The Uppers market has

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EGYPT.

Alexandria: M. Nacamulli and Co., 12, Rue Sesostris.

Cairo: M. Avatis, 1, Faggala.

Express Book and Stationery Store, P.O. Box 1113.

Port Said: English Agency, P.O. Box 240.

SUDAN.

Port Sudan: The Egyptian Library, Post Office Box No. 44.

PALESTINE.

Haifa: Newspapers Agency Steimatzky, Jaffa Street.

Jerusalem: B. Y. and W. A. Said, 23-24, Jaffa Road.

Newspapers Agency Steimatzky, Jaffa Road

SYRIA.

Beyrout: Sarrafian Bros.

IRAQ.

Basrah: Jashanmal, Bridge Street, Ashar.

BULGARIA.

Sofia: Librairie Francaise et Etrangere, 6, Bvd. Tsar Ostvoboditel.

CYPRUS.

Nicosia: Dick Soultanian, P.O. Box 6.

GREECE.

Athens: Messageries de Journaux et Publications Etrangers, 24, Rue du Stade.

ROUMANIA.

Bucharest: Mr. L. Hamilton, 21, Strada Regala.

TURKEY.

Constantinople: The Anglo-American Book and Newsagency, 18, Rue des Petits Champs, Pera.

YUGOSLAVIA.

Belgrade: Librairie Française, 19 and 22, Rue Prince Michel.

ALBANIA.

Tirana: Librairie Lumo Skendc.

AMERICA.

New York: Brentano's, Fifth Avenue and 27th Street.
Boston (Mass): Smith and McCance, Ashburton Place.

shown considerable resistance to the decline, and it looks as if we are near the bottom.

General.—The local political position has been considerably altered by the dissolution of Parliament; the Royal Order issued this afternoon notifying the dissolution also suspends the Parliamentary régime for three years, at the end of which period the question of new elections will be reconsidered. The Wafd (Extremists) party are considerably perturbed, but no untoward incidents are reported; the Government have taken precautions to prevent disturbances.

The week's receipts amount to 667 kantars, against exports 103,442 kantars; the stock in Alexandria stands at 1,736,055 kantars.

The official figures of arrivals and exports for the period September 1, 1927, to July 11, 1928, are as follows:—Arrivals: Sakellaridis, 2,414,026 kantars; Ashmouni and Zagora, 2,960,989 kantars; Pilon, 271,973 kantars; Various, 218,510 kantars; Scarto, 137,473 kantars; total, 6,002,971 kantars. Exports: Sakellaridis, 2,582,446 kantars; Ashmouni and Zagora, 2,881,241 kantars; Pilon, 279,494 kantars; Various, 201,950 kantars; total, 5,945,131 kantars.

Spot: The turnover on the spot market during the past week has been considerably restricted by the limited quality of cotton offering. Total sales amount to about 5,900 bales, of which we estimate 2,600 bales Sakellaridis, 3,200 bales Ashmouni and Zagora, and 100 bales other varieties.

Sakellaridis: Fully Good Fair and below of good style is only found in very limited quantities, and spot differences are stiffening daily, as the bulk of the demand is centred on these grades. There has been some demand for better grade cotton, but premiums do not show very much change.

Ashmouni and Zagora: There has been a good demand for all grades, especially for Fully Good Fair/Good and below, but very little of this cotton is showing; Good Fair and below is practically

non-existent and any lots for sale command very good prices. Spot differences have stiffened up all round.

Other Varieties: Practically no business has been done owing to the very limited stocks remaining for sale. One or two lots of Pilon, White, and Fouadi have changed hands, without much change in spot differences.

Crop, 1928: Crop reports are still uniformly good. The plants are maturing nicely and we have before us a sample of cotton received from the Ghirgha district of Upper Egypt. This is, of course, made up of cotton picked from bolls open here and there and it does not mean that cotton is ready for picking; in a couple of weeks, however, picking will commence. The flood is now passing through the Assuan section of the river and the whole country is amply supplied with irrigation water. Temperature has been normal to slightly above, but the week has been marked by excessive dampness; no damage, however, is reported. Boll worm has not yet made its appearance.

THE YUGOSLAV HARVEST.

The Yugoslav Ministry of Agriculture announces that this year's harvest is better than that of any year since 1912. The wheat, rye and barley crops are reported to be particularly good. The situation in regard to maize, on the other hand, is not satisfactory; the best that can be said of it is that it will probably prove not to be as bad as was anticipated. Rain, if it comes in time, will materially improve the position.

The Yugoslav shipping company Oceania has placed another vessel on the Sushak-Canary Islands service. Yugoslavia exports wood and cement to these islands, and to the African coast, receiving various imports in return.

Stock and Share Markets.

LONDON EXCHANGE		Prices on July 30	Prices on July 30		Prices on July 11	
Government Stocks.			Railways.		Banks	
Egyptian 4 p.c. Unified Debt ...	84½		Assam-Bengal ...	92½	Imperial Bank of India ...	1,500
Do. Pref. 3½ p.c. 1890 ...	74		Bengal Nagpur ...	101½	Bank of India ...	954
Do. Turk 4 p.c. 1891 ...	91		Egypt Delta Light Riv. ...	3½	Central Bank of India ...	26
Do. 3½ p.c. Eg. Trib. Bonds. '94 ...	85½		Ottoman (Smy. t. Aid) ...	70½	Coal.	
Bulgaria 7 p.c. ...	88½		Southern Punjab ...	204½	Baraboni ...	1
Greek 5 p.c., 1881 ...	63½		South Indian ...	122	Bengal ...	400
Do. 5 p.c., 1884 ...	63½		Rubber.		Burrakur ...	13
Do. 4 p.c. Rentes, 1889 ...	49½		Ceylon Para Rubber Ord. ...	7/9	East Indian ...	18
Do. 5 p.c. 1890 ...	63		Doolkalla (Ceylon) Rub. Est. ...	19½	Equitable ...	17
Do. 5 p.c. Funding Loan, 1893 ...	63		Grand Cent. (Ceylon) Rubber ...	10/9	Pench Valley ...	25
Do. 4 p.c. Rents, Loan, 1902 ...	60		Hewagum Rubber Co. ...	1 1/2	Ranegunge ...	104
Do. 4 p.c. Loan, 1910 ...	61		Kepitigalla Rubber Estates ...	33½	Standard ...	55½
Do. 5 p.c. Loan, 1914 (Lon. issue) ...	74½		Malayalam Rub. and Produce ...		Cotton.	
Do. 7 p.c., 1924 ...	99½		Shipping.		Bengal Nagpur ...	31½
Do. 6 p.c. St. Bds. ...	90½		Anchor 5½ p.c. Pref. ...	8	Bombay Dyeing, etc. ...	902½
Palestine 5 p.c. ...	104½		Cunard ...	21/3	Bowreah ...	330
Persia 5 p.c., 1911 ...	87½		Furness Withy ...	37/9xd	Buckingham and Carnatic ...	180
Roumania 4 p.c. Ext. ...	70½		Khedivial Mail Ord. ...	237	Cawnpore Textiles ...	34
Do. 4 p.c. Consolidation ...	47½		P. and O. Deferred ...		Century ...	415
Sudan 5½ p.c. Guar. Bds. ...	108½		Tea.		Central India ...	586½
India 3½ p.c. ...	71½		Assam Co. ...	24xd	Elgin ...	101
Do. 3 p.c. ...	61½		Bengal United Tea Ord. ...	23/16	Khatau Makani ...	85
Do. 2½ p.c. ...	102		Brampootia ...	37½xd	Muir ...	322
Do. 5½ p.c. ...	93 25/32		British Indian Tea Ord. ...	41/16	New Ring ...	289
Do. 4½ p.c. ...	22½		Cachar and Doars Tea Ord. ...	213/16	Phoenix ...	384
Turkish 4 p.c. Unified ...			Carolina ...	313/16xd	Svadeshi ...	491½
Banks.			Ceylon Tea Plantations Ord. ...	511/32	Jute.	
Agri. Bank of Egypt ...	74		Consolidated Estates ...	33/16	Alliance ...	679½
Bank of British West Africa ...	86 3/4		Darjeeling Co. ...	213/16	Barnagore ...	307
Bank of Roumania ...	26½		Dumbla Valley (Ceylon) Ord. ...	34	Budge Budge ...	640
Barclays Dom. Col. Pf. ...	63/9		Doors Tea Ord. ...	327/32	Clive ...	49½
Lloyds ...	71/16		Doolookram Tea ...	1½	Dalhousie ...	607
Eastern ...	22½		Doom Dooma ...	44	Delta ...	65½
Chartered Bank of India ...	12		East Assam ...	45/32	Fort Gloster ...	1,095
Ottoman Bank ...	11½		Empire of Ind. ...	2½	Gourepore ...	1,168½
Imperial Bank of Persia ...	16½		Halem Tea ...	227/32	Howrah ...	61½
Land Bank of Egypt Ord. ...	35½		Imperial Ind. ...	55/16	Kamarhaty ...	848
Mercantile Bank of India A ...	34½		Jhanzie Tea Association ...	331/32	Kankannarh ...	65½
National Bank of Egypt ...	55		Jokai (Assam) Tea Ord. ...	43/16	Khardah ...	1,206½
National Bank of India ...	19½		Jorehaut ...	131/32	Kinnison ...	344
Westminster ...			Lanka Plantations Ord. ...	23½	National ...	567
Land.			Lungia (Sylhet) Tea Ord. ...	6½	Standard ...	819½
Kassala Cotton ...	6½		New Dimbula ...	57/16	Union ...	
Sudan Plantations ...	4½xd		Nuwara Eliya Tea Estates Ord. ...	33/16	Miscellaneous	
Mines.			Nedem ...	31/16	British India Corporation ...	4½
Balaghat Gold Mining ...	7/6		Ouvah ...	69/16	Bengal Paper Mills ...	34
Burma Corp. ...	14½		Pabbojan ...	5½	Bengal Timber Trading ...	291½
Champion Reef Gold ...	11½		Standard ...	23/16	Burn and Co. ...	408½
Mysore ...	15/6		Scottish Assam ...	34	Cawnpore Sugar ...	222
Nundydroog ...	16/6		Scottish Tea and Lands ...	31/16	Champaran Sugar ...	11½
Oreogum Gold Mining Ord. ...	14½		Upper Assam ...		Howrah Oil Mills ...	10
Oil.			Insurance.		ALEXANDRIA	
Anglo-Egyptian B ...	21/16		General Accident Fire and Life (£5, £1½ paid) ...	14	Prices in July 13, supplied by G. L. Mortier, Alexandria & Cairo.	
Anglo-Persian Ord. ...	327/32		London & Lancs (£5, £1 paid) ...	33½	Agricultural Bank of Egypt ...	£723/32
Do. 8 p.c. Cum. 1st Pf. ...	28½		Royal Exchange (£1) ...	7	Alexandria Water Co. "Fond. ...	£775
Do. 9 p.c. Cum. 2nd Pf. ...	28/6		Sun Fire £10 (£2 paid) ...	38½	Assoc. Cotton Ginners ...	£16½
Do. 5 p.c. Debs. ...	96xd		Trade Indemnity (£10) ...	16	Behra Ord. ...	£111/16
Brit. Burmah ...	7½		Miscellaneous.		Ciments d'Egypte ...	£20
Burmah Oil Co. Ord. ...	419/32		Alexandria Water Co. ...	16½	Cointoir Fin. & Com. d'Egypte ...	Frs. 125
Do. 8½ Cum. Pref. ...	26/9		Associated Cotton Ginners ...	16/6	Credit Foncier Egyptian ...	£170
Phoenix Oil and Transport ...	14½		Egyptian Hotels ...	7½	Fondateur ...	Frs. 1138
Steaua Romana ...	10½		Do. Markets Ord. ...	25/6	Crown Brewery Priv. ...	£280
			Do. Salt and Soda ...	27/6	Filature Nationale d'Egypte ...	Frs. 115
			Mortgage Co. of Egypt 5 p.c. Pref. ...	8½xd	Frigorifique d'Egypte ...	£313/32
			INDIAN EXCHANGES.		Immeubles d'Egypte Soc. An. des ...	£74
			Government Loans.		Land Bank of Egypt Actions ...	£164
			3½ Government Paper ...	75 15/16	" Parts de Fond ...	£240
					Menzaleh Canal Navigation ...	Pt. 190

COMMERCIAL BANK OF GREECE

(A Limited Liability Company Registered in Athens.)

CAPITAL PAID UP - Drs. 47,400,000
RESERVE FUNDS - Drs. 351,083,473.70

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Branches: Piraeus, Argos, Pyrgos, Patras, Corfu, Cephalonia, Nauplia, Vostizza (Aegion), Calamata, Syra, Chio, Candia, Volo, Salonica, Larissa, Triccala, Mitylene, Canea, Zante, Plomari, Tripolitza, Rethymo, Carditza, Cavalla, Prevesa, Vathy and Carlovassi.

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BANK OF ATHENS

Head Office: ATHENS.

ESTABLISHED 1893.

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hCity of York	7,844	Sep. 15	Bombay & Karachi
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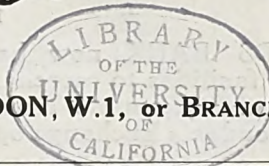
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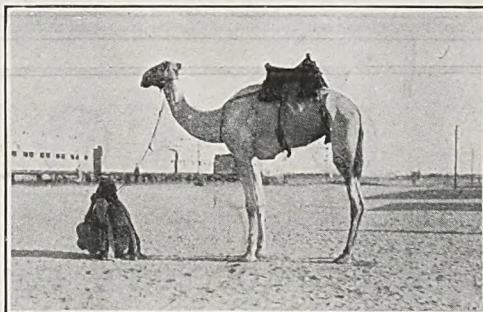


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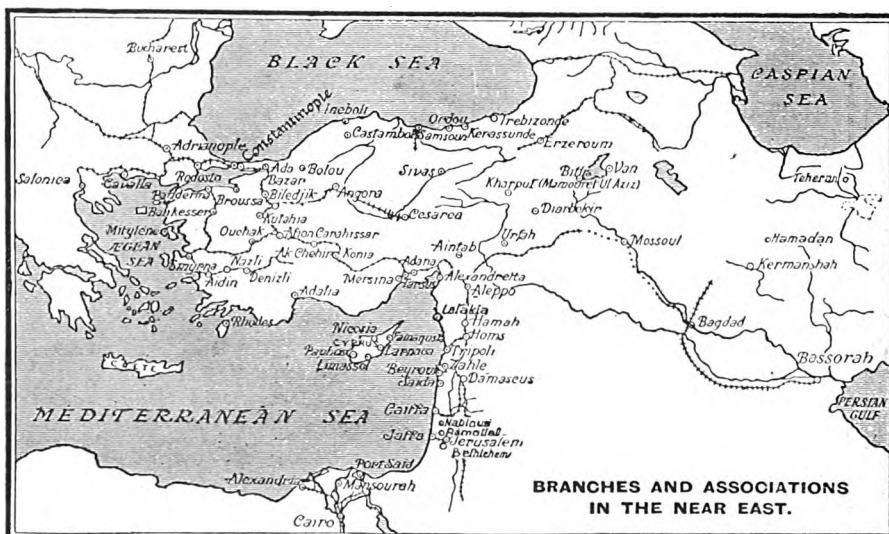
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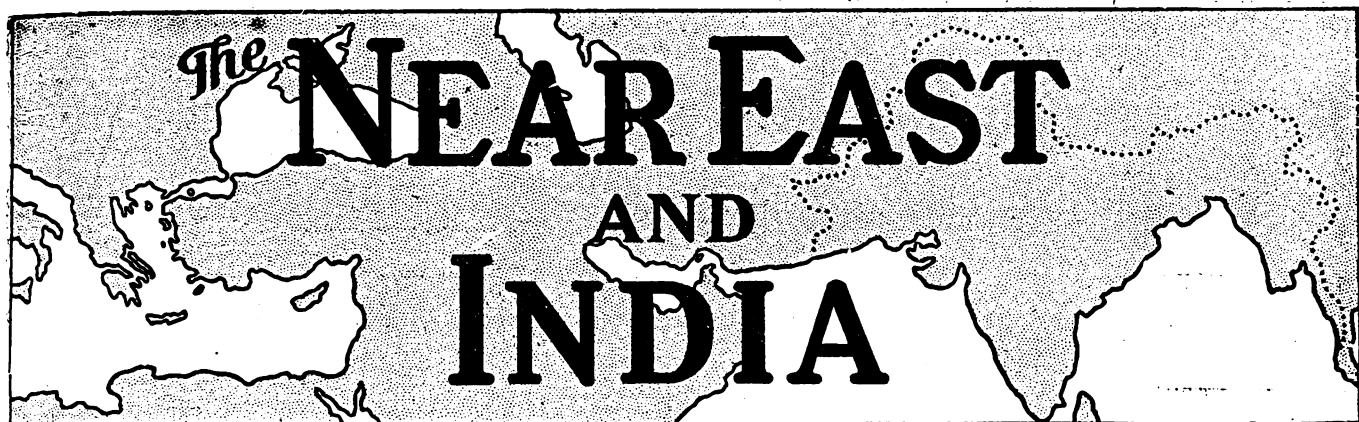
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No. 899.—VOL. XXXIV.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 9, 1928.

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Notes of the Week.

The Position in Yugoslavia.

Although all the indications point to a widening of the breach between Croatia and Serbia, the very seriousness of the situation may yet prevent the two parties from proceeding to extreme measures. It is a fact, however, that the Government of Dr. Koroshetz is acting as if no murders had taken place in the Skupshtina, and as if conditions in the country were normal. The new Minister for Agrarian Reform has announced his intention of completely overhauling the agrarian policy of preceding Governments, and the Prime Minister has outlined a programme that is to occupy the Skupshtina right through the autumn. There was sound sense in Dr. Koroshetz's contention that Parliament could not be held responsible for the crime of one man, and he was careful to state that the Government parties wished to see a resumption of legislative collaboration by the deputies who had left the Skupshtina; but the Croats look for some tangible overture to meet their point of view and they remain in a sullen, if not ugly, mood. Serbo-Croat relations do not, for the moment, stand to gain from the latest reports of M. Raditch's state of health. His apparent recovery from the wound received in the Skupshtina has not been maintained. His general condition has taken a distinct turn for the worse, and it has been found necessary to appoint a substitute leader for the Croat Peasant Party. M. Pribitchevitch, accordingly, becomes for all practical purposes sole head of the Peasant-Democrat group. The adhesion to this group of Dr. Trumbitch and Dr. Pavelitch, the two Croatian Federalists, is held to indicate that the Coalition has now adopted the federalist point of view, which M. Pribitchevitch has hitherto opposed. If the demand for a separate Croatian Parliament should now be pressed with virtual unanimity among the Croats, Serbian obstinacy will be largely to blame. So far Dr. Koroshetz has not shown any disposition to modify that obstinacy, and his actions

as Prime Minister lend colour to the Croat contention that he is wholly in the pockets of the Serbian Radical Party.

Retaliation.

The murder in Zagreb of the Editor of the notorious *Yedinstvo* is an indication how high feeling is running in Yugoslavia. This newspaper, which is published in Belgrade, had distinguished itself before the murders in the Skupshtina by suggesting that only shooting would bring the Croats to their senses. It is characteristic of Serb mentality that not a single step has been taken to appease Croat feeling after the murders. The Government clung to office when the most elementary sense of the fitness of things ought to have prompted its immediate resignation; no steps were taken to deal with the *Yedinstvo*, although it had clearly helped to embitter feeling in the country. The murder of a Serb is likely to create the impression that the Croats are the aggressors and Serb nationalism will assert itself, it is to be feared, in an aggressive form. Dr. Koroshetz might have been expected, as a Slovene, to act as a mediator between the two parties; but he has missed his opportunity, and now it will call for King Alexander's personal intervention to pour oil on the troubled waters.

A Roumanian Landmark.

The passage through the Roumanian Parliament of the financial Bills authorizing the Government to take the necessary steps to stabilize the currency and to obtain a loan of fifty million sterling is as much a triumph for M. Vintila Bratianu, the Prime Minister, as the loan itself will be for the country as a whole. For both there is the possibility of the triumph's being shorn of some of its glamour; for Roumania by disappointment at having to pay seven per cent. for her money, and for M. Bratianu by the knowledge that his future task has not been lightened by the immediate withdrawal from the Govern-

ment of M. Titulescu, who returns, after a holiday for recuperation, to the post of Roumanian Minister in London. There can be no question that M. Titulescu's presence in the Government for more than a year has been of the utmost value to his country, and it will not have escaped the attention of the political opponents of the Liberals that this long period of association failed to secure his absorption by the Government Party. The special session that has now closed was responsible for an undertaking on the Prime Minister's part to deal with the question of Minorities in the autumn. The promise was not given in any specific terms, and M. Bratianu had probably in mind legislation that would tend to remove the grievances of the new provinces that they were being discriminated against in favour of the Old Kingdom. At the same time he gave the assurance that the aim of the Government was to create for the citizens of all races and religions the possibility of a normal life in the midst of the general progress of the country. Whether the law that discriminates in effect against Bulgarian and Turkish landowners in the Dobruja can be held to accord with this principle remains to be shown.

Abyssinia, Italy and Britain.

The treaty of friendship and arbitration recently signed between Italy and Abyssinia may well give rise to conflicting reflexions in Great Britain. In the first place there will be the satisfaction that the Abyssinian Government, so notoriously suspicious of European Powers, has at last brought itself to sign a treaty with one of them. On the other hand, it is impossible to forget that it was the exchange of Notes in December 1925 between Great Britain and Italy regarding Lake Tana and economic spheres of interest in Abyssinia that led to an official protest on the part of the Addis Ababa Government to the League of Nations and increased Abyssinian suspicion of the two Powers. In the two and a half years that have elapsed since that date Italy would seem to have succeeded in re-establishing herself completely in the good books of the Abyssinians; the Lake Tana project, however, remains, so far as is known, in the air. One of Abyssinia's cherished ambitions is to secure a second line of communication to the coast, in order to relieve her of sole dependence on the Jibouti Railway. An obvious alternative would have been to link Harar, the second town in Abyssinia, with Zeila in British Somaliland, and it is at least reasonable to suppose that such a proposal would have brought the Tana problem nearer solution. The treaty with Italy provides for an Abyssinian zone at Assab

on the Red Sea and the construction of a road fit for lorry traffic between that port and Abyssinia. It will readily be conceded that Italy has less cause than Great Britain to be squeamish about the possibility of hurting French susceptibilities; but it is, to say the least, unfortunate that Anglo-French relations allow for the prejudice of British interests in so many parts of the world as a result of French susceptibilities, which, it might be supposed, are capable of being overcome.

The Anglo-Trans-Jordan Treaty.

Obviously there is to be more opposition than was expected to the recent Anglo-Trans-Jordan Treaty, the justification of the apparently severe terms of which was to be found in the primitive and artificial nature of Trans-Jordan itself. It was never pretended that a country possessed of corporate consciousness and power of expression would submit to such a Treaty without protest. The point was, however, that no better form for obtaining the security and prosperity of Trans-Jordan could be devised. If that ground is correct—and there is considerable evidence that it is so—the recent showings of resentment towards the Anglo-Trans-Jordan Agreement must be treated as the voice of the minority, which wishes to put the cart before the horse. In Oriental countries, however, as elsewhere, minorities have a way of developing into majorities, and it will be well, therefore, to summarise the resolutions recently passed at a meeting of shaiyks in Amman. It was then claimed that the Trans-Jordan Government should be wholly responsible to a freely elected Parliament. The British Mandate was recognised only in a limited form. The Balfour Declaration was condemned as contrary to British promises to the Arabs and to international rights. Military service, unless imposed by an elected Parliament, was repudiated. The financing of foreign troops was rejected. It was claimed that the revenue and expenditure of Trans-Jordan were adequate for the governing of the country (if its national resources were duly exploited). And finally, the right was denied to Great Britain of supervising the finances of Trans-Jordan, it being alleged that the country was utilised by Great Britain for "the selfish purposes of air communications."

A Straw and the Wind?

Now these resolutions, although they appear to bear some marks of extra-Trans-Jordan inspiration, are without doubt possessed of considerable significance. While it cannot be held that they represent in any large measure the real opinions of the *badawin*, they would appear to be a straw showing in which way the wind is blowing. It seems unreasonable to doubt, for instance, that the passing of the Treaty has decreased the prestige and popularity of the Amir Abdullah, and very careful conduct will be necessary to prevent any further damage in this way. Trans-Jordan is not the only Arab country in which a rough division of the people into "pro-Treaty" and "anti-Treaty-ites" has hindered the progress of the country as a whole. Nor is this lesson, this symptom of Arab feeling in Trans-Jordan, to be missed in Palestine, where already there exist plans for utilising some of the resources of the Amirate for the benefit of the immigrants who are singled out in these resolutions as being the obstacle to Arab independence in Trans-Jordan. In a word, while these declarations of Trans-Jordanian "Nationalists" may spell no immediate danger, it would be folly, on the part alike of the authorities in Amman, Jerusalem, and Baghdad, to ignore them as trumped-up and meaningless.

The Draft Syrian Constitution.

If the report of the Commission appointed by the Constituent Assembly in Damascus is to be acted upon, Syria is not to have a Kingdom, but, as we have always im-

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THURSDAY, AUGUST 9, 1928.

YUGOSLAVIA'S PROBLEM.

The problem that the Yugoslavs are called upon to solve will not be settled by shouting at or shooting one another. Unfortunately, in no quarter is there at present the least indication of the necessary spirit of compromise, and the two opposite camps continue to fulminate against each other, thereby encouraging onlookers to infer that the dissolution of the Triune Kingdom is a possibility, if not actually inevitable. Public utterances in Yugoslavia, however, have to be discounted very considerably, if the real situation is to be gauged accurately. Two hopeful signs emerge from the position as it is to-day. In the first place, the Croats have not been driven by the murder of their two deputies to commit political suicide by proclaiming their secession from the rest of the Southern Slavs. Immediately after his removal to hospital M. Stepan Raditch counselled a policy of "Wait and See," and after due reflexion his fellow-leader, M. Pribitchevitch, at a formal meeting of the Peasant-Democrat group has repudiated the suggestion that they wish to see Croatia break away from Serbia. To what extent this more considered attitude is to be over-ruled by M. Raditch's remarks to a German correspondent, in which he spoke of federation as essential, remains to be seen. The second hopeful sign is that the Serbs have recognized that some concession on their part is called for in the cause of national appeasement. They consider, indeed, that the concession that they have made is both far-reaching and as much as can be expected of them. It consists in their acquiescence in a non-Serb Prime Minister at a time when the Serb Radicals are the strongest party in the Skupshtina. They point out that not only is the Prime Minister a Slovene, but that also one half of the portfolios are in the hands of Ministers from the incorporated provinces, among them the important portfolios of the Interior, Finance, Public Works, and Agrarian Reform. The fact that four political parties are represented in the Ministry is hailed as the apotheosis of the democratic principle, and as disposing conclusively of the allegation that Serbia harbours any designs on the hegemony of Yugoslavia. That the Croats still refuse to see the position in the same light is taken ill, and the country is urged to regard them as irreconcilable separatists. In time, it is to be hoped, the Serbs will realize that there is room for further unbending on their part.

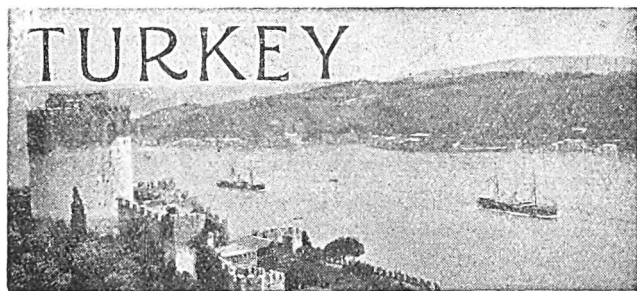
For the moment the breach between the two camps is complete. While the Skupshtina meets in session in Belgrade, the Peasant-Democrat group holds a congress in Zagreb. Some colour was lent to the contention that this congress was a coalition of the various constituent parts of the Kingdom against bad government by the fact

that deputies from Dalmatia, Slovenia, Herzegovina, the Voivodina and Montenegro, as well as Croats, were present. It was feared that the gathering would insist upon the breaking away of the trans-Sava provinces from Serbia; but this policy was not endorsed. The congress resolved itself into a protest against any further session of the "blood-stained Skupshtina," and decided that measures by the rump Parliament now sitting in Belgrade, in particular all fiscal measures, would not be binding on the trans-Sava provinces. It demanded a new Constitution which would allow provinces possessing a distinct national individuality to retain this individuality; but while it did not specify more clearly the changes indicated, no mention was made of a purely federal system. In the circumstances, it has to be admitted that the Zagreb congress was much abuses, are held, it might be difficult for the Peasant-milder in the wording of its resolutions than might have been expected from the bitterness of feeling which the murders in the Skupshtina provoked. The gulf that separates the two camps is by no means too wide to be bridged; but the problem is to bring the two parties together to decide where and how the bridge is to be built. For the present it will not be amiss, if things are allowed to continue as they are, provided that exacerbation of feeling on either side is avoided. A case can be made out for the summoning of Parliament to pass necessary measures. In the face of M. Raditch's refusal to accept office as Prime Minister the least provocative step that could be taken was to entrust the leader of the Slovene Clericals with the task of forming a Government. If, when the more urgent legislation has been passed, the Skupshtina is dissolved and new elections, free from all abuses, are held, it might be difficult for the Peasant-Democrat group to persist in its attitude of boycotting Belgrade. It does not appear, however, that this is to be Dr. Koroshetz's policy.

The Croats have made trial once before of the device of absenting themselves from the Skupshtina and have found it unsuccessful. On the present occasion they have adopted it under greater provocation, and as a gesture it may serve its purpose during a short emergency session. As a policy it has nothing to commend it, for sooner or later it defeats its own ends. In the present instance there would seem to be limits to the extent to which the national indignation over the Skupshtina murders can be exploited. If it can be argued that loose talk among Serbian Radicals had suggested that only shooting would overcome Croat opposition, it can also be urged that the tactics pursued by the Peasant-Democrat group made Parliament a farce as well as a bear garden. The avowed object of the Croats is to secure good government; they may have been justified in contending that it was impossible under the old order, but they cannot permanently rule out the possibility of it under other systems merely because these do not conform entirely with Croat demands for administrative reform. They will do well not to lose sight of their goal, and the Serbs should bear in mind that the Croat aims are sound and desirable in themselves. For the time being Dr. Koroshetz, the new Prime Minister, has a compact majority and is not handicapped, as his predecessor was, by serious differences in his own party. The legislative needs of the country are obvious, and the main reason why they have not been adopted by Parliament is to be found in the stultification of that body by party quarrels. If the needed legislation is now passed without the attendance of the Peasant-Democrat group, they will not be able to contend that they are indispensable to the good government of the country. The future policy of the Croats would seem to call for the exercise of caution and statesmanship.

*The Near and Middle East

From Our Own Correspondents.



Constantinople, August 1,

Greco-Turkish Relations.

With a view to paving the way to a better understanding between Greece and Turkey, and thus bringing the projected but so far nebulous Pact of Amity and Neutrality between the two countries into the realm of practical politics, a meeting between Tewfik Rushdi Bey, Turkish Foreign Minister, and M. Venizelos may take place, it is reported, in the near future at some convenient spot on the Greco-Turkish border. Much will no doubt depend upon the outcome of the forthcoming Greek elections, which will take place before the meeting of the two statesmen. Speculation is rife in Stamboul whether the weakened Venizelist elements will be in a position to hold their own at the hustings.

It may not be out of place, in this connexion, to describe in a few words what exactly is alleged by the Turks to constitute the main stumbling-block to that better understanding between the two Governments which must necessarily be the precursor to the signature of any political instrument framed on the lines of the lately concluded Italo-Turkish Pact.

By a declaration signed at Lausanne on July 24, 1923, by MM. Venizelos and Caclamanos, the Hellenic Delegates to the Peace Conference at Lausanne, which instrument forms part and parcel of the Treaty of Lausanne, the Greek Government undertook that there should be no infringement of rights to property held by Muslim persons not affected by the Convention for the Exchange of Populations, and who had either left Greece before October 18, 1912, or who had always resided outside Greece, although owning property in the country. In other words, such Muslims were to continue to enjoy complete freedom in regard to the disposal of their property.

This declaration further provided that all claims arising out of alleged infringement of such Muslim rights by an unfair application of measures of a general nature and claims respecting the alienation of revenues derived from such properties should be dealt with by the Commission which was set up by a Special Convention, dated January 30, 1923, also embodied in the Treaty of Lausanne, for the exchange of Greek and Turkish Populations.

The Turkish Government have alleged and continue to maintain that during the five years which have elapsed since the Declaration was signed, that instrument has remained virtually a dead letter, and that the Greek

Government have failed to keep their pledges. As a result of further negotiations between Greek and Turkish delegates in Athens which dragged on laboriously for several months, a further Convention was signed between the parties, whereby it was agreed that Muslim properties in Greek territory already assigned to exchanged immigrant Greeks from Turkey should be compensated for by the assignation to exchanged immigrant Muslims from Greece of properties situated in Turkish territory, other than Constantinople, which had been owned by Greeks resident in Turkey prior to the Exchange but who were now established in Greece. The valuation for the purposes of compensation of all such assignable properties was to be entrusted, and was in fact, entrusted, to the care of the Commission set up in January, 1923.

The whole problem, a thorny one in itself, simply bristles with super-imposed complexities, and the Exchange Commission with its numerous Sub-Commissions and "Equipes d'Evaluation" has not come unscathed out of the fire of acrid criticism, which has been upspringingly levelled at it in both the Athenian and the Turkish papers.

The Turks maintain that the situation is no better than it was before the signature of the Athens Convention, that exchanged Greeks have been placed in possession of specifically reserved Muslim property in Greece, and that exchanged Muslims in Turkey cannot be compensated with Greek property unless the Turkish Government deliberately disregard their Treaty obligations and resort to reprisals by seizing Greek property in Constantinople—which area was specifically excluded from the operation of the Convention.

There the matter now stands, and it is this incubus, this distressing aftermath of the late War which must be got out of the way if Turk and Greek are to shake hands, let bygones be bygones, and come into line with Italy by signing a bilateral agreement aiming primarily at the preservation of peace in this Near Eastern cockpit.

The Title of Pasha.

There will be shortly passing away another link with the past in this country of ultra-rapid evolution—another of those landmarks, which for good or evil, had at least, the merit of conjuring up for the distant Western observer alluring visions of Eastern pomp and circumstance. The title, rank and dignity of Pasha is to be abolished within the near future.

Whether we turn to the roving, roistering Bashaws of the Barbary Coast whose filibustering expeditions against English Merchant Adventurers who went down to the sea on their lawful occasions are so vividly described by the good Hakluyt in his "Voyages, Traffiques and Discoveries of the English Nation," or to the early eighteenth century Pashas of one, two or three tails whose military exploits and conquests led the Sublime Port to institute the administrative divisions known as "Pashaliks"—the very term "Pasha" has up to the present connoted something so essentially and typically Turkish that one can view its forthcoming disappearance from the Western vocabulary only as a regrettable severance with century-old tradition.

How this condemned title, with that of "Bey," its immediate hierarchic successor, is to be replaced has not yet been made public. It would be more than regrettable were that euphonious appellation "Effendi," which the foreign resident in Turkey, notwithstanding all that transpired at Lausanne, still enjoys by courtesy, to be also cast into the melting pot. There would then remain nothing but "Agha" or plain "Mr." which, when all is said and done, would prove to be the most genuine and acid test of a strictly democratic régime as applied to the regeneration of an Eastern country.

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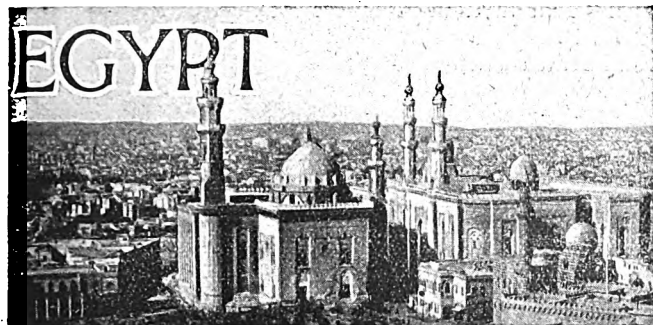
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Cairo, July 30.

The Wafd's Attitude.

It was expected that yesterday there would have been a certain amount of trouble in Cairo, for the Wafd had announced their intention of forming themselves into a Parliament,—yesterday being the day on which Parliament had been due to reassemble after its month's adjournment. The ex-President of the Chamber and the ex-Vice-President of the Senate had sent a letter to the Government demanding the keys of the House in order to enable them to meet. But the reply was that, if there should be any such meeting, Nahas Pasha would be held personally responsible.

The amazing lack of interest in what was going to happen in Cairo on Saturday on the part of Egyptians was most extraordinary, and proves the truth of the Prime Minister's statement that the saner elements throughout the country are behind him, and not much interested in any particular brand of Government, as long as it is strong. For a greater part of the day all the area round the Parliament buildings and the Zaghloul Club was carefully guarded by the police and the military, preventing anyone's entrance into this area. But scarcely anyone made any attempt to make an entrance, and the many Egyptians who were passing up and down the neighbouring streets, which are some of the most populous in Cairo, did not seem to take the slightest interest in what was happening.

While, however, the police were interested in what was going on in the west of Cairo, a number of Wafdist deputies and senators managed to meet in the eastern, native, quarter, at the house of Mourad Sherei Bey. There about 150 of them formed themselves into a Chamber of Deputies and a Senate, and passed various resolutions. It was first pointed out that the dissolution of neither the Chamber nor the Senate was in accordance with the Constitution, and that, therefore, their existence as a Parliament was valid. They then passed the resolution that they had no confidence in the present Cabinet and that it should resign; also that any laws which it passed or conventions arranged with foreign Powers were invalid. The Parliament then passed a resolution to the effect that of its own free-will it adjourned until the third Saturday in September, unless any untoward incident necessitated its meeting before.

These resolutions were signed by about 150 deputies

and senators. The meeting was very poorly attended considering how important it was from a Wafd point of view; there seems little doubt that, although they may formerly have had the country behind them, they have not now.

Rail and Road.

Egypt now has a Minister of Communications who has been General Manager of the Egyptian State Railways, and it is hoped that some of the country's pressing transportation problems will be solved. The first and most important problem is the growing competition from motors. It is essential for the nation that the railways should be kept in a high state of efficiency, and, therefore, it becomes important for the Government to regulate this traffic. The British Railway Companies, for instance, have sought powers to run their own road services, and a Royal Commission is going to investigate the whole transport problem. In Egypt the problem is particularly acute, for the road traffic is not only a serious competitor to the railways, but is carried on under conditions which make it exceedingly dangerous for the travelling public. Motor-cars and motor-buses travel along the country roads literally covered with natives, hanging on to any part of the car which projects. Apparently it is possible for anyone to purchase a car, put it in charge of a driver whose skill is very uncertain, and use it as a public conveyance. It is possible to charge very low fares because the car is generally filled to three times its capacity, and it is driven all day and a greater part of the night. The result is that there are many very serious accidents and the railway is hard hit because of the unfairness of the competition. Laws exist to stop overcrowding of vehicles and other abuses, but they have not so far been enforced.

The Egyptian State Railways have, within the last few days, submitted a Note to the Ministry of Communications on this subject. It is suggested that the Main Roads Department should be asked not to build new roads near the railways, nor improve the conditions of those that already exist. Further, that until new regulations governing motor traffic on these country roads have been issued no new licences to run motor bus services on the roads which compete with the State Railways should be issued without the sanction of the State Railways themselves. This is a move in the right direction, but on the other hand it is ludicrous to try to stop the improvement of roads, which are in a terribly bad condition throughout the provinces. It is almost as important for the commerce of the country to have good roads as it is to have good railways. Far the best thing for the Government to do would be to take over the running of the motor bus services, so that it will be an advantage both to them and to the country to have improved roads. The suggestion to keep a strict watch over the issue of licences is sensible.

Lieut.-Colonel Henry Curteis, who died recently at King's Lynn, at the age of 68, trained and commanded during the Great War four new regiments and commanded the 22nd Rifles in Salonika in 1916-17. He was commandant of the Citadel, Cairo, in 1916, and was later Senior Military Officer at Cyprus.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK

(Continued from page 162.)

agined, a Parliamentary Republic under a President. But the main content of this report is that section which reinforces what we have constantly urged: the necessity for recognising the unity of Syria. Syria, in the words of this Report, is an independent Sovereign State, its territory co-extensive with that detached from the Ottoman Empire. As we have insisted, the divisions that have been made since the War are not recognised, it being proclaimed that Syria is a political entity, one and indivisible. This declaration of the Commission is of the highest importance, and the French Mandatory Power will neglect it at its peril. Never too often can it be emphasised that the various States of Syria are artificial, and that their borders should be destroyed. Doubtless Syria would need to be hammered into a unity, but without such a hammering how can the ends of the Mandate be achieved? For the rest, this Draft Report states that the capital of the State of Syria shall be Damascus, that its religion shall be that of Islam, that the national flag shall be red, white, and black, and that the Provisional Constituent Assembly shall elect the first President for a term of two years, and that thereafter the term will be three years.

Problems in the Lebanon.

These resolutions will be giving the French authorities considerable food for thought, in particular, of course, because the greatly enlarged Lebanon is intimately bound up with the question. It has been recently reported that M. Henri Ponsot, High Commissioner, has declared that there existed no possibility of diminishing the borders of the Lebanon. That may or may not be correct; but if so, it will be a source of endless trouble. Apart from that aspect of the position, however, the Lebanon is having problems of its own. The curious development is to be witnessed there—and, incidentally, it is an instructive commentary upon recent events in Egypt—of a popular agitation in favour of the dissolution of Parliament. It is claimed by the local Press that the representatives in Parliament neglect the country's interests, pursuing only their personal ambitions. And it is suggested that what the land needs, to pull it through its economic troubles, is a benevolent dictatorship, which would save the country the £30,000 which it expends upon its representative government. It looks, in short, as though the system of "representative government," however much those clamour for it who enjoy it not, were in for a period of unpopularity in the Middle East.

The Syrian President.

At the beginning of June we recorded the fact that the four most likely candidates for the Presidency of Syria were Shaikh Taj al Din al Hassani, the present Prime Minister, Hashim Bey, and Ibrahim Bey Hannano, the famous Nationalist who sits in the Constituent Assembly for Aleppo. Now it is reported that the choice has been narrowed down to the first and last of these men, the first, it is alleged, being favoured of the French authorities, the last being the nominee of the extreme Nationalist bloc. The rivalry between the two men appears to derive from the conduct of the elections for the Constituent Assembly, which the Nationalists allege were interfered with by Shaikh Taj al Din's Minister of the Interior, Said Beg Mohassam. This Minister has now, however, been dispensed with, and if by this move the Prime Minister has removed the traces of resentment, and the slur of anti-Nationalism, it may be that the French will after all have as the first President of Syria a man who owes much to their support. But it is quite obvious now that the French are steadfastly resolved upon a policy of co-operation with the Syrians, and that they intend loyally to inaugurate a free and no longer an oppressive régime.

Jewish Agency and Palestine.

The General Council of the Zionist Organisation concluded its meeting at Berlin last week, and the general result reached, after considerable pothole, may be said to be "As you Were." The chief points of dispute arose over the Report of the Palestine Survey Commission and over the composition of the Zionist Executive in Palestine. The Labour and Socialist members of the Council roundly condemned the recommendations of the Report that co-operative agricultural settlements should not be established in future in Palestine, and that in addition to the land purchased by the Jewish National Fund as the inalienable property of the Zionists there should also be a land reserve for those who wish to buy land as private property. Moreover, the Palestinian members of the Council expressed profound dissatisfaction with the work of the Zionist Executive during the past year, and attempted, indeed, to insist upon the resignation of one of its members, Mr. Harry Sacher. Upon this attempt Dr. Weizmann declared that the whole Executive would resign; but further consideration of the matter resulted in the conservation of the Executive *en bloc*. With this end of the question the Council as a body were greatly relieved, but there will be grave heart-burnings in Palestine itself at the retention of unpopular members. Of the Report of the Non-Partisan Commission, it is sufficient to state that in broad outline it was accepted, but that the comment was passed on it that a recognition of five principles—Jewish labour, Hebrew language, national land, the settlers' right of self-determination in regard to the form of settlement, and a continuous increase of immigration, form "an immutable foundation for the establishment of the Agency and the drafting of its plan of work." All these decisions of the General Council, however, have to be freshly examined at a conference next month in New York—for it is upon the support of the non-Zionists among American Jewry, of course, that the whole success of the new plans for the Zionist colonisers depends. And American Jewry, to judge from the reports of the last meeting of the American Zionist Organisation, is terribly divided in its ranks.

NEWS IN BRIEF.

A postal order service between Persia and Germany will come into effect on October 1.

Viscount Chetwynd has accepted an invitation to join the board of Imperial Airways, Ltd.

A Sofia message dated August 1 states that heat and drought continue to prevail throughout Bulgaria, and the Indian corn and other crops are seriously compromised. In Southern Bulgaria the shade temperature has attained 106 Fahr.

The British Consul at Jidda reports that there were 54 motor cars and 447 trucks and omnibuses in use in private ownership in the Hijaz on March 8. The statistics do not include the considerable numbers of cars in royal and governmental use, of which no figures are available, but which will probably exceed 100.

The second International Motor Show in Egypt, organised under the auspices of the Royal Automobile Club of Egypt, will take place at Alexandria from January 23 to February 6 next. The closing date for applications is October 31. Copies of the Exhibition regulations, containing application form, are available at the Department of Overseas Trade, 35, Old Queen Street, London, S.W.1.

A number of amendments have lately been introduced in the Customs Tariff of Iraq. Several classes of building material and machinery have been placed on the free list, whilst on other classes of these goods an increased duty has been imposed. The duty has been reduced on perfumed spirits, motor spirit, non-spirituous perfumery and toilet preparations (excluding soap). Increased duties have been imposed on salt, cigarettes, cigars, snuff and manufactured tobacco.

As from July 26, the Bulgarian Government, by Ministerial Decree have increased the exchange difference on which Customs duties, etc., are paid in gold currency from 1,500 to 2,000 per cent., i.e., for every gold leva payable under the Tariff, 20 paper levas are now collected instead of 15 paper levas as formerly. Articles of prime necessity imported from abroad will continue to pay at the former rate of 15 paper leva per gold leva.

FROM LONDON TO THE BLACK SEA BY CAR.

III.

BY FEODORA STANCIOFF.

Christian, a village, some six miles from Sibiu, had a peculiarity; the church, an ancient stone building, was surrounded by a fortress wall, because it had once been the custom to assemble villagers in this religious stronghold, in times of danger.

As for Sibiu itself, when we drove up its steep streets, that evening, it seemed to us that stone by stone, the town buildings had been brought from Germany, 200 years ago, to stand in this site of natural aloofness, in a great circle of mountains and woods. The German name of Sibiu is "Hermannstadt," and the Hungarians called it "Nagyszeben." We crossed a large paved square with a central fountain and a semi-Gothic church on our way to the Hotel "Römischer Kaiser," where a marble tablet commemorates the visit to this same hotel of the Emperor Joseph II of Austria in 1785, and where the Swedish King Gustave, who fought Peter the Great, is said to have spent some time when fortune deserted his arms. These historical associations are the pride of the hotel; beauty and comfort are somewhat neglected, but our rooms were clean. The corridors resembled army headquarters. The Roumanians keep a strong garrison in Sibiu and there is a cavalry school in the vicinity, so that every room was occupied by officers, and the passages by their orderlies. (A pacifist would have fled in horror from the "Römischer Kaiser.")

We spent the evening in an open-air restaurant, counting uniforms, listening to the melancholy strains of Hungarian music, and observing sturdy Transylvanian farmers, unconscious of their picturesque costume, enjoy the square meal and long drinks that a farmer allows himself on market day.

We liked Sibiu, the starlit night and the fragrant mountain air, and the next morning we resented the veil of mist that hung over the plateau and made a mysterious vastness of the "rugged and forested wall" of the surrounding Carpathians.

The journey from Sibiu to Bucharest (190 miles) occupied our eighth day on the road, and combined an uneventful run to Brassov, via Fagaras on the river Oltu, 50 glorious miles of mountain scenery from Brassov to Campina, and a trying and dusty "finale," through the oil-fields to Bucharest. Brassov, (*alias* Kronstadt) lies at the foot of the hills in an ideal situation, the surrounding green meadows and forests being bathed by tributaries of the Danube, still in their youthful guise of mountain streams or torrents. South-east the Czukas and Sireu peaks rise above 6,000 feet and south-west Mt. Omul (8,200 ft.), was clearly outlined against a sky of deep blue. In between stretches the "Tomos" pass through which we made our ascent to Predeal, once the Roumanian frontier post. Forests of fir trees enclosed the road, and the winding climb of about 3,000 ft. is unrivalled in its serene and fragrant beauty. Wild cyclamens nestle in the woods, but alas! traffic increases daily on this road, though I cannot blame anyone who takes it.

We made the descent via Busteni to Sinaia, the famous Roumanian summer resort, where palaces, villas and hotels were still empty of their gay crowds. Gardens were being laid out in the trim little town, and birds twittered in the lilac bushes in happy anticipation of the smart season.

Abruptly the mountain dream ends in the arid plain of petroleum wealth, which stretches from Campina beyond Ploesti. At the time of our journey, the road was of the nerve-wearing kind that sends your car bumping right and left, on the dust filled holes, when you would like to drive like the wind through ungainly flat country, which many British and American oil-seekers have made their temporary home. We left them to the delights of the primitive and untidy cafés, in the hot and noisy streets of Ploesti, reflecting on the fact that oil had justified worse places.

Through flat and eventually wooded country, one covers the last 30 miles to Bucharest, which one enters by the fashionable *Chaussée*, in a maze of the smartest cars and the smartest women a dusty traveller could wish to set eyes on!

Bulgaria.

Roughly 170 miles now separated us from our destination; the Bulgarian port of Varna on the Black Sea. We drove from Bucharest to Giurgevo the next morning and saluted Bulgaria across the Danube. Let me note that *Tryptiques* are now accepted in Bulgaria, a fact which was often disputed a year ago. I would like to add that a bridge across the Danube, linking Roumanian and Bulgarian territory, is being considered, but for the time being a ferry is in use (the cost being about 2,000 lei), and one crosses from Giurgevo (Roumania) to Rustchuk (Bulgaria), with no difficulty. As time must be allowed for Customs formalities at each port in turn, and for the ferry arrangements, the Bucharest to Varna trip is just feasible in a day, provided that everything runs smoothly and the weather is good. In our case, we reluctantly broke the journey at Rustchuk, having been warned that some roads were up, on the Bulgarian side.

Information is easy to obtain in any Bulgarian town or village, where the advent of a touring car is always a matter of interest and rejoicing. A homely crowd of peasants or citizens soon gather round you, and the local *strajar*, or policeman, can be as smiling as he is talkative. You feel at once that here is a nation with keen brains, a thirst for knowledge and unbounded hospitality. Mechanics are generally efficient, with more genius for repairs than constancy in upkeep. Petrol is cheap and the Sofia Touring Club is a reliable guide to the foreign motorist. Some roads are very good, some bad; on the whole they are improving.

Rustchuk, or "Rousse," once a Roman stronghold on the Danube, was known as "Cexanta Prisa," from the Latin *pristis* (river transport), and the present name of the town was first mentioned in 1503, during peace negotiations between Turkey and Hungary. In the bewildering chaos of Balkan history, it stood on the road to Constantinople, for travellers from Poland, Transylvania and Roumania, and for armies from Russia, but Balkan history claims a destructive mood throughout the ages, and to-day Roman remains are buried and the little trading port has no artistic treasures!

We left by the road to Torlak, driving between stretches of well kept vineyards, on a wide smooth surface where

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Meanwhile, leaving to the left the plain of "Abboba," where the first Bulgarian capital flourished in the 7th century, and important excavations testify to its vanished

A week on the road had brought us from the distant Channel coast to the wooded shores of the Euxine, and, whether taken in parts or as a whole, there are few more varied, and more enlightening enterprises to suggest to the amateur of Continental versatility, to the lover of Nature and space, or, last but not least, to the owner-driver of a reliable car.

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THE DISSOLUTION OF THE EGYPTIAN PARLIAMENT.

On July 19, a Royal Decree dissolving Parliament and suspending the Parliamentary régime for three years, was published, together with a Note submitted to King Fuad and signed by all the Ministers then in Egypt, in an extraordinary issue of the *Journal Officiel*. Of this Note we append the following translation:—

Sire,—Your Majesty deigned in 1926 to approve the Coalition and to consider it a means of answering to the needs of the country and likely to avoid the disadvantages of party spirit and dissensions and to satisfy the hope it held of a firm and stable government.

It was necessary for the success of this régime that its constituent elements should co-operate cordially and direct their efforts to the realisation of various reforms, and that throughout the administration of the State, affairs should be conducted according to the principles of justice and equality.

When the Coalition had been formed, no one doubted but that its members were satisfied and that intentions in regard to it were sincere. As Egyptians are, in fact, in agreement about the end and the means, as no conflict born of a difference of opinion and no divergence of views separate them, it was thought that schism, personal in its origin and genesis, was destined to disappear and that Egyptians would re-establish their early unity.

But a small group, who by mere chance recently assumed the leadership of the majority party, did not cease, in its jealousy to acquire power, to stultify co-operation and to give itself up to a party spirit most dangerous for the general interest; it claimed that the schism came from the fact that it alone could defend the rights of the country, it devoted its efforts to spread this prejudice, and occupied itself in enlarging the field of schism by maintaining its causes.

It is exceedingly unfortunate that the governmental spheres were affected by this dissension, which profoundly influenced the work of officials and their conditions of service. It is impossible to ignore the resulting disorganisation in the service, the danger to public interests, exposed as they are to abuse and autocracy, and the uneasiness and unrest which have manifested themselves among officials.

These effects did not spare individuals, whose relations to one another were disturbed; while they were divided into hostile camps, one against the other, and even family ties were loosened.

The parliamentary régime even ended by becoming an instrument of oppression in the hands of this group, which relied on a majority that was forced to flatter it or treat it with deference, one as its dupe, another fearing its attacks, yet another coveting favours. It was for this reason that the parliamentary régime was powerless to realise the hopes which had been the more particularly founded on it, that is to say, the execution of various reforms required in the public interest.

Confronted by this situation, the wisdom of Your Majesty decided to remedy the position by decisive measures to turn aside from the country the menace of a permanent antagonism and an administrative régime which was powerless and disturbed. Consequently Your Majesty dismissed the last Ministry, and confided power in the present Ministry.

The Cabinet has devoted long study to the present situation seeking to find means to deal with it. It could find no other way than to devote itself to rescuing the country from these factitious influences so that affairs might re-

sume their normal course. Affairs will not resume their normal course unless the public is instructed in the real facts, understands the way in which it has been misled, and realises how the schism was artificially created to the profit of a small group, and what misfortunes it has cost the country. In the same way the situation cannot be stabilised unless individuals, shielded from various annoyances and slanders, are able to express their opinions with complete confidence and security, and unless the unanimous conviction exists that the public services and the administrations of the State are carried on in accordance with right and justice.

But these factitious influences, which have reduced the country to the condition under which it is now groaning, cannot end immediately. The Ministry hopes, however, that a period of three years will suffice.

These influences could not cease whilst the factors continued to exist which have facilitated their action and have given them strength and the power to expand.

As Parliament, in its present form, does not favour the establishment of this normal situation which the country insistently demands, it is necessary that it should not be allowed to constitute an obstacle to the attainment of that end.

The Ministry, therefore, considers it to be indispensable to dissolve the two Chambers and to postpone elections until a time when, it is hoped, the nation's will will find expression in its true form.

The Ministry also intends to revise the electoral law as well as the provisions of the Constitution relative thereto, modifying them in such a way as will remedy the situation described above. At the same time, the parliamentary régime and ministerial responsibility will be in no way affected by these modifications.

The Ministry would have been reluctant to undertake the dissolution of the two Chambers and the postponement of elections had it not been absolutely forced to do so by the necessity of delivering the country from the present situation and by the need of a stable and satisfactory régime, restoring to the country its unity and giving it the means to deal with the cause of its independence in such a manner as to realise all its aspirations.

The Ministry is firmly convinced that it expresses the real needs of the nation and reflects the unanimous opinion of its enlightened elements.

In regard to the conduct of public affairs during the suspension of the parliamentary régime the Ministry undertakes to establish the reign of justice and to ensure equality without partiality or partisan spirit, to maintain liberty within the limits of the law and to execute reforms in the general interest so long waited for by the country. It hopes to succeed, under the benevolent ægis of Your Majesty, and with the support of the nation to attain the end that it has in view.

If Your Majesty approves the preceding considerations, You will deign to give Your august order to dissolve the Chamber of Deputies and the Senate and to suspend the application of the Articles 89, 155, 157 and the last part of Article 15 of the Constitution.

In placing its loyalty at the foot of the Throne, the Ministry expresses its warmest wishes for the preservation to the country of Your Majesty's august person, sustained by the aid of the Most High.

MOHAMED MAHMOUD.

ALI MAHER.

GAFAAR WALL.

IBRAHIM FAHMY.

ABDEL HAMID SOLEIMAN.

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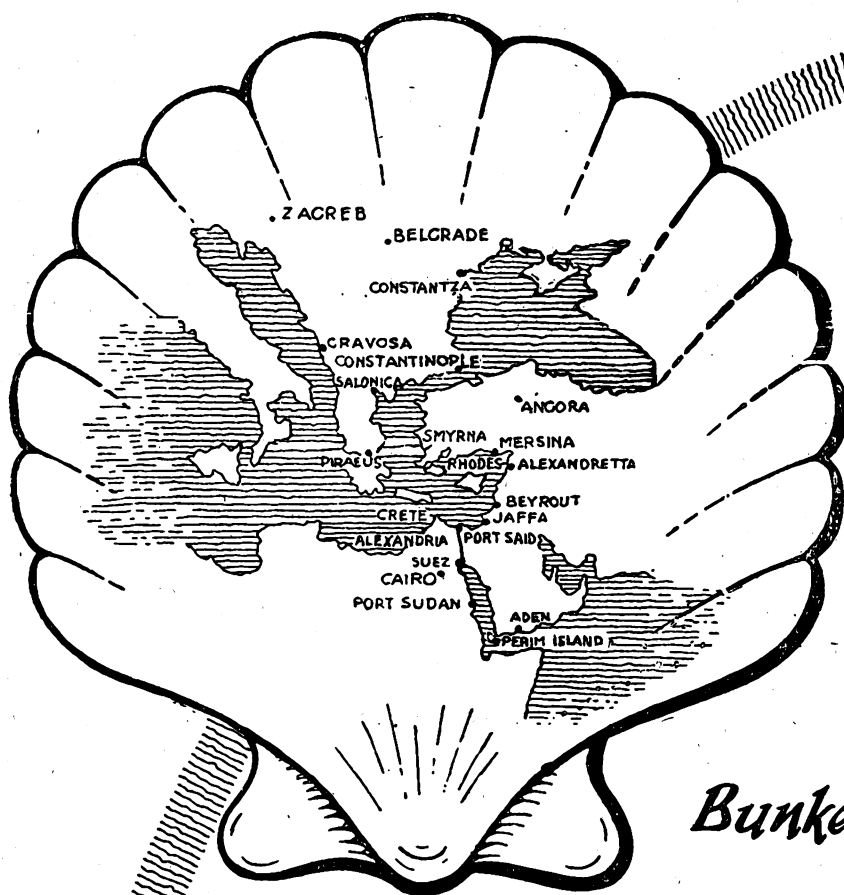
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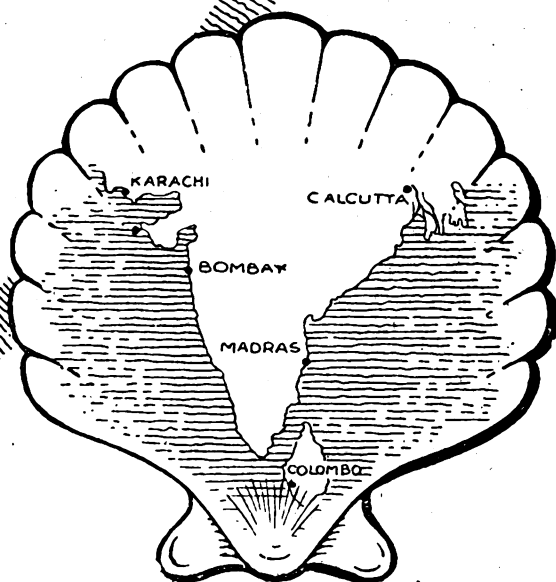
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SHELL



PERSONAL AND GENERAL

TO-DAY

August 9, 1928 (New Style).

July 28, 1928 (Old Style).

Saphar 21, 1347 A.H., of the Muslim Calendar.

Ab 23, 5689, of the Jewish Calendar.

The Maharaja of Kapurthala left London on August 1.

Sir John Cadman left London on August 5 for Paris, for a few days' stay.

Sir Seymour King is cruising in his yacht, Heartsease, and will be away for some weeks.

The Maharajadhiraja Bahadur of Burdwan left London last week to stay at Runnymede House, Old Windsor.

Viscount and Viscountess Allenby left 24, Wetherby Gardens at the end of last week to spend a few days at Amesbury, Wiltshire.

Lord and Lady Sinha left London on August 2 for Villars, Switzerland. Lord Sinha expects to be back at Queen Anne's Mansions by September 15.

Lord Lloyd, High Commissioner for Egypt, arrived in England on August 6. Crossing overland from Marseilles to Boulogne, he travelled to London via the Boulogne-Folkestone route.

On August 1, at St. Giles Church, Camberwell, London, the Rev. Angus Campbell MacInnes, M.A., elder son of the Right Rev. R. MacInnes, D.D., Anglican Bishop in Jerusalem, was married to Miss Florence Isabella Joy Masterman, M.B., B.S., London, fourth daughter of Dr. E. W. G. Masterman, Medical Superintendent of St. Giles Hospital and Hon. Secretary of the Palestine Exploration Fund. The officiating clergy were the Right 'Rev. Bishop MacInnes, D.D., father of the bridegroom, and the Right Rev. the Bishop of Plymouth, D.D., uncle of the bride. The church—the largest in South London—was crowded, and a large number of the nurses of St. Giles Hospital in uniform, filled the choir stalls and led the singing. Professor R. A. S. Macalister acted as organist. After the wedding there was a reception at St. Giles Hospital, attended by about two hundred guests, among whom were many Palestine friends.

The bride is a great-granddaughter of the late Bishop Gobart, the second Anglican Bishop in Jerusalem and the granddaughter of the Rev. John Zeller, who worked for the C.M.S. in Palestine all his active life.

The Rev. and Mrs. Campbell MacInnes will be going to Palestine in connexion with the C.M.S. in the early autumn.

THE VISIT OF TAYMOOR TASH.

Taymoor Tash and Mme. Taymoor Tash were guests of the Persian Minister at luncheon on July 30 at the Legation. Other guests present to meet him included Lord Greenway, Sir Samuel Hoare, Sir Robert and the Hon. Lady Clive, Sir Denison and Lady Ross, Sir John and Lady Cadman, Colonel H. E. Medlicott, Mr. J. B. Monck, Mr. and Mrs. Fairly, Mirza Eissa Khan Fayz, M. and Mme. Nabavi, M. and Mme. Ardeshir, M. H. K. Godse, and M. Nubar Gulbenkian.

The Persian Minister of the Court left London for Paris on August 1. Sir Robert Clive, British Minister to Teheran, and Mr. J. B. Monck, representing Sir Austen Chamberlain saw his Highness off at the station. The Persian Minister, and Mirza Mohammed Khan Nabavi, Mirza Ahmed Ardeshir, Mirza Eissa Khan, Sir Robert Clive (British Minister at Teheran), Sir John Cadman and members of the Anglo-Persian Oil Company were also present at Victoria.

Accompanied by her daughter Princess Ileana, Queen Marie of Roumania arrived at Bled (Slovenia) to stay with her son-in-law and daughter, the King and Queen of Yugoslavia.

Nazim Hikmet Bey, the Turkish Communist who was condemned *in absentia* to 15 years' imprisonment in 1924 by the Tribunal of Independence for Communist propaganda, was recently arrested at Khopa, just inside the Turkish frontier, near Batum.

At Jerusalem, on August 1, Chief Rabbi Kuk laid the corner-stone of the new buildings of the Israel Girl Orphans' Home in the Montefiore quarter, which will accommodate 500 persons. The buildings will cost £100,000 to erect. The expense is being defrayed from American donations.

Field-Marshal Lord Plumer left Palestine by special train for Egypt en route for England on relinquishing the High Commissioner-ship. Pending the arrival of Sir John Chancellor, the duties of High Commissioner are being discharged by the Chief Secretary, Mr. H. C. Luke.

As the result of an accident near Aden to a Fairey 3 F machine of No. 8 Bombing Squadron, Aden, on July 31 248,736 Sergeant Cecil Norman Morris, the pilot of the aircraft, was killed, and the passenger, 3,906,145 Lance-Corporal (Acting Sergeant) Gwilym Williams, 2nd South Wales Borderers, was slightly injured.

It is stated from Bucharest that on August 1 the Roumanian *Official Gazette* published a decree granting one month's leave to M. Titulesco, the Foreign Minister, as from July 31. M. Argetoianu, is acting as Minister of Foreign Affairs. M. Titulesco has tendered his resignation, and will take over the Roumanian Legation in London on the expiry of his leave.

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THE WEEK AT HOME

London, Tuesday Morning.

Parliament.

The Parliamentary session ended last week as all such sessions should end—with a little excitement, a little uncertainty, and a little good humour. The excitement was caused by the charges of corruption which a Labour Member brought in connexion with the cable and wireless merger, charges into which the social historian of the future may inquire with considerable curiosity. The uncertainty was caused by the amount of Protection which the Conservative Party is prepared as a whole to support. And the good humour arose out of the Prime Minister's very shrewd explanation of the recent manifestation of differences within the Conservative Party on the subject of Safeguarding. In the end he safely gathered under his fatherly wing all the chuckling brood.

It is never easy to estimate the progress of one particular Party during one particular session; it is much easier to note the personal popularity of individual members. On the Tory side, I should say that Mr. Baldwin and Mr. Churchill have enhanced their general reputations in the country—people are getting a little tired of the ubiquitous and loquacious "Jix"; on the Liberal side, Mr. Hopkin Morris seems to be destined for fame; and on the Labour side the order of precedence remains much the same.

In any case, no one is going to worry much about politics during the next few weeks, during which alone we are, according to Rousseau, really free men.

Conservative Unity.

Yet although the official explanation of the differences within the Conservative Party was good enough for end-of-the-session purposes, it is quite obvious that the Conservatives are aware of the alarm that has been caused in the country by the additional talk of Protection. You may amuse a House of Parliamentarians with airy descriptions of the "many-sidedness of truth," but if the country at large gets the idea that Protection is really a possibility, it may unfortunately deprive you of the chance of making such an explanation a second time.

And so the Prime Minister has published a letter, written to his Chief Whip, in which he definitely reiterates his pledge not to introduce Protection, and not to impose any taxes on food. Quite naturally and justifiably great play is made in this letter of the de-rating proposals of the

Government—proposals which may be applied to any productive industry in this country.

This compromise, to all but the rabid Free Traders and the ardent Protectionists, should be eminently satisfactory, with the result that our Socialist Government will not be the next one, after all, but probably the one after that.

The Archbishop of York.

I have spoken of the increase of the Prime Minister's popularity for his work in the House, but it is due also, I think, to the generosity which he has displayed extra-murally. The appointment of the Socialist Dr. Temple, to the see of York, appears to have caused some surprise, but it is quite in keeping with the Prime Minister's outlook on life—and on the things that are bigger than life.

This appointment, like the choice of Liberals to be Chairmen of Royal Commissions, has fluttered the doves of the Die-hards, who firmly believe that while a Conservative Premier holds office, the places of distinction should be filled by Conservatives. The fact that Mr. Baldwin holds other views will undoubtedly stand him in good stead when the testing time of his popularity comes.

Mathematical Cricket.

The introduction of mathematics into the Game of Cricket, in the form of reckoning the points for the County Championship, has, as is well known and widely deplored, meant also the introduction of several non-sporting features. But the defects of the system have rarely been so clearly shown as they were last week, when, in a match between Leicestershire Second Eleven and Staffordshire, runs had to be given away by Leicestershire in order to make Staffordshire win on the first innings and so weaken their position in the table of the Championship!

Leicestershire had made 124 in their first innings, but, since there was no chance of finishing the match, Staffordshire deliberately set out not to win, but to leave their innings unfinished. They contrived to score 75 in two and a quarter hours. Thereupon the Leicestershire skipper bowled wides, together with other extras, so that the 124 mark was passed.

This, of course, is farcical. There have, as every cricketer knows, been examples of the deliberate giving away of extras, just as there have been examples of the deliberate sacrifice of wickets. In the University match of 1893, for instance, Oxford wanted to follow on in order to get an unworn pitch for their second innings, and the last two batsmen had just made up their minds to ensure this when a wide and no balls, each of which went to the boundary, were bowled by the frustrating Cambridge people. A similar thing happened in the same match three years later. But in these instances it was a win, not a draw, that the "offenders" were after. And that makes all the difference between a game and the mouldiest (to use the fashionable word among politicians) of sciences.

England's Dream.

The countryside is now a sight for eyes too long used to the pavement of towns and the scurry and worry of men. It seems to be a good corn year; certainly the fields which I have seen are fruitful. In many places the oats have already been cut, and the barley also will soon be falling before the patient harvester.

Fields which have been mown for hay are now green once more, for the rains of last week, together with the bountiful sunshine, have freshened the meadows. To see them, with the gold and russet of other fields, is to become very content with this "fair England in her pastoral dream." At other times than the harvest, England has other lovelinesses, but there is about this ripening an unalloyedly satisfying quality. Perhaps it is the clarity, the cleanness of the atmosphere. "As the clear light is upon the holy candlestick, so is the beauty of the face of ripe age."

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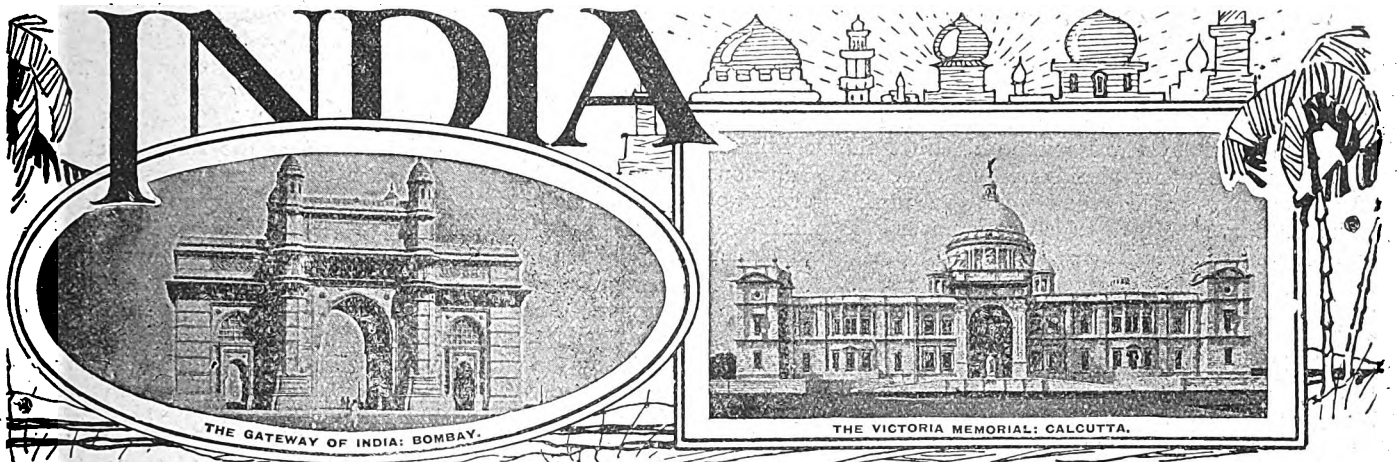
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THE WORKING OF THE REFORMED COUNCILS.

One of the greatest advantages of the periodical reports by the Provincial Governments on the working of the reformed Constitution, the third volume of which has just reached this country, is the opportunity they afford of viewing the march of events in India in true perspective and of discovering their general tendencies in a way which is often impossible in the midst of day by day controversies. We make no apology, therefore, for reverting to documents which were released for publication in that country more than a month ago, and accordingly have already formed the subject of considerable comment in the Indian Press. In a covering communiqué, the Government of India indicates that the reports cover the triennial period from the beginning of 1925 to the end of the lifetime of the second Councils under the existing régime. They are, of course, in continuation of those submitted in 1923 and 1924, which were embodied in the report of the Muddiman Committee, and emphasis is laid upon the fact that they were prepared in the course of official correspondence prior to the appointment of the Statutory Commission and do not necessarily form the basis of the memoranda submitted by the various provincial administrations to that body. At the same time, we dissent entirely from the view of our Allahabad contemporary that it was either bad tactics or deliberate contempt of court—we confess our inability to make out the precise charge formulated against the Government of India in that connexion—to publish the volume at the present juncture. nor can we admit that the importance of the reports as evidence before the present inquiry is in any way diminished by the fact that they were not specifically prepared for submission to Sir John Simon and his colleagues. On the contrary, the very fact that their contents were prepared in the ordinary course of administration, and not with some special object in view, renders them the more valuable as a reflexion of actual conditions than they otherwise might have been.

The first point which we think will strike the ordinary individual in this country whose knowledge of the problems presented is derived entirely from intelligent reading of newspaper reports is the surprisingly favourable view taken on the whole of the working of the new Councils and the progress recorded in that respect since the earlier statements. With the possible exceptions of Bengal, Bihar and Orissa and the Punjab the verdict of the provinces is by no means unfavourable. The Assam Government, for example, reports that though the majority of the elected members of the Legislative Council consider the criticism of the executive their most important function, there has been no tendency to obstruct. On the other hand, members of all parties, including the Swarajists, have been willing to offer their services and advice on important questions of policy, and the Council has, on the whole, maintained a high standard of dignity and procedure. Next to the Assam Government the Burma Government is most appreciative in its estimate of the

working of the reformed Constitution of which, of course, it has not had the same length of experience as the Indian provinces. It notes in particular the great improvement in the attitude of the opposition towards measures dealing with law and order, which was at first one of bitter hostility and unreasoning prejudice. Uneasiness in the public services, probably on that account, has sensibly diminished and there has been no lack of co-operation between the members, Ministers and heads of departments. The Bihar Government, on the other hand, while reporting that "the pessimistic outlook of the public services has been considerably removed," is itself obviously uneasy. The Ministers, it says, claim a considerable advance as the result of the Reforms, but the heads of the Transferred Departments take a somewhat different view. "The ingrained determination of the Council, not merely to control the policy but to meddle in the details of the executive administration, is directly responsible for the feeling that 'governing officers' are now required to serve two masters. The position of the district officers has definitely changed for the worst."

The Bengal Government is not unnaturally also inclined to be severely critical of the Council, but echoes the opinion of the Bombay administrations that by far the greatest hindrance to the success, or at least a fair trial, of the Reforms was the financial situation. The outstanding feature of the report is the frank acknowledgement of the fact that in spite of everything the relations in the Council between Indians and Europeans were cordial. "Non-official Europeans were respected and, whatever be said in the Council in debates, the members outside treated each other with unvarying courtesy." This may be said of other Provincial Legislatures as well as of the Central Legislature, and is a gratifying testimony to the absence of racial ill-feeling among those who are elected to those bodies. The Government of the United Provinces, though disposed to be critical, is also appreciative of the solid benefits which have accrued from the reforms. "Ministers have acquired an insight into public problems, and obtained experience of the difficulties of administration, and both in the Legislature and to some extent outside it, there has been a general quickening of interest in all public matters. It is probably true to say that, on the part of officials and non-officials alike, there is a more general acceptance of dyarchy as a form of Government than there was when its illogicalities and cumbersomeness were more irksome by reason of their strangeness." In what is unquestionably the most carefully reasoned of all the reports attention is called to three main elements of weakness in the relations between Government and the Legislature. The first is the bitterness of communal feelings "which may kill political development by forcing the Muslim minority into an important alliance with the official element." The second is the lack of foresight and cohesion on the part of the landlord party in the Legislature, a defect which those responsible for the formation of the new Country League have already gone some way to remove. The third is the apparent lack of good will on

the part of the Nationalists towards the British element in the administration. The Punjab Government emphasises the increasing difficulty of maintaining the efficiency of the administration on account of the number of resignations from the Indian Civil and Indian Police Services. Incidentally, it lays stress upon the fact that continued communal tension is also bound to have some injurious effect on the services undergoing a rapid process of Indianisation. "Force of circumstances" it points out with commendable frankness, "has in some cases tended to compel Ministers to safeguard the claims of their community or party in respect of recruitment to the services, and communal considerations have occasionally impeded the choice of the most suitable men. Occasionally the heads of departments resented this, but on the whole there has been a general recognition that Ministers must to some extent use patronage to consolidate their position in their parties." The Punjab Government is, nevertheless, of opinion that the area of political consciousness is rapidly growing, and the access of fresh elements largely representing classes with a considerable stake in agriculture and commerce must tend to have a healthy and steady influence on politics. The Madras Government, on the other hand, considers that the main change to be observed in the efficiency of the administration as a result of the introduction of the reforms is from rigid adherence to a fixed policy to constant formulation of new and progressive policies. The change is inevitable when power is being shifted, however slowly, from a bureaucracy whose one supreme ideal has been efficiency of administration to a popular electorate, with however limited a franchise. In the absence of the testimony of the elected non-official members, which the organisers of the boycott have caused temporarily to be withheld, the Commission must naturally devote proportionately greater attention to the evidence of the Central and provincial administrations on the working of the legislative machinery in their respective domains.

CURRENT TOPICS.

The New Governors.

Speculation has been rife for many weeks past as to the probable successor of the late Sir Alexander Muddiman in the difficult post of Governor of the United Provinces. As not infrequently happens on such occasions the majority of prophecies, although stated at the time to be on good authority, have proved singularly wide of the mark. The distinction has fallen not to Sir Montagu Butler, the present Governor of the Central Provinces, nor to Sir Atul Chatterjee, the able and popular High Commissioner in London—to cite only two of the several names freely mentioned in connexion with the vacancy—but to Sir Malcolm Hailey, whose term of office as Governor of the Punjab expires in May next. It is announced at the same time that Sir Geoffrey de Montmorency is to receive the unusual honour of promotion to the head of the administration of his own Province. This shuffling of gubernatorial appointments at such a time, in view of the old adage about changing horses in the middle of the stream, has not unnaturally given rise to some criticism on the part of those unacquainted with the opportunities provided by the Government of India Act for the translation of civilian Governors from lesser to, in point of pay, more important posts, according to the exigencies of the political situation. It is not generally realised, for example, that provincial governorships in India are now more or less a series of graded appointments, in the matter both of salary and status. The three Presidencies of Bengal, Bombay and Madras are placed on a par, and their respective Governors are appointed direct by the Home Government without reference to the Viceroy. The almost invariable practice of recent years has been to select men prominent in British public life, who have had some parliamentary experience. In the case of the other "Governor Provinces" the appointments are made on the recommendation of the Viceroy and in practice usually reserved for

civilians of outstanding ability and long and distinguished service to whom otherwise membership of the Governor-General's Executive Council would represent the limit of their attainments.

On the other hand, in point both of area and population, the United Provinces are on the same level as the three Presidencies, although the latter are assumed to be educationally and politically more advanced, and alone of the new "Governor Provinces" the head of the U.P. administration draws the same salary as that attaching to the Presidential appointments, namely, Rs.1,28,000 per annum. Recognition of this fact, together with the somewhat delicate political situation in the Provinces, no doubt underlay the widely expressed belief that the delay in making the present appointment was due to a suggestion by the Secretary of State that the new incumbent should also be chosen from public life at home instead of from the Indian Civil Service. It will be recalled that such an enlargement of the field of selection was strongly advocated by Indian political leaders and is sanctioned by the Government of India Act. Although the arguments in favour of the new departure were strong, there can be little doubt that, in all the circumstances of the case, the decision to adhere to the old tradition in the present instance was a wise one. Except for his tenure of office as Finance Member, in which he was obviously a "misfit," Sir Malcolm Hailey's career has been one of remarkable administrative achievement, and the value of his work in the Punjab has been warmly acknowledged, by even the most inveterate critics of the British administration. The appointment of Sir Geoffrey de Montmorency as his successor will occasion also general satisfaction, and provide the best possible assurance that the Punjab will not suffer unduly by Sir Malcolm's departure. In other words, if only Sir Malcolm Hailey's health will stand the ordeal of another five years, which may well prove to be the most exacting of all his service, the appointments are unexceptionable.

Bombay Follows Suit.

After a debate extending over two days, the Bombay Legislative Council last week adopted, by the large majority of sixty-four votes to forty, the requisite resolution for the appointment of a Committee to co-operate with the Statutory Commission. This latest demonstration of confidence in Sir John Simon and his colleagues confirms the belief to which we have testified more than once in these columns, that the political situation in India to-day is distinctly more favourable to the Commission than it was a few months ago. Last year the non-cooperators loudly proclaimed, for an altogether inadequate reason, a complete boycott of the Commission; and they succeeded in persuading the Legislative Assembly to endorse this foolish policy. Three of the provincial legislatures, namely, the United Provinces, the Central Provinces and Madras, took, it will be recalled, the same line, although, as regards Madras, it must be remembered that Sir John Simon and his colleagues were warmly welcomed when, at a later date, they visited the presidency. Of the six other provinces three—Assam, Burma, and the Punjab—decided to co-operate with the Commission, while the remaining three—Bengal, Bombay, and Bihar and Orissa—kept the decision pending. Last month the Bengal Legislative Council, by a majority which came as a surprise to both parties, resolved to follow the wiser course and the position of the Swaraj Party in the Eastern presidency is now distinctly precarious. It only remains for Bihar and Orissa to come to a decision on the question of appointing a Committee; and there is little doubt that it will follow Bengal and Bombay's wise lead. Should it do so, then it will not be easy for Madras, the Central Provinces and the United Provinces to refuse to reconsider their previous adverse votes. And anything approaching to unanimity in the Provinces ought to lead the Assembly to rescind its own resolution—which was carried only by a small majority—and to co-operate with the Commission. There is no doubt that the concession which was wisely made by Sir John Simon the other day,

at the instance of the Punjab Committee, has influenced moderate opinion in both Bengal and Bombay; and, if so, then it may be expected to yield similarly fruitful results in the other provinces mentioned.

CALCUTTA LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Calcutta, July 19.

Belur Railway Disaster.

On Sunday, July 8, shortly before midnight the Howrah-Burdwan express crashed into a culvert between Belur and Dankuni; twenty or more people were killed, and upwards of thirty injured. The disaster has led to matters that, being now *sub judice*, cannot be discussed, but only reported. "An application," so the *Statesman* reported yesterday, "was submitted on Tuesday before the Chief Presidency Magistrate by Mr. E. A. Hartley, Assistant Commissioner of the Detective Department, against Satya Ranjan Bakshi, editor of the newspaper *Forward* (Calcutta), and Pulin Behary Dhar, the printer of the paper. They were charged under section 153 I.P.C. (promoting class hatred) in connection with an article entitled 'Railway Smash at Belur,' which appeared on July 13." And yesterday two separate libel suits, for damages of Rs. 5,00,000 each, were filed before the Master of the Calcutta High Court on behalf of the Secretary of State for India in Council, Mr. G. L. Colvin, Agent, East India Railway, and others, against *Forward* Publishing, Ltd., Mr. Satya Ranjan Bakshi, editor, and Pulin Behary Dhar, printer, of the newspaper *Forward*, in connection with publications relating to the Belur train smash. The legal proceedings will be followed with great interest.

Distress in Bengal.

Distress, if not famine, prevails in districts of the Burdwan, Presidency, and Rajshahi Divisions, and the Government is persistently declared to have failed to deal adequately with it. The debate on the subject in the Bengal Legislative Council was cut short by a Swarajist's moving the closure in the middle of the explanation of the Member in Charge. While the heaviest speeches against the Government were those made by Swarajists, speakers from other parts of the House were not less insistent that Government had not done all that might have been done, while some regular supporters of the Government abstained from voting in the division. The voting was heavily against the Government.

It is difficult to get at the facts. The Governor came down from Darjeeling in May to see conditions for himself, and an official *communiqué*, summarising what had been done, was published about that time. Up to July 4 about Rs. 14½ lakhs had been allotted by Government for land improvement and agricultural loans, relief works and gratuitous relief, and officers had been relieved of ordinary duties that they might devote themselves to relief work. But it would be well if the public was given more information. The cause of the distress or famine, whichever it is, was the failure of the winter crops after last year's weak monsoon. It would probably have been better for the people, had the failure been on a somewhat greater scale. Then famine would have been declared, and Clive Street would have heard of it at once. The relief fund would then have been placed in more influential hands.

Bauria Riot.

Bauria Jute Mills were the scene on Monday of a riot in which some forty-six persons, including thirteen constables, received buckshot wounds or other injuries. It is reported that, incensed by the dismissal of half a dozen coolie leaders, an angry mob of 4,000 workers marched to

the mill office, and demanded the surrender of the head clerk, the man responsible, they alleged, for the dismissals. The mill authorities, of course, refused, whereupon the mob attempted to rush the doors under cover of a fusillade of stones and heavy pieces of metal. The police opened fire thereupon to disperse the mob, thirteen rounds of buckshot being fired. The next day it was reported that, following Monday's outbreak, the Fort Gloster Jute Mills and the Bowreah Cotton Mill had been closed, bringing the total of idle millhands to twenty thousand. So we have now another heavy labour trouble on our hands.

BOMBAY LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Bombay, July 21.

The Surat Conference.

As stated in my last week's letter, Sir Leslie Wilson left for Simla on the 13th instant to have a personal interview with the Viceroy. He was accompanied by the Finance Member of the Bombay Government, the Hon. Mr. J. L. Rieu. He halted on his return journey at Surat and met a deputation headed by Mr. Vallabhbhai Patel. The conference, however, was a failure, and an official statement issued this week states that the Governor intends to make an announcement at the opening of the Council session at Poona on Monday the 23rd. The position is that, whilst the Government are prepared to have a fresh inquiry, they insist on the difference between the old and the new settlement being deposited with them as a preliminary condition. The Bardoli leaders maintain that, as the new inquiry means that the previous one was not satisfactory, it is not fair of the Government to reassess on the basis of the latter. The *Times of India* suggests that some philanthropic person should deposit the amount, which after all is only Rs. 25,000, as under the Igatpuri rules the full increase is not taken at once, but is gradually worked up to in the course of a few years after the new settlement. Government could easily afford to wait till after the new inquiry to collect the difference, and it need not look to any philanthropic person to step into the breach.

Indian High Courts Bill.

A public meeting convened by the Sheriff of Bombay was held on Monday evening at the Cowasji Jehangir Hall to protest against the provision in the Bill now before Parliament making civilian judges eligible for the office of Chief Justice of the High Courts. Sir Joseph Kay took the chair. In his opening speech the Chairman recalled that when the High Court was constituted in 1861, the Letters Patent provided for the appointment of a Chief Justice and not more than fifteen Judges. Barristers, Civil Servants and certain Judicial Officers were eligible for office of a judge of those Courts, and the following proviso applied: "Provided that not less than one-third of the Judges of such Courts, including the Chief Justice, shall be barristers and not less than one-third shall be members of the Covenanted Service." This has led to the office of the Chief Justice being reserved for a barrister, and recently much pressure was put on Government to amend this section so that pleaders also should be eligible for the post. But it came as a surprise to everyone when the Bill contained a proviso extending this privilege to the Civil Servants. "Let me say quite clearly that this is not a racial question," continued Sir Joseph. "What is involved is the principle of keeping quite separate and apart the Executive and the Judiciary, and it is submitted that the Judiciary should be perfectly independent of the Government, whereas this might not be so, if Civil Judges became Chief Justices, because the Chief Justice represents the High Court in its relations with Government, and it may be difficult at times for him to take that independent attitude which is so essential."

STANDARDISATION OF WAGES IN THE BOMBAY MILL INDUSTRY.

[Additional interest is lent to the following statement by the Bombay Millowners' Association on the question of standardisation of wages by the Association's attempt to re-open the mills this week. The operatives' acceptance of the scheme outlined below, it will be noted, is one of the main conditions on which work will be resumed.]

The Committee of the Millowners' Association have for a long time past been engaged in giving effect to the various suggestions made by the Tariff Board for the improvement of the Mill Industry in Bombay. These attempts have already resulted in some saving in cost and minor improvements in other directions. But the most important suggestion, in the opinion of the Committee, and on which the members of the Tariff Board themselves laid great stress, viz., standardisation of wages, could not be effected earlier owing to the laborious and intricate nature of the work. The Tariff Board stated:—

"We realise that adoption of such a system (of standardised wages) presents very great difficulties in Indian conditions owing to the illiteracy and imperfect organisation of labour and that its introduction might probably cause discontent among those operatives whose wages might be prejudicially affected."

Although the present strike situation added considerably to these difficulties, the Committee of the Association are now able to announce that the scheme as finally prepared by their Sub-Committee, assisted by technical experts, has met with the unanimous approval of the members of the Association. The Committee, in view of the present strike situation, believe it necessary to give a general outline of the scheme. The main object of the scheme is to do away with the present system under which the wages in the Bombay Mill Industry vary from mill to mill and to pay to labour standardised wages for the same class of work as between mill and mill. Turning again to the report of the Tariff Board, the following remarks will be found on pages 136-137:—

"A noteworthy feature of the Indian Cotton Mill Industry, which is of great importance in this connection, is the disparity between the wages of spinners and weavers. In the inquiry conducted by the Labour Office in 1923, the average daily wages in the Ring Spinning department in Bombay were returned at R. 1-0-4ps. whereas those of the weaver in charge of two looms, i.e., of the great majority of the weavers, were returned at 1-11-3. This is entirely contrary to the practice in other countries where the wages of spinners and weavers are practically the same."

The scheme therefore had to be so devised as to remove as far as practicable the anomaly pointed out by the Tariff Board. The rates of wages therefore in the spinning have been increased directly in some cases and other efficiency measures have also been recommended whereby operatives in this department can earn still more if so inclined. On the other hand in the weaving section, wages have been reduced where they were too high compared to the work to be done, but so that even with this reduction an ordinarily efficient weaver working plain grey sort on two looms 40 inches wide can easily earn Rs. 42 per month. Those working on better or finer sorts or on wider looms will, of course, earn proportionately more. Working out the standardised rates on the different kinds of cloth, it is found that a weaver working on two looms will be able to earn from Rs. 38 to Rs. 65, and in exceptional cases even more.

The entire scheme has been devised on the principle of "a fair day's wage for a fair day's work." The wages have now been fixed as far as possible in relation to the actual work to be done and the scheme as published gives not only the rates of wages, but also the duties which the operatives are expected to perform in return for such wages. In cases where wages were obviously high in relation to the work done, these have had to be adjusted. It will also be clear that in such a comprehensive scheme

intended to raise where necessary the efficiency of the workers, there can be no room for the employment of superfluous or supernumerary men who may have been employed in the past on payment of lower wages. As the Tariff Board have pointed out in emphatic language, the only alternative to a direct cut in wages—the present wages in Bombay being deemed high—is the method of increased efficiency.

In all such cases, however, no standard has been fixed which has not actually been put into practice in some mills and found to be working satisfactorily to the mutual advantage of the workers and the employers. In short, the scheme has been prepared after the closest investigations and in a spirit of absolute fairness to the workers. Any scheme of standardisation must necessarily mean adjustments of the prevailing rates, and consequently a reduction in certain cases is bound to occur. On the other hand, some mills in particular instances will have to pay higher rates than at present. The scheme has therefore got to be considered in its entirety, and the Committee of the Millowners' Association have every confidence that when it is studied and understood, it will gain the approval of the public, as it has of the members of the Association.

It might also be mentioned here that a Sub-Committee of the Association is at present engaged in discussing the standardisation of wages scheme with the representatives of labour organisations, and although at the beginning they have shown opposition to the very principles underlying the scheme, the Committee hope that they will appreciate the scheme when it is better understood. The Committee appreciate the difficulties in obtaining a thorough grasp of the various details on the part of those who are not engaged in the industry at all and who have not a clear perception of the nature of the work in different departments of a mill. A sub-committee is making final efforts to explain the entire scheme with a view to seek their co-operation. Whatever be the result of these negotiations, the Committee are in entire agreement with the suggestions made by the Tariff Board and are so convinced of the utility and urgent need of enforcing such a scheme at an early date that they have decided to broadcast the scheme amongst themselves, giving them every facility to understand the details and making the acceptance of the scheme one of the main conditions on which the strikers will be allowed to resume work.

OBITUARY.

MR. AMEER ALI.

An outstanding figure of his time is removed by the death, which took place on August 3, of the Right Hon. Syed Ameer Ali, the great Muslim leader and writer, who afterwards became the first Indian member of the Privy Council and of its Judicial Committee. In addition to occupying perhaps the foremost place in the ranks of expositors of Muhammadan thought, custom and history, Mr. Ameer Ali, who was the first member of his community to be appointed a judge of the Indian High Court, was also the author of several books on jurisprudence which have long been recognised as standard works. But it was probably as an Islamic leader, and particularly as the leading spirit in the formation of the All-India Muslim League, and other movements designed to promote the material and moral advancement of the Muhammadan community in India along practical and constitutional lines, that the Syed was best known to a wide circle of friends and acquaintances, to whom the loss of his guidance and influence will be irreparable.

Lord Irwin, the Viceroy, on July 30, received in Indore formal visits from the Princes and Chiefs of Central India. On the following day he visited the Daly College, which was founded in 1876 for the education of the sons of Chiefs and Sardars of Central India. Later he left for Mhow, where he took luncheon with the officers of the 2nd Battalion, the West Yorkshire Regiment, and then went to Dhar, where her Highness the Maharani entertained the Viceregal party at tea.

Commercial and Financial Section.

NOTES AND NEWS

170, Strand, London, W.C.2,
Tuesday Morning.

British Coal and the Near East.

It will be recalled that Turkey was successful in obtaining the recent contract for the supply of coal to the Athens Gas Company. This company is again on the market for coal, the amount required being 10,000 tons as before. It may be assumed that Turkey will be a competitor again, and it remains to be seen whether the price and quality of British coal will be sufficiently important factors to bring the contract to this country. The figures for Greek imports of coal for the first four months of this year are flattering to the United Kingdom. Of the total imports of 174,050 tons the United Kingdom supplied 141,822, while of the balance 18,499 tons came from Germany, 9,078 from Russia, 1,654 from Turkey, and 1,167 from Bulgaria. Since that period, however, Turkey has become a serious competitor in the Near East markets.

Turkey's Slow Progress.

It cannot be said that the report of Colonel Woods on conditions in Turkey in 1927-28 (extensive extracts from which will be found elsewhere in these columns) makes encouraging reading. Unfortunately the story to be told of Turkey in that period is the same as can be recorded of other regions in the Near East, a tale of prospects of progress which have not fructified. In the case of Turkey the causes which have operated to prevent economic developments are peculiar to that country and cannot be attributed to the existing world commercial conditions. The nationalistic tendency which has coloured developments in Turkey in the past few years, and the effect of which, as Colonel Woods points out, is to discourage foreign enterprise in that country, showed itself in the period covered by the report in Turkish commercial and economic legislation. The chief difficulty with which Turkey is confronted is the lack of commercial experience on the part of that section of the population which would naturally take the lead in industrial developments. The policy of Turkey to do without foreign assistance in the economic progress of the country has entailed as a natural corollary the necessity to absorb the requisite business knowledge at express speed, but business experience of a quality adequate for the successful running of large enterprises is not a natural gift but comes of long training, and the Turks are slowly finding out that it is one thing to change the established order of things and quite another "to remould it nearer to the heart's desire." Progress is being made by Turkey, but in the circumstances the economic advance is bound to be very much slower than it would have been if Angora had welcomed foreign assistance instead of impeding it, admittedly sometimes unintentionally, at every turn. Immediate developments will not be made easier by the effects of the drought in Anatolia to which I have referred in these columns, though the result of that disaster will doubtless be to bring home forcibly to Turkey the fact that foreign enterprise and foreign capital are essential to carry out those works without which the utilisation of the country's economic resources cannot be achieved.

Harvest Prospects in the Near East.

Last year the harvests in the Balkans were, generally speaking, poor, and this had naturally a retarding effect

on progress in that region, and its consequence has been felt to the present time in the reduced purchasing power and the consequent decreased demand for imports. The fine weather which Great Britain has enjoyed this year has fortunately been more or less general throughout the world, and this time it is anticipated that in the greater part of the Balkans the harvests will show a very marked improvement on those of 1927. The Yugoslav harvest is reported to be particularly good. The yield is expected to be better than that of any year since the War, and the amount of wheat available for export is put at 400,000 tons. As regards Roumania the outlook is also good except for the maize crop, which it is feared will be a failure for the second year in succession. The position with regard to Greece is also promising, and while harvest prospects in Bulgaria are not satisfactory at present owing to drought it looks as if 1928 will mark a very definite improvement in the economic situation in the Balkans. It has to be borne in mind, however, that the record crops in the Near East will not be quite the economic asset they would normally be owing to the record harvests in other countries. Still, they will go far to replenish the purchasing powers of the region and thus give a much needed impetus to the recovery of trade.

Bulgaria's Mineral Springs.

As is well known, Bulgaria is richly endowed with mineral springs, there being no less than 135 in the country, according to a recent estimate, the greater part of them being in the south. It is not surprising to learn that the late earthquakes have had a considerable effect on these springs. One well-known one, that of Méritchkléry, the waters of which were said to be similar to those of Karlsbad, is reported to have disappeared altogether, but on the other hand a number of new springs have appeared. A commission has now been appointed to examine and analyse all occurrences of mineral springs in the country, and also to investigate the reasons for the disappearance of the above-mentioned spring. The curative properties of the mineral springs in Bulgaria were known to the Romans, but up to the present it cannot be said that the country has exploited them to adequate advantage. While there are a number of watering places the facilities for visitors are far below those of the average Continental spa. It may be assumed that the present investigation of these springs foreshadows an attempt to make them a greater economic asset to the country.

COMMENTATOR.

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British Consular Reports

III.—TURKEY.

The following extracts are taken from the Report on Economic Conditions in Turkey, for the year 1927-28, of Colonel H. Woods, O.B.E., Commercial Secretary, H.M. Embassy, Constantinople:—

The promise of progress in administration, commerce and agriculture, to which reference was made in the report dated May, 1927, on economic and commercial conditions in Turkey has not, unfortunately, been altogether fulfilled. The tendency to nationalisation, the general effect of which is to discourage foreign enterprise, has again been apparent in Turkish commercial and economic legislation. The replacement of the old-established trading element by a body of Turkish traders which has not yet gained experience is a process which needs time to ensure successful fulfilment.

Finance.

Some attempt has been made by the Government of recent years to establish more precise budgets and to reduce expenditure by the exercise of a stricter economy.

As finally approved, the revenue side of the 1927-28 budget attained £T194,580,554, as against £T190,158,864 approved estimates for the financial year 1926-27. Expenditure was estimated at £T194,454,619, as against £T190,105,544 for the preceding year.

Estimates of revenue and expenditure for the 1928-29 budget have already been submitted to the Parliamentary Commission, but these estimates are liable to modification. Revenues as estimated by the Minister of Finance amount to £T206,298,045, which, compared to the approved estimates of £T194,580,554 for the preceding year, shows an increase of £T11,717,491, or an increase of 6.02 per cent., to be obtained from the following sources of State revenues:—The profits, cattle and transaction taxes, State monopolies such as tobacco, tumbeki, cigarettes, salt, petroleum, and sugar, and from a re-adaptation of the stamp duties, but considerable doubt exists as to whether the surplus revenue as specified above will, in reality, be forthcoming.

Expenditure, as submitted to the Parliamentary Budget Commission, amounts to £T206,291,668, which, compared to the approved expenditure for the current year, amounting to £T195,954,619, shows an increase of £T10,337,049. This extra charge on the Government is equivalent to the estimated surplus revenue.

The vote of the Ministry of National Defence represents 33.75 per cent. of the total budget, which, compared to the credits allocated under the same heading in the budgets of 1926-27 and 1927-28, representing respectively 39.60 and 36 per cent. of total expenditure, shows a tendency towards a gradual reduction in the military vote. On the other hand, there has been a steady increase in the vote for public works, owing to the cost involved by the Government's programme of railway construction.

Industry.

Advances made to the peasants, the abolition of the tithe and later of the tax on produce, which replaced the former tax and other measures for the agricultural develop-

ment of the country enforced by the Government, have no doubt been important factors in the intensification of agriculture.

Crop forecasts for 1926-27 were reported favourable, but owing to drought the cereal harvests fell short of expectations and the crop was 25 per cent. less than that of the preceding year. Other crops approximate more or less closely to those of 1926, but the general result was disappointing, as it was hoped during the spring of 1927 that the crops would surpass all previous records since the War.

Cotton production in Adana amounted in 1927 to 80,000 bales, as against 70,000 in 1926. Prices in 1927 were from 40 to 50 per cent. higher than those of the preceding year, with the result that the financial situation of cotton growers in the Adana district has been materially improved and a large number who were heavily in debt as a result of the disastrous fall in prices in 1926 were able to pay off their debts by the close of 1927. Lack of labour in the Adana district is an effective bar to any hope for a large increase in the output of cotton.

Crop prospects for the present year were generally considered to be good, but much will depend on the climatic conditions during the spring and early summer. The winter has been extremely rigorous throughout Anatolia, and consequently certain centres have suffered. The heavy falls of snow have given rise to great scarcity of foodstuffs and fodder in interior districts where the means of communication are precarious.

As a result, there have been severe losses in livestock in many districts, the loss in some cases being as high as 50 per cent. This represents a serious loss to the peasant population.

The law for the encouragement of industry, by virtue of which certain customs and other immunities are granted in respect to the installation of factories, has given a slight impetus to the development of industry, and therefore some progress has been made in this connexion. This law, which came into force in June, 1927, exempts factories established in Turkey from certain taxes, namely:—Tax on buildings, land tax, profits tax, municipal surcharges on the foregoing taxes, and certain other municipal taxes.

In addition, factories in Turkey are granted customs exemption on imported constructional material, on raw materials, and packing, machinery and spare parts, and on rolling stock, transport material and power plant. A maximum bonus of 10 per cent. of the value of the total annual output may be granted by the Government to factories in the country, and Government departments, municipalities and concessionary companies are obliged to purchase their requirements from a native factory, if such exists, even in cases where the local product is 10 per cent. more expensive than the corresponding article imported from abroad.

The law is, therefore, capable of giving a considerable extension to industry in Turkey, and when the Turkish Government revises the existing customs tariffs, which remain in force until August, 1929, it is to be expected that local industry will be further encouraged by protective duties.

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Trade.

According to the most recent Turkish Customs returns published, namely, those for 1926, the value of Turkey's imports during the year in question was £T234,591,722, as against exports to the value of £T187,742,801, or a total overseas trade of £T422,334,523. The following table establishes the comparison between Turkey's imports and exports in 1926 and 1925:—

	Imports	Exports	Total	Proportion of exports to total trade.
1925 ...	£T242,314,117	£T193,119,756	£T435,433,873	44.35 p.c.
1926 ...	£T234,591,722	£T187,742,801	£T422,334,523	44.45 p.c.

It will be seen from this table that the value of imports in 1926 decreased by £T7,722,395 (3.15 per cent.) as compared with those of the preceding year, whilst exports decreased in value by £T5,376,955 (2.8 per cent.), and Turkey's total overseas trade showed a decrease of £T13,099,350, or 3 per cent. as compared with 1925. The proportion of exports to the total trade was approximately the same in both years.

On a basis of comparison by weight Turkey's imports show a falling off in 1926 of 100,000 tons as compared with the preceding year, whilst on the other hand exports, despite a slight falling off in value as compared with 1925, show an increase in weight of over 100,000 tons.

As regards imports, the decrease in weight arose principally from the fact that in 1926 Turkey imported over 100,000 tons less grain than in 1925; while from the increase in the tonnage of Turkey's produce exported as compared with the decrease in value of these products, it is evident that market prices abroad must have fallen considerably in 1926 as compared with the preceding year.

Turkey's adverse trade balance during the years 1923 to 1926 was the following: 1923, £T60,137,482; 1924, £T34,843,091; 1925, £T49,194,361; 1926, £T46,848,921.

As in 1925, Turkey's principal article of import was cotton goods to the value of £T71,981,186, representing 30 per cent. of the total imports of the country.

In 1925 the value of Turkey's imports of cotton goods was £T74,127,634, or 30.6 per cent. of the total imports. The principal countries of supply under this heading are the following: Italy, £T24,029,948; United Kingdom, £T18,248,437; Japan, £T5,680,719; Belgium, £T4,878,768; Germany, £T4,576,310; Czechoslovakia, £T3,597,888; France, £T3,355,759; Syria, £T3,223,656; total, £T67,591,485. These eight countries between them supplied 94 per cent. of Turkey's requirements of cotton goods.

The marked shrinkage in our exports to Turkey in 1926 may be attributed principally to the heavy dumping which took place during that year of Italian piece goods. Local importers took advantage of the depreciated Italian lira and placed orders for goods far in excess of their normal requirements. Other contributory factors were the increasing interest shown in this market by Japanese, Belgian and other manufacturers.

Competition is extremely severe, and apart from certain classes of articles for which the United Kingdom has no serious competitor, the deciding factor on this market is, and will continue to be, that of price. No sovereign specific exists to cure this falling off in the United Kingdom's trade, and whilst our foreign competitors can with lower freights and lower production costs continue to undercut us, the only hope for an increase of British trade in cotton goods is to be found in a general improvement in the standard of living in Turkey, a contingency which is at least very remote.

The total value of woollen goods imported into Turkey in 1926 was £T20,952,897 (4,436 tons), as compared with £T17,625,521 (3,949 tons) in 1925. The principal countries of supply are the following: France, £T6,750,404; United Kingdom, £T4,628,915; Italy, £T2,696,336; Germany, £T2,043,587; Persia, £T1,983,124 (includes carpets).

The United Kingdom has been obliged to cede her first place to France, and Czechoslovakia is, at the present time, also a serious competitor. As in the case of cotton

goods, price is an important factor, but the question of credit also plays a leading rôle. There have been evident signs since 1926 that British woollen manufacturers have become fully alive to the importance of the question of credit, and it is hoped that the United Kingdom will have regained in 1927 some of the ground lost in 1926.

The value of metals imported in 1926 amounted to £T22,242,167, or 9 per cent. of the total imports. The principal countries of supply were the following: Germany, £T6,949,104; Belgium £T4,082,144; United Kingdom, £T3,382,439; France, £T2,564,434. Germany and Belgium share between them the greater part of the supplies of steel rails and structural steel work. The United Kingdom's principal interest under this heading is tin-plate.

As in 1925, Turkey's principal export was tobacco, to the value of £T67,500,000 (41,562 tons). According to the customs returns the principal importer of Turkish tobacco was Italy, with imports to the value of £T36,000,000. An examination of Turkey's exports by country of destination is of little real value, particularly in the case of Italy, which is shown in the customs returns as being Turkey's principal customer, whereas in reality the amount of Turkish produce really imported into Italy is very small, and the greater part of the merchandise shown as exported to Italy is merely shipped to Trieste, where it is manipulated in bond or stored in transit prior to re-exportation to Central Europe or to America. Of the tobacco to the value of £T36,000,000 shown as exported to Italy, at least five-sixths were manipulated in Trieste and eventually re-exported. Apart from Italy, Turkey's principal customer for tobacco was Germany, whose imports amounted to £T12,000,000.

No customs returns have yet been published which would give a reliable indication of the trend of trade in 1927, but it is obvious that both the import and export trade were disappointing. As regards exports, Turkey has much to learn as far as marketing her products is concerned. In the case of those articles whose export is principally in the hands of long established foreign traders, such as mohair, dried fruit, etc., marketing is efficiently carried out, but as regards other products the lack of co-ordination amongst exporters and their disregard of world prices and crops nullify the efforts made by the Government and growers to intensify cultivation and production.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

Country.	Method of Quoting.	Parity of Exchange.	Latest Quotations
Alexandria.....	Piastre to £	97½	97½
Amsterdam ...	Florins to £	12.107	12.09½
Athens	Drachmæ to £ ..	25.22½	375
Belgrade.....	Dinars to £	25.22½	276½
Berlin	Marks to £	20.43	20.34½
Berne	Francs to £	25.22½	25.21½
Bombay	Sterling to Rupee	18d.	17 57/64—59/64
Brussels	Belga to £	35	34.90
Bucharest	Lei to £	25.22½	800
Budapest	Peu to £	27.82	27.86
Calcutta	Sterling to Rupee	18d.	17 57/64—59/64
Constantinople	Piastres to £	110	947½
New York	Dollars to £	4.86 2-3	4.85 7/16—½
Paris	Francs to £	25.22½	124.17
Prague	Kronen to £	24.02	163½
Rome	Lire to £	25 22½	92.77
Sofia.....	Leva to £	25.22½	674
Teheran	Krans to £	48	48
Vienna	Sch to £	34.58	34.41
Warsaw	Zloty to £	25.22½	43½

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The 1927 harvest of tobacco, which constitutes Turkey's principal source of wealth, was fairly satisfactory as regards production, but the selling campaign has been a disastrous failure, and growers, unable to meet the advances made by local banks against their crops, have been obliged to sell at unremunerative rates, in some cases at half the price obtained for similar grades of tobacco in 1926.

The cereal harvest was comparatively a failure owing to the prolonged drought during the spring and early summer of 1927, and the production of wheat fell short of the 1920 crop by 25 per cent.

The winter of 1927-28 was exceptionally severe and communication became difficult, if not impossible, in the central plateau of Anatolia and the Eastern provinces, with the result that in many outlying districts the population was threatened with famine, and heavy losses of live stock were sustained owing to the lack of fodder.

As regards other exports, conditions were more normal, but the failure of the tobacco and cereal crops was a serious blow to the economic stability of the country.

These factors had an unfavourable repercussion on the import trade, and particularly on the import of cotton goods, which normally represent 30 to 35 per cent. of Turkey's total imports. The stabilisation of the Italian lira and the shrinkage of the demand from Anatolia have placed a number of the leading importers of cotton goods in Constantinople in a most unenviable situation, and the early months of 1928 have been marked by a series of failures and suspensions of payment on the part of textile importers.

There is no doubt that the failure of many firms in Constantinople was due to the unhealthy conditions prevailing on the local market.

Competition is exceptionally severe and there are far too many manufacturers' agents; in order to maintain a footing foreign manufacturers were induced to grant credits up to 12 months without sufficient regard to the status and financial stability of their local clients. Italian manufacturers in particular have been hard hit by the partial collapse of the Constantinople textile market.

Imports from the United Kingdom have suffered a decline, but it is at least satisfactory to observe that the caution displayed by British manufacturers in granting credit on this market has reduced their losses to a minimum. This policy of caution should be continued, as the market is still in an unsettled state.

Railways.

In August, 1927, the length of railways in Turkey under exploitation was approximately as follows:—4,296 kilometres—normal gauge; 212 kilometres—metre gauge; 267.5 kilometres—75 centimetre gauge; 124 kilometres—Russian broad gauge. The above figures include the normal gauge line from Yenidje to Nisibin, a distance of 834

kilometres, of which the section from Yenidje to Islahic is in Turkish territory, whilst a large portion of the section from Yenidje to Nisibin forms a boundary between Turkey and Syria, the whole section being administered by the French Direction of the *Chemins de fer de Syrie du Nord*.

TENDERS INVITED.

Tenders are invited for the following contracts, and must be made by the dates mentioned.

(Particulars of tenders marked D.O.T. are to be obtained from the Department of Overseas Trade, 55, Old Queen Street, S.W.1).

EGYPT.

Chloride of lime.—The Egyptian Department of Public Health invites tenders for the supply of 20 tons of stabilised chloride of lime, October 2. (D.O.T.).

Ejectors, etc.—The Egyptian Ministry of Public Works invites tenders for the supply and delivery of (a) One set of duplicate 750 gallons (liquid capacity) ejectors, (b) Three sets of duplicate 500 gallons (liquid capacity) ejectors, (c) Four exhaust air ventilation columns, October 15. (D.O.T.).

Internal combustion units.—The Director-General, Mechanical Department, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of two (60 B.H.P. each) marine internal combustion units, Diesel type, airless injection: one port and the other starboard side, required for Government Workshops, Boulak, Cairo, October 6.

Iron rivets.—The General Management, Egyptian State Railways, Telegraphs and Telephones, Cairo Station, invites tenders for the supply of 56,000 kilos best Yorkshire iron snap head rivets to specification, October 24.

Steel Fire-Float.—The Engineering Department of the Egyptian Ports and Lighthouses Administration is inviting tenders for one self propelled petrol motor fire-float for use in Suez Harbour and Roads. August 31. (D.O.T.).

TURKEY.

Excavating machinery.—A local firm at Constantinople are desirous of receiving quotations for excavating machinery. (D.O.T.).

Cotton.—The "Direction Générale des Fabriques Militaires," Angora, invite tenders for the supply of 50,000 kilos of cotton required by the powder factories, August 25. (D.O.T.).

FORTHCOMING SAILINGS.

The following are the sailings for the Near East and India, the ports of departure and closing dates for cargo being given in parentheses:—

Anchor Line.—S.s. Castalia for Bombay (Birkenhead, August 25). (For passenger sailings and dates see advertisement.)

Anchor Brocklebank Line.—S.s. Mahrona for Calcutta (Birkenhead, August 16); s.s. Mahanada for Calcutta (Birkenhead, August 30).

Bibby Line.—S.s. Gloucestershire for Port Said, Port Sudan, Colombo, and Rangoon (Birkenhead, August 22).

British India Line.—S.s. Hatimura for Bombay and Karachi (London, August 11); s.s. Masula for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, August 11).

Cunard Line.—S.s. Bothnia for Gibraltar, Genoa, Leghorn, Naples, Palermo, Messina, Catania, Corfu, Bari, Venice, Trieste and Fiume (Liverpool August 18, and Swansea August 21); s.s. Bosnia for Malta, Piræus, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, and Constantza (Liverpool, Glasgow and Swansea August 25).

Johnston Line.—S.s. Kenmore for Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, September 1); s.s. Dromore for Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, September 29).

P. and O. Line.—S.s. Ranpura for Bombay (London, August 17); s.s. Kaisar-i-Hind for Bombay (London, August 31).

Prince Line.—S.s. Egyptian Prince for Tunis, Malta, Alexandria, Jaffa, Haifa, Beyrout, and Cyprus (Manchester, August 18); s.s. Sailor Prince for Tunis, Malta, Alexandria, Jaffa, Haifa, Beyrout, Tripoli, Alexandretta, Mersina, and Cyprus (London, September 1); s.s. Algerian Prince for Tunis, Malta, Alexandria, Jaffa, Haifa, Beyrout, and Cyprus (Manchester, September 1).

Ellerman & Papayanni Lines.—S.s. Assyrian for Malta, Alexandria, Jaffa, Haifa, and Haifa* (Liverpool, August 18); s.s. Mardinian for Oran*, Algiers*, Piræus, Volo*, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, and Constantza (Liverpool, August 18, Swansea, August 18). *Subject to sufficient inducement. Cargo taken on through Bill of Lading to:—Algerian Ports via Algiers; Moroccan ports via Gibraltar; Tripoli (Barbary) via Malta; Syria and Cyprus via Alexandria; Greek outports via Piræus or other convenient port.

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THE WEEK'S FINANCE.

(By Our Financial Expert.)

London, August 7.

On the whole the stock markets have been quiet, with prices showing a somewhat irregular tendency. This was quite in accordance with expectations, being chiefly due to the approach of Bank Holiday week. Nor is the forthcoming week likely to witness any general improvement. In the main gilt-edged securities were weak, being under the influence of the less favourable monetary situation. Five per cent. War Loan was an exception and displayed marked strength. Several gold exchanges have moved against London and the Bank of England has lost gold, mainly to Germany. There are no fears, however, of an immediate rise in Bank Rate. The future of the Marconi Company and of the cable companies has been discussed on the publication of the Imperial Conference report; prices declined slightly, but in principle the report is satisfactory. Insurance shares were strong, while tobacco shares received attention. Reference is made to the home railway interim dividends and stock prices in the succeeding paragraph.

The Home Railway Dividends.

A few weeks ago we expressed the opinion that the depression in home railway stocks had been over-done. The past week has justified this view, the majority of home railway stocks having shown a rising tendency, though the closing quotations were below the highest. This follows the declaration of the interim dividends and the acceptance by the railwaymen's trade union leaders of a reduction in wages. The interim dividends, as expected, showed a reduction as compared with a year ago, the London Midland and Scottish being $1\frac{1}{4}$ per cent., against 2 per cent., and the Great Western $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., against $2\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. The London and North Eastern is meeting its interest payments as a year ago and the Southern, as usual, will not consider its deferred dividend until the end of the year. In several cases the dividend announcements were accompanied by interesting statements regarding the economies that have been effected in the past half year. These were shown to be of very substantial proportions. The Southern, for instance, completely offset its loss of traffic by economies. The lower

price of coal has been a fruitful source of saving. Further economies are possible in the near future, since the railwaymen's trade union leaders have agreed to recommend the acceptance of a cut of $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. in wages, this also applying to salaries. Other favourable factors include the probability—one might almost say the certainty—of the companies shortly obtaining road powers, while indirectly they will doubtless benefit by the Government's latest scheme of assistance to the heavy industries.

Profits from Stout.

The movements in the price of Guinness's ordinary stock a little while ago seemed to indicate some concern regarding the forthcoming dividend and accounts. These fears have now been set at rest, for the total distribution, at 28 per cent. tax free, is maintained at the same figure as for the preceding twelve months. For the two preceding years, however, the total distribution was 32 per cent. On the whole, the accounts make a fairly satisfactory showing. The gross sales of stout and sundry products, less expenses of manufacture, it is true, disclose a fall, the figure being £10,731,190, against £11,504,604. Taxation, however, though still at the substantial level of £8,446,910, has been less heavy than a year ago. Consequently the net profit, after deducting maintenance of buildings, etc. (£120,483 against £135,590) depreciation and other routine items, and adding income from investments, was nearly £50,000 larger at £2,311,601.

The general financial position, already strong, shows further improvement. The reserve now amounts to £2,100,000, against an issued capital of £9,500,000. The holding of gilt-edged stocks and cash total nearly £5,500,000.

Investment Stocks.

In the prevailing temper, as we recently noted, the investing public is seeking sound investments, the purely speculative securities being largely ignored. But the task of finding such investments to give a fair return is far from easy. The values of investment stocks have recently tended upwards and they are now receiving a further fillip. A number of suggestions have already been put forward in this column, but in view of the marked public interest it is advisable to return to the subject. In the present circumstances there is one danger which deserves passing notice. The investment highways having been thoroughly searched, there is a tendency to explore the by-ways. It is true that bargains are occasionally found in this way, but very often a seeming bargain turns out a disastrous failure. Not the least of the disadvantages of little known securities is that they do not command a ready market. The prior charge securities of carefully chosen investment trusts offer many attractions. The trusts are prosperous, the interest on the prior charge capital being well covered by expanding revenue. The 4 per cent. debentures of the Alliance Trust, which are redeemable 1952, give a return of £5 10s. per cent. The 4½ per cent. preference stock of the Alliance Investment Trust yields £5 13s. per cent. The Army and Navy Investment Trust 5 per cent. cumulative preference stock can be obtained to return £5 12s. per cent.

The value of Egypt's imports of hosiery in 1927 was £E823,968, as compared with £E834,896 in 1926.

H.M. Senior Trade Commissioner in India reports that the number of motor vehicles registered in the Lucknow District during the first quarter of 1928 was as follows:—motor cars, 47; taxis, 5; buses, 20; and lorries, 1.

The Sudan Government Railways have awarded contracts for 75 30-ton bogie covered goods wagons to the Gloucester Railway Carriage and Wagon Company, and for 50 30-ton open bogie goods wagons to Cammell Laird and Co. of Nottingham.

The traffic receipts of the South Indian Railway Company for the week ended July 7 amounted to Rs.12,90,923, making the total from April 1 Rs.1,79,04,767 as compared with Rs.1,69,46,197 for the corresponding period of the previous twelve months.

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Motors and Motoring.

By G. B. B.

"Practically in as bad a position as it was during the slump!" That is a considered view of a leader in the British motor manufacturing industry; a man who knows. I can tell him the remedy. The remedy lies in extending one's sphere of sales operations and in selling British cars in overseas and, particularly, in Eastern markets. The Near and Middle East and India alone could, if properly exploited, take all the British cars we have to spare for some time to come—at any rate until the majority of the pay-as-you-ride cars in this country went to the scrap heap.

Ariel Cycles and West Africa.

During his recent visit to Birmingham, Sir Ofori Atta, the West African Chief, who is a keen motorist, visited the Ariel Motor Cycle Works. He was welcomed by Mr. J. Sangster, managing director, and Mr. V. H. Mole, sales director, and with his retinue made a complete tour of the works, being much impressed by the up-to-date manufacturing methods. The huge stamping machines particularly interested him and he stayed some minutes to see the operations on a connecting rod. He was also very interested by the travelling track erecting system on which one machine is completed every five minutes of the day, and by the frame brazing and enamelling processes, and watched wheel assembly and tyrefitting with evident appreciation. When the tour was over, Sir Ofori mounted a sidecar combination and expressed himself as well satisfied with its comfort. The Chief was then presented by Mr. Sangster with a pair of gold-plated Ariel "horses" suitably inscribed. At the conclusion of the visit he took delivery of a sidecar outfit which is being sent out to the Gold Coast for use on his return home.

Country Hotels and the Motorist.

I suppose it is of little use saying anything further regarding the shortsightedness of so many country hotels in "catering" for the motorist. They had a golden opportunity which they have allowed to go by, and one which probably will never again present itself. But even now much could be done to retrieve their unenviable position and to re-establish the hotel habit in the motoring public. People do not want to drag luncheon baskets and Thermos flasks about with them if they can help it, but what are they to do in these days of family motoring? Hotel service is usually bad and expensive; hotel catering is usually expensive and bad and the average hotel keeper seems to have but one idea as to how to improve his position which is to make the catering and service still worse and more costly. One man writes to say that for an omelette and a cup of coffee in a country hotel he was charged 4s., with an extra 9d. for half a grape fruit. He found the charge made for the bedroom he had occupied was 25s., with an extra 1s. for a morning cup of tea. Tips amounted to a further 2s. He wants to know how the average motorist can afford to stay at such hotels. I am sure I cannot tell him. Another motorist tells me he was charged 5s., full dinner rate, for a plate of cold ham, bread and pickles, excuse being given that he could have had all that was going had he asked for it! Personally I believe that an offer of meals à la carte instead of the compulsory table d'hôte would do much to remedy matters. But probably the matter has gone too far to be remedied. Most motorists to-day avoid hotels whenever possible, with the exception of the new-rich section who seem to think that wherever they go, their importance is gauged by the amount of money they spend.

A New 16 h.p. Rover.

One of the smartest cars I have seen of late is the new model, two-litre, six cylinder, 16 h.p. Rover, with a four-

seater coupé body, known as the sportsman's coupé. The coachwork is built on the Weymann principle of flexible construction and is fabric covered. There are two large bucket seats in front of the quick adjustable type, and on each side is a door wide enough to give access to the back part of the car as well as to the front. The back seat, giving ample room for two passengers, extends the full width of the car and has pneumatic cushioning. The car is well and tastefully upholstered in furniture hide, the front section of the roof can be folded back from inside the car, single handed, whilst the car is stationary and at the back of the body is a large trunk containing two large luggage cases. Wire wheels, single-panel adjustable wind screen with wiper and deep wells in the floor of the car to give plenty of room for the legs of the passengers are also good features.

In June 1,099 tons of locust beans were exported from Cyprus, reducing the stock to 200 tons.

It is reported that a new cargo service is to be inaugurated between Yugoslavia and America, with steamers of 7,000 to 10,000 tons each.

The traffic receipts of the Egyptian Delta Light Railways for the ten days ended July 10 amounted to £E7,189, making the total from April 1 £E68,657.

Arms have been granted to the Westminster Bank as follows: Azure semee of roses argent, barbed and seeded proper, a fesse wavy, also argent, in the quarter a portcullis or. The portcullis and the national rose are derived from the arms of the city of Westminster and the heraldic wave has reference to the County of London.

RIDE



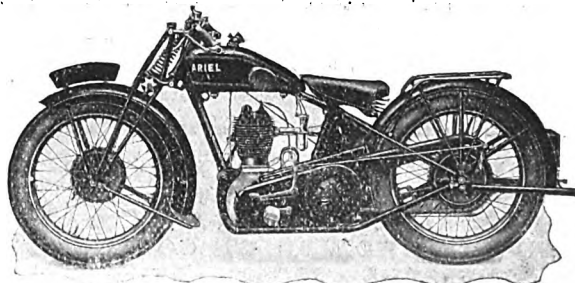
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THE LIVERPOOL COTTON MARKET.

Messrs. Reynolds and Gibson report as follows for the week ended August 1:—

Egyptian Futures.—Sakel Contract.—A series of nervous and susceptible markets have been witnessed. Immediately following our last report good markets in New York and Alexandria were responsible for a further recovery of some 50 points here, and November contracts reached 19.55d. under pressure from covering by nervous shorts and Continental and Alexandria buying. The recovery failed to hold, however, and values have since displayed a sagging tendency, closing to-day at 23 points above the lowest of the week with November quoted 18.43d.

As regards the future course of prices, everything depends on the indication about to be given us in the Bureau Report due for publication on August 8. In view of the uncertainty attending this pronouncement, we consider that the soundest policy is one which awaits further developments before embarking on fresh commitments.

During July 1,750 bales of Sakel were tendered against contracts. **Upper Contract.**—Trading has been very quiet on the whole and movements have been dictated largely by the course of the American markets. Further liquidation by the stale "Bulls" has been in evidence and, at times, short selling for a quick turn. This latter operation has not been quite so popular of late owing to the improved off-take for Upper and the comparatively reasonable parity at which our contract stands with America. This parity has fluctuated between 275 and 300 points. At current levels Upper cotton is finding favour amongst buyers, but, at the same time, it does not appear that the volume of trade is sufficient to relieve us of our stock of old crop cotton before the new crop begins to appear. This fact has kept the near months somewhat depressed and July expired at 20 points below November. A further 800 bales was tendered yesterday, July 31 making a total of 3,850 bales for July.

Egyptian Spot.—An improvement has again to be recorded in the off-take for spot Egyptian, and this in the face of a further decline in prices. Possibly the temporary recovery which took place a week ago tempted spinners to believe that the bottom was not far off. Liverpool is not only a cheaper market than Alexandria at the moment, but has also apparently a better selection of the medium grades of both Upper and Sakel to offer. Evidence of has recently been given by the number of inquiries emanating from America which have appeared in this market, inquiries which normally go direct to Alexandria. The differences with American cotton have, of course, narrowed in considerably, and Egyptian cotton at

to-day's level is a much more attractive proposition than it was, say, at the end of June.

The local inquiry for Sakel has embraced all qualities with the exception of the very best, and the very low. The former at present appears to be beyond the reach of spinners on account of price, or, to put it, another way, holders of this cotton are too dear. For the latter, the demand has died away simply because there has been nothing with which to feed it. As we have had occasion to point out before, the stock of Medium Sakel (i.e., F.G.F. to strict F.G.F.), staple is hardening steadily. A burst of really good buying would dispose of this cotton in a very short time.

A good inquiry for Uppers at from "to pass 25 on" has been in evidence and a steady turnover has taken place, with the basis inclined to harden. The better cotton has also received attention in a minor degree. In Pilon a small business has been reported at very firm rates. White cotton, Maarad, etc., have all received some small degree of attention. Sudan Sakel has met with a slightly improved off-take and an odd inquiry has been met with here and there for Tokar cotton.

C.i.f. business has been very quiet. Forwardings to spinners for week ended July 27 were returned as 10,087 bales Egyptian and 15,07 bales Sudan. Quotations of Sakel show a net decline of 50 points and those of Upper and Pilon 30 points. F.G.F. Sakel to-day 18.95d. F.G.F. Upper to-day 13.55d. F.G.F. Pilon to-day 14.30d.

THE EGYPTIAN MARKET.

The Alexandria Commercial Company, in their report for the week July 26, state:—

The market during the week under review has been active, and the tone at the close to-day was fairly steady. The week's summary of price movements is as follow:—Sakellarides: November, 39.55 dollars, 0.80 dollars up; January, 39.70 dollars, 0.72 dollars up. Ashmouni: August, 25.70 dollars, 0.20 dollars down; October, 26.45 dollars, 0.20 dollars down; December, 26.75 dollars, 0.10 down.

Sakellarides.—Prices show an advance on the week of only about $\frac{1}{4}$ dollars, but this is about $2\frac{1}{2}$ dollars up from the low point touched on Monday last. The revival of the two last days has been nothing more than a reaction after the steep decline from 43 $\frac{1}{2}$ dollars for November.

At the third July tender 5,750 kantars dockets were issued bringing the total for the month to 19,500 kantars.

Uppers.—This market is down on the week, about quarter dollar; it has not followed the American decline to the full extent, and the American/Ashmouni straddle has improved to 588 points against 521 last week. Demand has run on rather improved lines, but much of inquiry has been for immediate shipment. America has taken a fair quantity of Uppers recently, evidently considering it cheap compared to their staples. We have a favourable opinion of the Uppers market, always providing, of course, that we do not get any serious break in American.

General.—The statistical position remains strong, but, of course, it is becoming every week less and less a factor in the situation; within a month now we shall be getting new cotton down, and with the trade so poor a stock of 1,650,000 kantars (even allowing that this includes 400,00 kantars Government cotton, which apparently, will not be pushed for sale) cannot be considered a dangerously small one.

The week's receipts amount to 411 kantars, against exports 88,772 kantars; the stock in Alexandria stands at 1,674,694.

The official figures of arrivals and exports for the period September 1, 1927 to July 18, 1928 are as follows:

Arrivals.—Sakellaridis, 2,631,539; Ashmouni and Zagora 2,913,539; 2,960,989 kantars; Pilon 271,973 kantars; Various 218,510 kantars; Scarco, 138,141 kantars; total 6,003,639.

Exports.—Sakellarides, 2,414,026 kantars; Ashmouni and Zagora, 2,960,989 kantars; Pilon 282,646 kantars; Various, 202,972 kantars; total, 6,048,582 kantars.

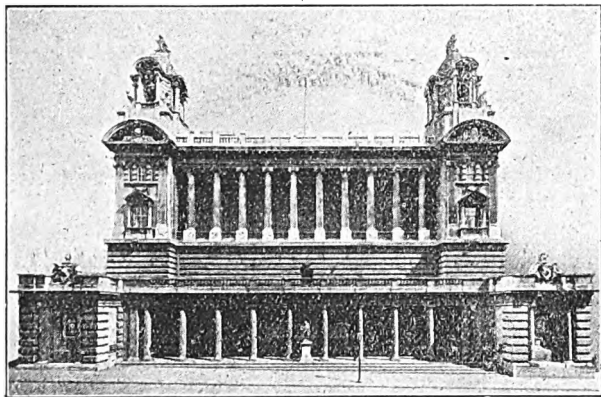
Spot.—The market has shown considerable activity during the week, total sales amounting to about 7,000 bales, of which we estimate 3,000 bales Sakellaridis, 3,800 bales Ashmouni and Zagora, and 200 bales other varieties.

Sakellaridis.—The demand is still concentrated on Fully Good Fair and below with some inquiry for Fully Good Fair/Good. On switching over to the November contract as basis, differences were very erratic and have not yet stabilised; sellers are holding out for high prices and, in many cases, successfully owing to the limited stocks and the demand from abroad being practically entirely for immediate shipment.

Ashmouni and Zagora.—There has been a very good demand for all grades from Good Fair to Good, but the medium grades have again been most in favour and spot differences for these qualities have stiffened considerably owing to the fact that good style cotton is daily more difficult to find on the market.

Other Varieties.—The only business recorded has been in Pilon; White owing to its scarcity, is quoted somewhat higher.

Crop, 1928.—Temperature has been slightly above normal during the week, and although humidity has been high, the weather in general has been favourable, and the plant is hastening to maturity. Bolls are opening in many parts of Upper Egypt, and the crop looks well; the number of bolls per plant is well up to the average. Boll worm has been reported in the Delta but, so far, the percentage of bolls attacked is very small.



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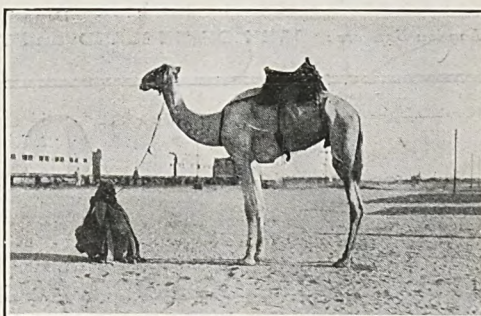
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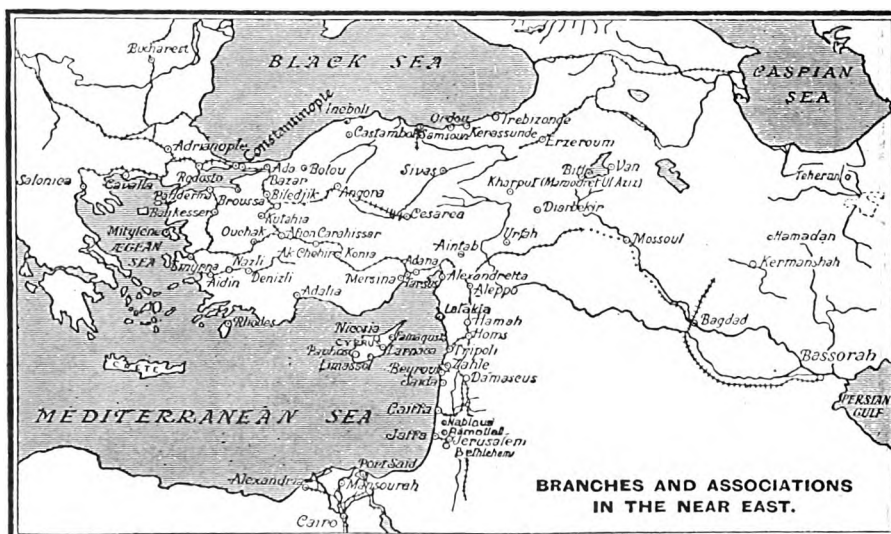
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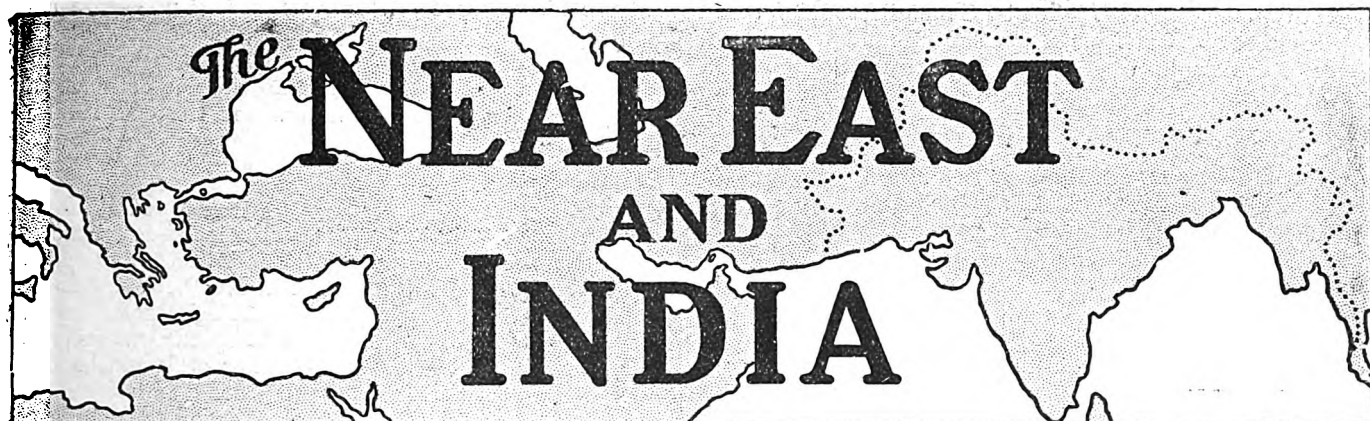
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The NEAR EAST AND INDIA

No. 900.—VOL. XXXIV.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 16, 1928.

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Notes of the Week.

The Yugoslav Crisis.

The death of M. Stepan Raditch, leader of the Croat Peasant Party and head of the Anti-Serb *bloc* in Yugoslavia, cannot fail to intensify the gravity of the Yugoslav crisis. To the bulk of the Croats it will seem to mark the climax of Serbo-Croat incompatibility of temperament, and will provide a strong argument in favour of the federal system to replace the over-centralization hitherto insisted upon by the Serbs. It is, perhaps, well that the rôles in the country are not reversed; that the Croats and not the Serbs are the dissentients. Otherwise by now there must have been civil war. M. Raditch was not unique among his people, but he was *facile princeps* in his political violence and lack of restraint. With his disturbing and magnetic personality removed, it may be that Croat counsels will be characterized by greater reflexion, before action is taken or public statements issued. For the Serbs the net result may appear more dangerous, because they will have to deal with more cautious opponents and will not be able to profit by M. Raditch's frequent mistakes of policy and tactics. They are likely to be kept waiting for a little time, before they learn what the Peasant Democrat Group intends to do. On Sunday the funeral of M. Raditch took place in Zagreb. It was for Croatia a national occasion, and not until the day had passed would the Croat leaders take steps to deliberate upon their future policy. Belgrade in the meantime remains on tenterhooks. Some indication of its frame of mind is given by belated attempts to placate Croat feeling. The Government parties in the Skupshtina, which before the death of M. Raditch had declined to suspend the parliamentary immunity of two deputies implicated in the shooting drama of June 20, hurriedly voted the suspension at their next session. The

Skupshtina was adjourned for a day after the Vice-President had delivered a speech in memory of M. Raditch; schools and educational establishments were ordered to fly flags at half-mast. Croat policy will lose nothing in effectiveness by being decided upon calmly and with deliberation.

Brigandage in Greece.

The recrudescence of brigandage in Greece is an indication that political difficulties have had their inevitable result of weakening authority in the provinces. When officials have all their time taken up with trimming their sails to the political breezes from Athens, law and order are at a discount in the outlying districts. There is a certain piquancy added to the tragic element in the recent capture of parliamentary candidates at no great distance from Yanina, the capital of Epirus. The captives belonged to Opposition parties; M. Venizelos himself was at the time visiting the province. Political fervour, however, has not been able to make more out of the situation than for the Opposition, on the one hand, to call attention to the fact that the outbreak of brigandage coincides with M. Venizelos's return to power, while, on the other, the Prime Minister has to counter the statement by pointing out that the evil is due to the shortcomings of preceding Governments. All the captives have now been liberated, and it is probable that the incident will not assume serious proportions, as M. Venizelos's Government can be relied upon to deal vigorously with the brigands.

The Greek General Election.

On Sunday next will be held the general election which is to decide the fate of M. Venizelos's position in Greece. He has let it be understood that, unless his party is returned with a workable majority, he himself will retire

once more from politics. In other words, he has realized the truth of the discovery made by General Pangalos that the deadlock in Greek party politics is fatal to the interests of the country. General Pangalos could devise no other way out of the difficulty than a dictatorship open and avowed. Unfortunately, he was not gifted enough himself to carry through his plan, which failed as a result of his own mistakes and the shortcomings of those upon whose help he had to rely. M. Venizelos's régime will also be a dictatorship in everything but name, if he obtains the backing that he requires at the general election. His Cabinet can be relied upon to give him unquestioning obedience, as he brooks no independence of thought in his entourage. His challenge to King Constantine sprang from the same motives as the action which called in question M. Kaphandaris's rise to power at the head of the Liberal Party and drove him into the wilderness. M. Venizelos can give Greece abler leadership than General Pangalos could, and the endorsement of his return to power at the general election will be entirely in keeping with the conviction of the Greek people as a whole that the country wants strong government and freedom from party faction.

Turkey's Latin Alphabet.

It is a feature of the Turkish character that the people and Press should render semi-divine honours to the National Hero, the Ghazi President. The practice would seem to be extending to other residents in the country, when the correspondent of an important London newspaper reports of Mustapha Kemal Pasha that "endowed with the strongest will, it is even said that he is gradually forcing himself to forget the old Arabic characters by only reading newspapers which do not contain Arabic characters." If the impression that it is desired to convey is that some of Turkey's newspapers are already appearing with Turkish in Latin characters, the Ghazi's powers must be divine in good sooth, as, according to the Press of the day, the committee charged with the task of introducing the adoption of Latin characters for the writing of Turkish has not yet completed its labours and for a paper to appear in characters of its own selection at this stage would amount almost to *lèse majesté*. A Latin alphabet, it is understood, has already been adopted in Trans-Caucasia, but it is not to be supposed that the Ghazi would be unpatriotic enough to ignore his own loyal Press for that of foreign countries. He is enthusiastically devoted to the reform of Turkish writing, as he is to all other reforms for which he has been responsible, and has now ordained that "in two

years everyone must have learned how to read and write with the new characters." Things in Turkey are undoubtedly moving with great rapidity, but it is to be hoped that when the practice of writing Turkish in Latin characters is introduced, the mistake will not be made of having a variety of Latin letters for the one Turkish equivalent.

The Desert Mail.

By a curious coincidence the Nairn trans-desert motor service has again been interrupted just at the time when fear of the Wahhabis is manifest in Northern Arabia—it will be remembered that a few months ago Jaafar Pasha, in travelling across from Baghdad to Syria, was reported to have been sought after by thousands of Wahhabi foes. Of course the breakdown of the Jidda Conference has nothing whatever to do with this attack on the local convoy and on the Nairn cars on August 10 ten miles west of Rutbah Wells. This last affair, in which three Mussulmans are stated to have been killed and the overland mail to have been stolen by the bandits, can be reasonably connected with nothing but the fact that there still exist men in the Middle East, as they exist nearer home, who prefer the life of the highway robber to less exciting and more peaceful occupations. Very possibly the miscreants are, as has been suggested, the same body which attacked a convoy last March: if so, it is doubly to be hoped that they will be brought to justice by the Iraqi police. But obviously their capture will be a difficult affair, and it will need all the sleuth-like efficiency for which the Iraqi police are becoming renowned to teach the bandits that the Baghdad-Damascus route is one of the highways of the world, on which robbery is not only a crime but also a folly. It is comforting to learn, as we go to Press, that the mails have been recovered and sent on to Damascus, and that all convoys are proceeding according to programme.

Iraq and Najd.

It is a mistake, in our opinion, to represent the present quarrel between Iraq and Najd as merely a personal vendetta between the Hashimite and the Saoudi families, undissipated though the long-standing differences between the two Houses may be. For, as we have indicated in the article on the following page, there is at stake a principle, or, rather, there are two principles, in this Iraq-Najd *impasse*. On the one hand, King Faisal, as head of a modern, progressive State, demands the right to place (within the terms of the Treaties to which he is committed) whatever signs of authority he and his advisers judge best for the good ordering of his State, in whatever spots in that State. On the other hand, King Ibn Saoud takes his position on the immemorial sanctity of desert law. Judged in the longest aspect, it would appear that progress lies in the civilisation of the desert, in making it accustomed, that is, to modern conceptions of law and order. That this will take time and may ultimately fail is admitted, as the Romans and others who have built forts in the desert discovered. But no good is done by denouncing King Ibn Saoud as being hopelessly involved in an expansionist policy. It is to the best interests of all in Arabia that he, the strongest man of his generation in Arabia, should remain in full power to check the impetuosity of his *Akhwan*; and those who assert that malevolence is the guiding motive on the part either of Iraq or Najd are doing no service to the cause of a united Arabia which is the dream of every good Arab. Prejudice exists, of course, in plenty; but it is by their actions alone that the rulers of Iraq and of Najd and the Hijaz should be judged. On this latter basis both monarchs come out well enough. The more fully it is realised that bedrock principles, rather than mere "family feuds," the effect of which it is, in any case, within the power of Great Britain to negate, are involved, the better chance is there of circumscribing the results of the breakdown of the Jidda Conference.

(Continued on page 195)

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THURSDAY, AUGUST 16, 1928.

THE CONTROL OF THE DESERT.

More disappointment than surprise will have been caused at the failure of Ibn Saoud, the Wahhabi King, to agree to the British and Iraqi point of view upon the construction of police posts in the desert—for, in the absence of full details, it is to be assumed that it was over this question of posts in the desert that the conference between the Wahhabis, the Iraqis, and the British Mandatory Power broke down. There will be no need to recapitulate fully to readers of THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA the story of this desert quarrel between Iraqis and Najdis. Suffice it to recall that last November members of the Mutair tribe from Najd demolished the uncompleted police post at Busaiyah, and massacred the labourers who were erecting it. Other raids followed, together with punishment of the *Akhwan* by the Royal Air Force. About March these activities came to an end, through climatic and other reasons. The subsequent conference at Jidda between King Ibn Saoud and Sir Gilbert Clayton was interrupted by the *Haj*. In the interim there was afforded the opportunity of making known to the British Government the Wahhabi King's views upon the Iraq-Najd affair. Sir Gilbert returned to the Hijaz last month with his original instructions confirmed: no concession could be made to the argument that the building of a police-post some seventy miles within the Iraq frontier was a violation of the Uqair Protocol of the Treaty of Muhammadarah of 1922; nor could the right be foregone of Iraq to govern her own deserts according to her own ideas. In short, the process which Great Britain has taken in hand, as Mandatory Power, of civilising the desert, could not be interrupted for the sake of one who, however mighty a tribal ruler, did base his régime on desert law and desert conceptions of justice. Between these two views of the desert, the new and the old, there could be no compromise, and any considerable hope to the contrary indicated a lack of faith either in Great Britain's resolve to adhere to her mandatory responsibilities in Iraq, or in King Ibn Saoud's steadfast upholding of the cause of his renowned *Akhwan*.

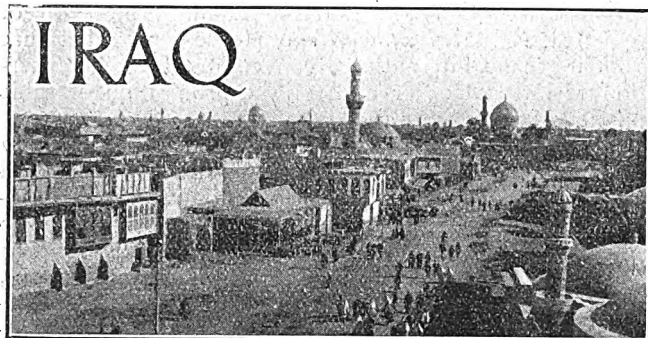
Now the question which will naturally be asked in England is: how far are the police-posts essential to the good conduct of Iraq? Are there real interests at stake in controlling the vague desert area between the Sown, by the Euphrates, and the artificial line drawn by Sir Percy Cox and Sultan Ibn Saoud to indicate the conditional frontier between the Mandatory Arab State and the independent Najd? Into the Iraqi official suspicion that King Ibn Saoud's intentions towards the State of King Faisal are not wholly above board, there is no need to inquire now; any quarrel between Arab and Arab, *qua* stake-

holder in Arabia, is a matter for the Arabs themselves to resolve, one into which it would be folly of Great Britain to interfere. But obviously the Mandatory authorities have satisfied themselves that essential interests are involved in controlling the refugee Shammar and other tribes by the means of these police-posts at Busaiyah, Salman, and Sabicha, and in maintaining the right of Iraq to take whatever steps she pleases, provided that she infringes no international convention, for the preservation of internal order and for the prohibition of raids upon neighbouring States.

That the Wahhabi monarch should have apparently failed to appreciate the effect of this British conviction holds, indeed, no immediate menace to Iraqi-Najdi relations; for one thing, climatic conditions would seem to inhibit the recrudescence of any considerable military activity; and for another, and more important, thing, King Ibn Saoud has reiterated his goodwill and his willingness to preserve the *status quo*. But this sharp and insuperable difference of opinion upon the control of the desert is highly unfortunate, from both the Iraqi and the Najdi points of view. There may be people in Iraq who will be far from discontented that there should have arisen difficulties between the British and the Puritan conquerors of the ex-Hashimite Hijaz; there will certainly be sympathisers in Iraq with those Najdi Arabs whose families have recently suffered loss through the activities of the Royal Air Force. But if Iraq is to progress, and to become a modern, civilised State, her people in general will surely realise that frontiers, even artificial frontiers, must be respected by her neighbours, and they must, therefore, be behind the claim upheld by the British and their countrymen at the Jidda Conference. It is well, by the way, to point out in this connexion that Nouri Pasha's recent declaration in the Baghdad Majliss in favour of Conscription had little to do with this Jidda Conference, although the attempt has been made to connect the two. Even had there never been Wahhabi raids from the South, the Minister of Defence and those Arabs and British who think with him would have been in favour of some measure of compulsory military service in Iraq. The present dependence upon the Royal Air Force of King Faisal's State, in this matter of the incursions of the *Akhwan*, is purely incidental, and may conceivably be used as an argument either for or against Conscription. No: the whole problem arising out of the breakdown of the negotiations in the Hijaz really derives from the question of the Iraq-Najd frontier and from the question of the control of the desert lying between that frontier and the Sown. There are those who believe that the chief interest of Iraq lies not in pushing out into the desert (which, in their view, can be called Iraq or Najd only in an arbitrary and useless way), but in attracting the Desert to the Sown; and against them are those who believe that, since Najd has agreed to desert frontiers, Iraq would be failing in her capital duty were she to neglect to control that section of the Desert allotted to her. No question exists that, on the purely legal or literal aspect of this Iraq-Najd quarrel, Iraq is absolutely in the right; it is on the moral, or general side, that King Ibn Saoud obviously feels so wounded that he cannot concede even to his friends, the British. The best that can be hoped for from the failure of this Jidda Conference is that, having registered his protest against what he considers, in the vague and untutored yet understandable way of the *Badawin*, to be an intolerable violation of desert custom, King Ibn Saoud may so restrain his *Akhwan* that in time they may become accustomed to the existence of a Power in the North which at last has found the means of prohibiting the fleeting presence of the Shammar in their midst. If, however, the leader of the Wahhabis prefer to foster the idea that he made a mistake in 1922 in conditionally accepting the present Iraq-Najd frontier, and that by a series of pin-pricks he must in future seek to rectify the error, there may be in Arabia during the next year events of far-reaching importance. But we believe in King Ibn Saoud's statesmanship, and that he will find a peaceful way out of the disappointing *impasse* just reached.

*The Near and Middle East

From Our Own Correspondents.



Baghdad, July 30.

Parliament.

The presence of certain Najdi tribal elements in Iraq territory gave rise to a question in Parliament, to which the Prime Minister replied that the Government felt no anxiety on this score, the three places at which the tribesmen had settled being technically within the neutral zone known as Baqlawah. No further raids had taken place, and an investigation of the reported theft of 225 camels showed that the culprits were members of the Mutair tribe, whose chief had promised to return the camels. The tribesmen round Salman post belong to that part of the Shammar which had taken refuge with Iraq.

Muzahim Beg al Pachachi, formerly Iraq Diplomatic Agent in London, is returning to Baghdad to resume his work as an advocate at the Bar. Replying to a question, the Foreign Minister said that Muzahim Beg was recalled from his post in London for political reasons which necessitated the appointment of Jaafar Pasha in his place; there was no question of his recall being due to his opposition to the new Anglo-Iraq Treaty. Sir Abdul Muhsin Beg then paid a tribute to his services while Diplomatic Agent.

A statement made in Parliament to the effect that the improvement of irrigation on the Gharraf was being neglected by the Government drew from the Prime Minister an interesting statement on the financial position of Iraq. Sir Abdul Muhsin Beg said that without resorting to loans it was impossible for the Government to carry out any big development schemes at present. The financial position of the country was very critical, all the reserve funds, amounting to Rs.1,200,000, having been expended in respect of Iraq's share of the Ottoman Debt. Thirty-seven lakhs of rupees had been allocated to improvement schemes, and of this nothing was left. Only if the Government succeeded in raising fresh revenue in the coming year could any fresh development undertakings be considered.

The Jidda Conference.

Taufiq Beg Suwaidi, Minister of Education, with the two other members of the Iraq delegation, left Baghdad by air this week for Port Said, on their way to attend the resumed Jidda Conference. The Government of Iraq is taking its part in the negotiations in a spirit of conciliation, and hopes are entertained here of a successful issue. The appointment is expected of an Iraqi Diplomatic

Agent at Riyadh, and of a Najdi in Baghdad. In the absence of Taufiq Beg, the Minister of Justice (Daud Beg Haidari) will officiate at the Ministry of Education.

The Locust Menace.

The Union of South Africa has lent to the Iraq Government its Chief Locust Officer, Mr. R. H. Williams, "in order that he might be in a position to recommend suitable measures for the extermination of the pests, or, if that were not possible, measures which would result in a diminution of the damage which is done to growing crops in Northern Iraq." Mr. Williams has now completed a careful inspection of the locust-infested districts and the breeding areas, and has issued a report: "Suggested Methods of Control of Locusts in Iraq," which is obtainable from the Ministry of Agriculture.

The ideal scheme for locust prevention would be, Mr. Williams suggests, the establishment of one Locust Department for the whole of the Middle East, the countries concerned contributing to a common fund and promulgating common regulations for uniform methods of destruction. Unfortunately such a plan is not at present practicable, but the appointment of an advisory Locust Officer for the Middle East is recommended; his duties would be to "visit the countries concerned; carry on locust propaganda methods, and demonstrate to the authorities the latest destruction methods, and endeavour to get them adopted generally. Further, as the first step towards general combined action, he should aim at co-operation along the frontiers."

In the meantime several practical steps are recommended to the consideration of the Iraq Government; chief among these are the amendment of the law so that the onus of locust destruction is placed on the legal occupiers of the land, the formation of a Locust Department under the Ministry of Agriculture, with an officer in charge. In view of the extreme importance of this question to the whole country, every touring official of the Government, of whatever Department, should make a point of assisting the Locust Department by inquiring for and transmitting information in connexion with locusts. Mr. Williams considers the use of aeroplanes for scouting and poisoning purposes uneconomical and to some extent dangerous to stock, while ploughing he stigmatises as primitive and amateurish. Only a method which accounts for practically every locust in a swarm can be considered effective, and for this spraying with arsenite of soda solution is recommended, especially where—as largely in Iraq—motor sprays can be used.

Electricity in Baghdad.

Under the new Baghdad Electric Tramways and Lighting Concession, a maximum price of eight annas a unit is to be charged to consumers. This apparently high price is causing very unfavourable comment in the local Press, which thinks that a charge of four annas a unit would give a vast profit to the concessionaires. The difficulty lies in Baghdad's very low consumption of electricity. Costly machinery has to be installed and kept constantly working, but in winter except for three or four hours in the evenings only a very small amount of current is consumed, while in summer the Baghdadis spend twelve out of the 24 hours on their roofs, where they use neither light nor fans. As the town as yet has no large manufacturing industry, there is no demand for electricity on a big scale. In order to increase the consumption of units, it is in the Company's interest to lower the price as soon as this is economically possible. Current is already supplied to Government offices (which consume over 50 per cent.

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of the electricity used in Baghdad) at a reduced rate; moreover, half the Company's profits go to the Iraq Government.

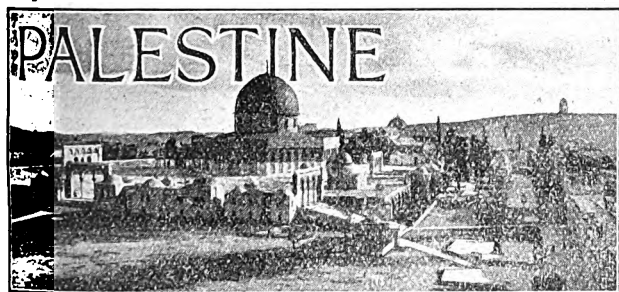
General News.

Two cases of armed robbery occurred near Baghdad during the past month, and the fact that the criminals on both occasions were traced and arrested within a few days reflects great credit on the police force. In the first case, a man and a child were seriously assaulted and robbed of clothing and money on the desert road outside Kadhima; five men were arrested, and the clothing recovered. Of the three Arabs concerned in the second affair, an attempt at theft from the tents of the Masahala tribe in the Yusifiyah area, one was shot dead by the tribesmen, and the others have since been arrested.

On receiving a protest from the Iraq Government on the cutting off of the drinking-water supply of the town of Mandali, the Persian Government took prompt measures. The officials sent to investigate reported that the inhabitants of the town lying opposite to Mandali in Persian territory had cut off the water without the knowledge of the Persian authorities. The incident was closed by an agreement reached by both Governments for the enforcement of the Frontier Agreement of 1914, and by a promise on the part of the Persian authorities that the water should not again be interfered with.

An accountant officer of the R.A.F., Flying Officer J. O. Morrison, was drowned on July 21 while bathing in the Tigris. He had passed the R.A.F. river test, but was not a strong swimmer; when only about fifty yards from the boat he sank suddenly, and was not seen again in spite of repeated efforts on the part of his brother officers. The body was recovered two days later, and was buried with full service honours at Hinaidi, in the presence of about seventy British officers, including the Air Vice-Marshal, who has just returned to Baghdad.

Ahmed Fathi Beg al Akkad, Secretary to the Egyptian Legation at Teheran, visited Baghdad last week. He was received at the Royal Palace, and also called upon the Prime Minister and the President of the Council of Ministries before returning to Teheran.



Jerusalem, August 4.

Departure of Lord Plumer.

This week Palestine has said good-bye to Lord and Lady Plumer, and said it with deep regret. The result of scanning rapidly conditions in Palestine in 1925, when Lord Plumer came as the new High Commissioner in

place of Sir Herbert Samuel, until to-day, and of comparing the sort of popular impression in 1925 of what Lord Plumer might be expected to be like with the impression that he is actually leaving behind him—is to place to Lord Plumer's credit a decided triumph, administrative and personal. In the summer of 1925 the Syrian rebellion was still a matter of serious concern to the peace of Palestine and Trans-Jordan; this was followed by the serious economic crisis within the country, reducing to a dingy pink all the rosy visions on which Palestine—particularly Jewish Palestine—had lived for five years; and there was also thrown in the condition of chronic unease belonging to Palestine's peculiar little political problem.

The prospect of a famous soldier well on in years taking charge after the suavity of a Samuel, did not seem promising either to the Jew, with his old instinctive horror of the heavy, unsympathetic military hand, or to the Arab politician, who himself had little faith in his sole weapon—a solid aggrieved Arab opposition—which for years he had used to counter the "British-Zionist-Colonising" policy.

The passage of three years, despite the disturbing interruptions of the earthquake, sees the prevalence of utter peace around us and within, guarded by an almost microscopic military arm; economically the country is settling into a condition which, if not noticeably fat, is at least of a healthy leanness, and its prospects are now reasonably secure if not fantastically enticing. In his personal influence Lord Plumer has shown himself to all sections of the community to be nothing of the imagined unimpressible military despot, but quite the contrary—a never impatient, always sympathetic, easily accessible, and unfailingly wise listener and adviser. It has been an experience surprising to many, who have taken to him their castles-in-the-air, to find that he has studied their scheme unhurriedly, grasped its most technical details, and detected just how far it could or could not be brought down to solid earth.

May Palestine continue to be as fortunate in its higher officials!

The Chief Secretary.

Our new Chief Secretary, Mr. H. C. Luke, has arrived, and is now the Acting High Commissioner. Naturally he has been warmly welcomed back by all his old acquaintances. The Arab Press is greeting him with a spate of "open letters," full of hopes for better days, and of advice on the best policy that a rightly guided Chief Secretary will pursue. *Al Falastin*, which is not too hopeful, writes:—

When all is said and done you are only a British official. The people of the East have become accustomed to regard British officials as dumb images, mere tools in the hands of the Colonial Office. But you we wish to regard differently, for are you not a man of intellect? And certainly the Central Government has seen some necessity for sending you here.

The paper goes on at length to describe how the Arab majority is oppressed by the Jewish and English minority, and calls upon the new Chief Secretary to take his stand on the side of truth and justice, and so become one of the great figures in Palestine's history.

Mirdal ash-Sharq contrasts the prosperous condition of the country when Mr. Luke was here before with its

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present evil plight. The paper asks but two things: to ensure justice in the country in every sense of the term, to do which it will first be necessary to reform the Government before any good can be expected to penetrate to the people; and then to put right the economic crisis! By so doing, Mr. Luke, is assured, he will restore to Great Britain that confidence which Palestine had in it long since before the War, but which it has now lost awhile.



Port Said, August 5.

Port Said has been very busy the last few days arranging for the passage of the two parts of the great Singapore Dock, which arrived in the harbour at the beginning of the week, towed from the Tyne by eight Dutch tugs. It is the largest dock which has ever been built, measuring 75 feet in height, 171 feet in breadth and 860 feet in length. The passage out here took about forty days, one section arriving a few days before the other. The journey was eventful for both of them; the first section lost two tugs in the English Channel, and the second section met bad weather outside Gibraltar, where, for three days the three tugs could make no headway against the contrary wind. The height of the dock makes it exceedingly unwieldy and liable to be affected by the slightest wind, and it is this which, combined with its breadth, is making the passage of the Canal a ticklish proposition, for there is only 15 feet clearance on each side. On Saturday morning at dawn these two great leviathans of iron embarked on this adventure of crossing the desert by a waterway, which stretches 100 miles odd from Port Said to Suez. Between 5 and 6 a.m. every boat and buoy were cleared to the side of the harbour and not a ship was allowed to move. There was presented, therefore, an unusually

deserted and quiet scene for one of the biggest ports in the world. But this hush in the harbour traffic was an effective stage-setting for the passage of these two great masses of metal. Once in motion, however, the first section looked very fine as it glided down the Canal past the town at the rate of about five knots. It took a quarter of an hour to reach the entrance to the Canal. Then suddenly the wind came, and, catching the towering walls, blew the dock nearly sideways on, but a strong tug of 3,000 h.p. in the rear managed to right it gradually by steaming backwards. The second section started about twenty minutes after its fellow, and it is not expected to get to Singapore till about two weeks after the other, as it is very much more bulky. As the two parts of the dock proceeded up the Canal they looked like two gigantic suspension bridges towering above the desert. Boats had preceded the dock at early morning and had removed all the buoys close into the banks, because the dock extends over the deep channel which is marked out for the big ships, and if it were not for the smallness of the dock's draught it would not be able to pass down the Canal; the twenty dredgers which are usually working in the Canal had also been moved out into the harbour some weeks previously.

All shipping has to be stopped while the dock is passing down to Suez, but the Canal Company have done all they can to stop the traffic as little as possible. The dock is making three halts. The first is at Kantara, where a basin has been especially dredged so that ships may pass; the two sections arrived there yesterday afternoon and they wait there the night while the ships sail by homeward bound. To-day the dock proceeds to Ismailia, to-morrow it should arrive at the Bitter Lakes, and on Tuesday its desert journey is due to finish at Suez. If the southwest monsoon is still blowing the dock will proceed to Colombo, where it will bunker. It expects to arrive in Singapore at the end of October.

The Political Situation.

With regard to the political situation, there is little doubt that the Cabinet's prestige is on the increase, especially since July 28, when about 150 members of the Wafd formed themselves into a pseudo-Parliament. The feeling of relief at the establishment of a strong Government is exemplified by the many deputations that come to see the Prime Minister at Alexandria from the provinces of Middle and Upper Egypt, which in many cases means a considerable journey. An article, too, has been published in the Wafdist paper, *Al Ahram*, by a Wafdist ex-Deputy in praise of Mohamed Pasha Mahmoud. "Not to take a pessimistic view," he says, "we should interpret the present circumstances as favourable for making a real step forward towards complete independence. Once we arrive at that goal it will be easy to obtain a Constitution that embodies real liberty. . . . Although it may not please *Al Ahram*, I have sent them this article believing that a constitutional régime is of no use so long as it is over-ruled by a foreign force."

GREECE.

Athens, August 6.

Brigandage in Epirus.

The triumphant tour of M. Venizelos through Epirus has been marred by an unfortunate incident. Two parliamentary candidates of the Progressive Party (i.e., Venizelists although not Liberals), M. Mylonas, a former Under-Minister of Finance, and M. Melas, a former Deputy, have been kidnapped and held to ransom a short distance outside Yanina on the day of M. Venizelos' arrival in the town. The incident occurred at a bridge, 13 kilometres north of Yanina on the road to Konitza and to Santi Quaranta. The candidates were returning from an electioneering visit to the small village of Protopappa. As the car approached the bridge it was held up by two men dressed in khaki, the passengers were made to get down, and were then conducted to a spot nearby in the bed of a

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torrent, where five more brigands were in hiding. The ransom demanded is five million drachmæ (about £14,000). If it is not forthcoming, the prisoners will be murdered. Their companion was sent to Yanina with letters to their relatives.

It is a sinister feature of the incident that it took place in broad daylight on a public road, at a spot where there are no trees and no cover of any kind and where there is a considerable amount of traffic: all of which shows with what confidence in their immunity the brigands acted. One only wonders why they did not kidnap M. Venizelos himself.

M. Venizelos and the Outrage.

The incident cast a cloud on the reception of M. Venizelos, who showed clearly in his speech how deeply he was annoyed. The question of public safety in Epirus has long been very serious, and he, if anyone, is capable of dealing with it. At Yanina he went so far as to say that he would regard it as one of the principal points in his programme, and if he failed in it he would regard the rest of his work as a failure and resign. He is known to be a man of his word, and thus, from the brigands' point of view, the incident is badly timed. Brigandage and politics have always been intimately connected in Greece, but the result, which was perhaps intended, viz., to embarrass his position and reputation, will certainly miss fire. It is more likely to increase his votes and, once he is in power with a strong majority, it will be a bad look-out for the brigands who infest not only this but also other parts of the country.

Brigands' Crimes.

For brigandage, though chronic in Greece, always flourishes most when Governments are weak. Latterly there has been a serious recrudescence of it. All the principal mountains of North and Central Greece harbour brigands, Cithæron, Helikon, Parnassus. Olympus has been fairly free since the rounding up of the Yakoulas band in 1926. But the whole of Pindus, especially the neighbourhood of Grevena, is full of them, and the peasants either support them or live in terror of their lives. The notorious Bambanis, who escaped after being taken prisoner on Olympus (he has scratched his autograph on a stone on the summit), is still at large. Between Grevena and Samarina a band of seven Albanians were working until recently, when they were surrounded at night by gendarmes, some killed, others taken prisoner and the rest dispersed. In the neighbourhood of Samarina a short time ago a famous brigand siezed two shepherds who insisted on grazing their flocks in a place of which he disapproved, tied them together, cut the throat of one of them, then cut off his ears and nose, and sent the other man back with them to the relatives, to show how he treated those who disobeyed him. A year or two ago seventeen gendarmes were shot by one brigand in two days. They are all buried in one grave in the cemetery at Grevena. The Petra crime, in which seven were killed and 15 million drachmæ stolen, is still fresh in people's minds. The culprits have not yet been brought to justice. In the same district an American archæological student was shot a few days ago, and it was on the Yanina-Santa Quaranta road that General Tellini was murdered in 1923. As these lines are being written, news has just reached Athens of another hold-up at Yanina. This time it is a local lawyer—the spot, very near where the two candidates were captured—the ransom, a million drachmæ.

The causes which contribute to brigandage in Greece were well analysed by the historian Finlay in an article contributed to the *Saturday Review* in 1871, and what he said then is substantially true to-day. He attributed it to feeble Governments, to the hard life of the peasants, which makes the life of a brigand with the possibility of getting rich quickly, preferable, in spite of its risks, to his own, to the complicity of politicians, and to the inadequacy of prisons, and the frequent granting of amnesties. To these may be added the romance that in many eyes still invests a traditional profession, the difficulty of the country, and the inadequate training of the gendarmerie.

The Gendarmerie.

As to the gendarmerie, the report of Col. Ring, who has been studying the question on behalf of the Greek Government, is particularly timely. It has not yet been made public. But its existence is a good augury that the country intends to tackle the problem seriously. The present writer, who has just returned from a tour on foot through the worst districts, can testify to the excellent material of both officers and men to be found in the gendarmerie. Their efficiency in action he had no opportunity of judging.

The Captor of M. Mylonas.

Since these lines were written it is announced that M. Mylonas has arrived in Yanina (rather tired and dishevelled but otherwise none the worse), having been released by the brigands in order to facilitate the collection of the ransom. The head brigand informed him with pride that he had twelve murders in one year to his credit, that his ambition was to surpass the record of a rival brigand, and expressed regret that he had not a photograph of himself which M. Mylonas might insert in the newspapers after his release. So vanity plays a large part in brigand psychology.

CYPRUS.

Nicosia, July 25.

Mid-Summer Heat.

Oppressive heat continues. Many visitors are still arriving, especially from Egypt. One paper remarks sarcastically that "the heat need not trouble our rulers, who, in the heights of Olympus, amidst cool and refreshing breezes, can work for our interests and progress. And we shall perhaps very soon be able to admire the results of their labours in the form of fresh taxes and burdens."

The Legislative Council.

The Legislative Council has been summoned to meet at Nicosia on August 7. The following have been appointed to fill the places of official members now on leave: the Rev. Canon Newham, Mr. Wilson, Chief Collector of Customs, and Mr. Montague, of the Police. Canon Newham will also act as member of the Executive Council.

Judicial Work.

The people of Cyprus are nothing if not litigious, and work in the law courts has often fallen into arrears, especially at Nicosia. The annual summer vacation of the judicial Department has been reduced from eleven to seven weeks, owing to pressure of work. The number of natives, especially Greeks, who have been called to the Bar in England, and are now practising in the Courts, is considerable. Another Greek, M. Lukios Zeno, son of



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an able advocate in Limassol, has been recently "called," and has returned to practise in the island.

Motor Traffic.

The number of private cars is being largely increased, and, as one result, various accidents have occurred. One benefit that should be gained is that important improvements will have inevitably to be carried out, in the widening and alignment of streets. In Nicosia especially, there is much to be done, in its many narrow and tortuous streets and alleys; and calls for action on the part of municipalities are now urgent; and must receive attention even if loans are necessary. Circumstances show that there should be no hesitation in proceeding to the task.

A Latin Bishop.

For the first time, at any rate for a long period, a Catholic Bishop has been appointed at Patriarchal Vicar: the Rev. Godric Kean. He was partly educated at the University of Fribourg. He served as chaplain in the late War in France, Egypt, and Palestine, and in 1923 became chaplain to the Catholic Patriarch in Jerusalem.

M. STEPAN RADITCH.

With the death of M. Stepan Raditch, who was wounded in the Skupshtina on June 20, and, after making apparently a complete recovery, succumbed on August 8 to the effects of the wound on his general health, passes the outstanding figure in Croatian history since the War. Born in 1871 of peasant parents in a Croatian village, he gave early proof of the driving force in him by achieving an adequate education, in spite of the handicaps of poverty and exceptional short-sight. He studied at Zagreb and at Prague, and at the age of 25 years finished his education in Paris. Before then, however, he had attracted attention in Austria-Hungary as a Croat leader uncompromisingly hostile to all Magyar attempts to denationalize the Slavs. In 1904 he founded the Croat Peasant Party and became a prominent figure in the Provincial Parliament of Croatia. During the War he remained loyal to the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy, but when the Croatian National Council voted for union with Serbia he urged the creation of a Croat republic. He persisted in his republican views to the extent of boycotting at first, with his party, the Skupshtina. In 1923 he left Yugoslavia to escape arrest; a few months were spent in London, and after a visit to Vienna, he proceeded to Moscow. His return to Yugoslavia in 1924 was followed by a formal declaration in favour of the Third International, and M. Raditch was thereupon arrested and sentenced to imprisonment. At the end of six months his views had undergone a complete change. Speaking on his behalf, his nephew, M. Pavle Raditch, who was also shot in the Skupshtina and died almost immediately, announced that the Party accepted the Monarchy in Yugoslavia and recognised the Constitution. M. Raditch was liberated and before the end of 1925 had entered a Coalition Government under M. Pashitch, becoming Minister of Education. He displayed little sense of ministerial responsibility, for his speeches were as violent and indiscreet as ever, and in April 1926 he left the Cabinet.

From that date until the outrages of June 20 he maintained unrelenting opposition to successive Belgrade Governments.

M. Raditch must be judged mainly by the fact that throughout his career he retained the unfaltering support of his Croat peasants. Nothing that could be laid to his charge, if he was judged by other standards—his violence, indiscretions, exaggerations, contradictions and instability—affected his popularity among his own people. He commanded an inexhaustible flow of eloquence, whether on the public platform or in private life, and his effective and fearless baiting of Serb politicians and Serb officials made a strong appeal to the Croats. Neither in his acts, nor in his speeches, however, did he reveal any real constructive sense. His Croat patriotism was above challenge, but his rôle was ever that of a destructive critic.

NEWS IN BRIEF.

Slight earthquake shocks were felt on August 6 at Leninakan, Armenia.

King Alexander of Yugoslavia left his summer residence in Bosnia on August 6 and returned to Belgrade.

A provisional agreement between Persia and Sweden was signed at Teheran on August 10.

M. Titulescu's reappointment as Roumanian Minister to Great Britain was gazetted in Bucharest on August 11.

The Italian Government has conferred on Dr. B. Soucail, Director of the Veterinary Service of the Quarantine Board at Alexandria, the Cross of the Crown of Italy.

The will of Mr. Robert Earle Monteith Smith, M.A., LL.B. (65), of Cannes, France, and of Edinburgh, advocate, late of the Ministry of the Interior, Egypt, has been proved at £7,237 (personal estate).

Following a heat wave, with a temperature as high as 99.32 degrees Fahr. in the shade, a figure only exceeded in Sofia on two occasions since 1887, a gale was experienced there on August 6 with a heavy fall of rain.

Many speeches, including one by Nejati Bey, Turkish Minister of Education, were made at the unveiling on August 8, of Signor Canonica's statue of Ghazi Mustapha Kemal Pasha, President of the Turkish Republic, in Taksim Square, Pera, Constantinople.

Mirza Ghaffar Khan, Persian Minister in Cairo, left Egypt on July 31 for Syria on his return to Persia, where he is taking up an important post in the Administration. Before his departure, H.M. King Fuad conferred on him the Grand Cordon of the Nile.

Sir Walter Frederick Becker, K.B.E., of Villa Becker, Val Salice, Turin, Italy, and of Roquebrune, Menton, France, late Consul-General of Siam, who died on May 1, 1927, left English estate valued for probate at £4,588.

According to a Constantinople message the notorious brigand Halid Oglou Rizzo has been killed by a patrol of Turkish *gendarmes* near Mardin. Halid, who had crossed into Turkey from Syria, was responsible for many murders and thefts, and recently he robbed the post wagon between Diarbekir and Seerd.

It is announced that the exhibition of antiquities from Ur, discovered by the joint expedition of the British Museum and of the Museum of the University of Pennsylvania, which was opened some weeks ago in the Assyrian Basement of the British Museum, will remain open until the late autumn.

Mirza Abdul Husein Khan Taymoor Tash, Persian Minister of the Court, arrived in Rome on August 10 for some days from Paris and was received by the Persian Minister, the entire *personnel* of the Legation, the Foreign Minister, and high officials. He was received on August 11 by Signor Mussolini.

It is reported that a Berlin firm of contractors, Lenz and Company, has been given an order by the Afghan Government for the construction and maintenance of all railway lines in Afghanistan. The company will co-operate with the firm of Dyckerhoff and Widmann in the construction of the railways. Several German engineers are leaving for Afghanistan shortly to undertake preliminary work.

In response to an invitation from the Yugoslav Society of Great Britain to arrange an exhibition of British art in Yugoslavia, the committee of Sir Joseph Duveen's "British Artists' Exhibitions" have decided to make a selection from the works now on view at the Venice International Exhibition, which is due to close at the end of October. Exhibitions will be held in Belgrade, Zagreb, and, possibly, Liubliana during the winter.

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MOUSSA, THE SNAKE-CHARMER.

BY A. STANLEY PARKER.

Most visitors to Luxor know Moussa, the snake-charmer. Snake-charming, according to him, is in his blood, for his father and his grandfather and his great-grandfather and countless generations before him, had and exercised the power which Moussa claims to enjoy over all things creeping. Indeed, according to Moussa, a man who would catch snakes must come of a snake-catching family; snake-charmers are born and not made; the secret is one which can be handed down, but not taught. Moussa's young son, according to his proud father, is a chip of the old block, and bids fair to be one day the head of all the Hawis (snake-charmers). There is a story, and the visitor to Luxor will hear it, that Moussa's father, two of his brothers, and one of his sons all died of snake-bites. This, however, Moussa denies, stating that it was his grandfather only who came to an untimely end in that manner; and that was through a slip of the tongue, when the old man had grown old, and perhaps a little careless. When handling a particularly large and vindictive cobra, grandpapa, wishing to command the reptile to lie still, unfortunately gave him the order, in Arabic, "Eat me," which the snake complied with, to the best of its ability. *Si non e vero.*

So much for Moussa and his genealogy. Having previously made arrangements for his attendance, we took him in our carriage to an open piece of waste land to the south-east of Karnak Temple. Here he descended from the vehicle, and walked slowly forward, his nose in the wind, like a pointers, and his keen eyes closely inspecting the ground. On approaching a patch of date palms, surrounded by low mud walls, where, he said, there might be snakes or scorpions, Moussa offered to be searched to prove that there was nothing up his sleeves. The invitation, however, was declined, and we went on. Immediately afterwards, Moussa declared that he smelt some kind of reptile, and began a kind of droning incantation in Arabic of which a free translation is: "Oh, ye creeping and crawling things, I conjure you, by Shaikh Ahmad Rifaai, by Saiyid Abdul Daim, by Abdul Rahim al Kanawi, by al Ilfawi, to come forth. If ye be a creeper, if ye be a crawler, come forth. Come straight out. I adjure you to hear the oath and to come forth. Bismillah, Bismillah, I beseech you, by the name of Saiyid Suliman to hear the oath and to come forth. If ye be of the poisonous kind come forth. If ye be a creeper, come forth creeping. Come out, and peace be with you. By the permission of God, O snake ye must come forth. None of you can stand against the power of God. Come forth, in the name of the Saiyid Suliman, come straight forth and do not turn. Bismillah," and so on, endlessly, much of it sheer nonsense, with no meaning to it.

A few moments later, Moussa said, "Here is a scorpion," and bending down to the bottom of one of the wells, scratched the sand a little, and a moment later held up a wriggling light brown scorpion, about four inches from head to tip of tail. The reptile appear to attempt to sting its captor several times, with no apparent result. Moussa placed the creature on the top of the wall, spat upon it and ordered it to remain motionless, which it did until placed in the snake charmer's bag.

The incantation was now resumed, much of it unintelligible but largely a repetition of what had gone before, with occasional variations, such as "I conjure you, by the Shaikh Ahmad Ibn Talig, to come out on a holiday." Two minutes later the snake-charmer stopped dead. "I

smell a snake," and in a moment he was down on hands and knees feeling in recesses of the wall. An instant later he had in his hands part of the body of a speckled brown snake, which appeared to resist capture with all its strength and which could be drawn out only with difficulty. Eventually it was extracted, and proved to be a grass snake of some kind, about 3 ft. 6 in. long. Moussa handled the reptile with great unconcern, although he declared it to be poisonous—a statement which a very elementary knowledge of reptiles was sufficient to discredit. Moussa also volunteered the interesting although scarcely accurate information that there are in Egypt 366 species of snakes, of which some hundred are poisonous. A work of reference on local reptilia would have told the snake-charmer that he had overstated the number of kinds by 345, and that, of the twenty-one sorts, only eight are poisonous, and but two, the horned viper and the cobra, dangerously so. It was a little surprising that a man of Moussa's high-standing in the snake-charming hierarchy should commit himself to such obviously inaccurate statements.

Next followed a visit to an old rubbish heap, on approaching which Moussa declared that he smelt a very big and very poisonous snake. Sure enough, when he had climbed up to the top, he was soon on the track of something or other, and after much incanting and digging into the rubbish with his stick, he unearthed a large horned viper (*cerastis*), which appeared to be exceedingly vexed at being disturbed and which, making the horrid F-F-F-F sound which this type of snake produces, not (as some people suppose) with its mouth, but by coiling up and grating its scales against each other, struck out violently every time its would-be captor attempted to seize it. Moussa was anxious to impress his audience with the extremely venomous character of this snake, and the very wary manner in which he tackled it was the best confirmation of his words. Eventually he had it by the neck and, opening its jaws, pressed its fangs through a part of his galabia—doubtless to eject the poison. This done, the charmer placed the snake around his neck, where it seemed to feel quite at home. On being placed on the ground again, however, the viper was once more very active and very vicious and stoutly resisted recapture. Despite its struggles it soon disappeared into the bag, along with the scorpion and the grass-snake.

There followed the capture of another scorpion and another brown speckled snake, somewhat similar to the first, which was found in the wall surrounding Karnak Temple. It was interesting to see this snake, as soon as it was placed on the ground, disappear under the sand, not wriggling nor burrowing, but going straight in, out of sight. It disappeared completely from view in fifteen or twenty seconds, and to the untrained eye there was no indication of the snake's presence. Moussa, however, soon had the reptile out from its hiding place.

This concluded the snake-catching in that particular area, and a very good piece of work it had been. Three snakes, including one certainly poisonous, and two scorpions had been caught in exactly thirty-three minutes.

Next we went to the Luxor Hotel, and on entering the gardens were told by workmen that a large snake had been seen crossing a path that morning. Going in the direction indicated, we crossed a half-buried drain-pipe, ten or twelve feet long, and Moussa immediately declared that the snake was up the pipe. After closer inspection he stated that the snake was a long way up the pipe. However, after an incantation, which presumably induced the

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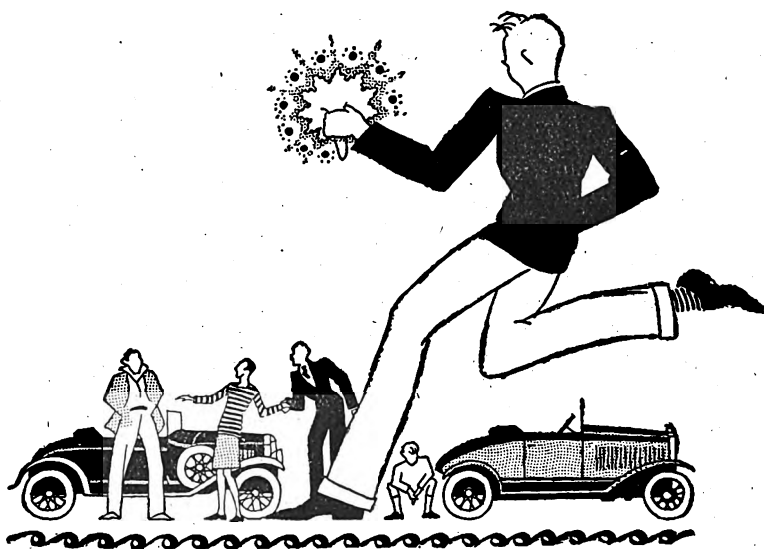
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reptile to come down, Moussa thrust in his hand and pulled out, by the tail, a brown grass snake, a good six feet long. Since it had been seized by the tail, the snake had presumably come down the pipe tail first—a surprising fact, if it was the case. Anyhow, Moussa did not explain.

Thus ended an interesting and amusing morning. Moussa certainly gives good value for his money, and he does catch snakes. In fact, he catches them almost too well, for, even in the middle of winter, when snakes are few and far between, Moussa never disappoints his tourist patrons. There is no doubt that Moussa is exceedingly skilled in observing the tracks of a snake, noting signs which to the untrained eye are invisible. In handling reptiles, too, he is remarkably expert. But that he can charm snakes it is difficult to believe, while still more incredible is it that he can allow snakes or scorpions to bite or sting him, with no harmful results. Even that, of course, is not impossible, for an immunity can be built up to any snake poison, by a course of small doses of the poison itself. This, however, is a long and tiresome process, to which Moussa would be hardly likely to submit. I am told, although I have not yet had an opportunity of testing the statement, that an examination under a magnifying glass of the stings of the scorpions which Moussa catches will show why it is that he can allow them to attack him with impunity. However this may be, it is a fact that Moussa has declined to handle scorpions which other people have caught.

Moussa at work is certainly one of the most interesting things to be seen at Luxor. He can be taken whither his employer wishes, without being informed where he is going, and, no matter where he be taken, can always find snakes. His system of working with his accomplice, or accomplices, whom he undoubtedly uses, must, therefore, be very clever and very carefully worked out. How many snakes he catches, other than those which have been put there for him to catch, it is hard to say. That he can catch snakes, real, wild snakes, is indubitable, for a considerable part of his living during the summer, when there are no tourists, but snakes abound, is made by catching snakes in the gardens and houses of residents of Luxor and the surrounding district. But in winter, when, relatively speaking, there are no snakes but plenty of tourists, he probably finds it vastly simpler to catch only such reptiles as his small boy assistant has placed there beforehand, with an agreed sign, indistinguishable to anyone else, to mark the spot. But, even if Moussa is mostly charlatan, he is a very clever and diverting charlatan, and a morning in his company is far from being wasted time.

NOTES OF THE WEEK

(Continued from page 186.)

Syrians and the Mandatary.

It looks as though the French authorities in Syria had got themselves into a tangle. Having permitted the formation of a Constitutional Assembly in Damascus, and having entrusted to a Commission from that Assembly the drawing up of a Constitution—we recorded last week some of the details of this Draft Constitution—they now, according to reports from Beyrout, have stated that they cannot agree to this Draft, because it runs counter to their mandatory responsibilities. It is stated that M. Ponsot, High Commissioner, requested the Assembly to modify certain of the "impossible" Articles of the Draft Constitution; but the Assembly spurned the request by 44 votes to six. Obviously, therefore, there are considerable difficulties in store for the French authorities, who have taken the bold but perhaps the only possible step of suspending the Constituent Assembly for three months. What else could be done in face of the Nationalists' insistent demand for control of the right to exercise martial law and of the direction of foreign relations between Syria and outside Powers, it is not easy to see. But it is a profound pity that the first serious step in Syria towards constitutional governance should so signally have failed.

PERSONAL AND GENERAL

TO-DAY

August 16, 1928 (New Style).

August 3, 1928 (Old Style).

Saphar 28, 1347 A.H., of the Muslim Calendar.

Ab 30, 5689, of the Jewish Calendar.

The Minister of the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes left London on August 8 for Switzerland.

The Afghan Minister left London last week for Paris. He is expected to return to London next week.

Sir Philip and Lady Grey-Egerton arrived last week at Oulton Park, Tarporley, Cheshire, for a stay of several weeks.

Lady Irwin left London last week to join her family at Garrowby, Buckthorpe, Yorkshire, where she will remain for about two months.

Lord and Lady Sinha left London last week for Switzerland. Lord Sinha is expected to return to London about the middle of September.

Field-Marshal Lord Plumer and Lady Plumer, who were passengers to England in the Mooltan, arrived in London from Palestine on August 11.

The Amir Ghazi, Crown Prince of Iraq, left London on August 10 for Paris. He was seen off at Victoria by Jaafar Pasha, Iraq Diplomatic Agent in London.

Sir Kay and Lady Muir are entertaining friends at Blair Drummond, Perthshire, for August 12, including Mr. and Mrs. George Whigham, Captain and Mrs. James Campbell, M. Guepin, Baron Chadenet, Miss Bell, Miss S. Bell, Captain and Mrs. Desmond Fitzgerald, and Miss Addison.

The Air Ministry announces that Air-Marshal Sir John H. Salmond will succeed Air Vice-Marshal Sir Philip W. Game as Air Member of Council for Personnel at the beginning of January next, and that Air Vice-Marshal Sir Edward L. Ellington will at the same time succeed Air-Marshal Sir John Salmond as Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Air Defence of Great Britain. Air-Marshal Sir John Salmond was the first Air Officer to command the combined British Forces in Iraq. Air Vice-Marshal Sir Edward Ellington was in 1923 appointed Air Officer Commanding, R.A.F., India. Since November, 1926, he has commanded the British Forces in Iraq.

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THE WEEK AT HOME

London, Tuesday Morning.

Unemployment.

Without any question at all the dominant issue at the present time is Unemployment. Industrially, things are very bad indeed. Since the end of May, the figures of the unemployed have gone up by 20,000 a week, and the total number of unemployed is now 1,300,000, or nearly 250,000 more than at this time last year. And when it is remembered that unemployment always increases during the winter, it is not difficult to see that the coming winter may be one of very serious discontent indeed.

There are faithful souls who believe that this curse could be modified by Governmental action, but the Conservative Administration, which is well aware of the criticisms that it will have to encounter on this subject of Unemployment, does not profess such optimistic economy. All that it is attempting is a form of palliative measures, appeals to employers not to dismiss men, a little emigration for harvesting in Canada, and, most important of all, the de-rating proposals.

It is practically certain that this cloud of Unemployment will cost the Conservative Party many votes, but whatever changes there may be in the respective strengths of the political parties, it is a cloud that is likely to hover over us for some considerable time.

Liberals' Wisdom.

There has been gaiety as well as the inevitable portentousness at the Annual Summer School of the Liberals, but it was sufficiently evident that the Party is in deadly earnest. It was made quite plain that the Liberals will never again yield such unconditional support as, for disastrous reasons of their own, they gave to the Labour Government in 1924. It was also made plain that these Liberals in congress were opposed to the power of the modern Government of forcing a dissolution upon any issue chosen. They believe that no Government should resign except upon a direct vote of no confidence.

These two dicta are very interesting in view of the next General Election, when, in the opinion of some observers, the Conservatives may be fewer in number than the Liberal and Labour parties combined.

British Agriculture.

Attention has before been called in these paragraphs to the plight of British agriculture, but the seriousness of the situation is brought out in an alarming way in the

agricultural returns for England and Wales which have just been issued. These figures show a decline during the past twelve months of nearly 200,000 acres in arable land, a general reduction in wheat acreage, especially in the Eastern Counties and in Yorkshire, a decrease of more than 21 per cent. in the sugar beet area, and a big falling-off in the cultivation of potatoes. I have mentioned previously the decrease in the number of sheep, cattle, and horses on agricultural holdings.

On the credit side are to be set an increase during the past year of 13 per cent. in the barley acreage, a slight increase in the area under oats, and a considerable increase in the area devoted to vegetables. It is hoped, moreover, that this year there will be enjoyed an excellent harvest. But one rather doubts whether the process of decay in British agriculture has not already gone too far. From the political parties there is no hope, because agriculture perhaps less than any industry can be treated as the sport of parties. If it is to be saved it must be by a national effort, and of that there is at present no sign.

British Athletes.

At the Olympic Games in Amsterdam the representatives of the Empire did far better than was generally thought probable, at any rate in England, and it was a distinct disappointment to have the United States victorious over the Empire at Stamford Bridge last Saturday. The American athletes had fallen so far short of common expectation at Amsterdam, that the tussle at Chelsea was looked upon with great hopefulness.

But, although beaten by eight events to six—and that very unluckily, as America would be the first to admit—the Empire put up a quite remarkable show, particularly in running and hurdling. Only one of the six field events was snatched from the omnivorous jaws of America. Yet it should not be supposed that the Americans are not also first-class runners: the contest was one between men who were fully aware of the sterling merits of their opponents. There is too much talk of the "machinery," the making of sport into a "business" on the part of the Americans. For they have shown great sportsmanship and friendliness and versatility.

The L.B.W. Rule.

The rules of cricket need no alteration. Such, at any rate, is the opinion of club cricketers, who, after all, are the backbone of the game. There is something wrong with the club which scores more than a few draws in a season.

In county cricket it is, of course, different. There it might quite well be a good thing to make things easier for the bowler. It is now being officially asked of County Committees, in fact, whether they are in favour (a) of giving the batsman out who would have been out L.B.W. but for the fact that he had nicked the ball first; and (b) of giving a batsman out L.B.W. to an off-break that would have hit the wicket but for his pads.

Concerning the first suggestion, it is a fact, I believe, that umpires can rightly give a man out L.B.W., even though he has nicked the ball—although they never do: and concerning the second, it certainly would rid the game of that horrible contempt or suspicion of the off ball, and the covering up with the pads, which has largely ruined modern first-class cricket.

The trouble is that you cannot make one set of rules for the County Championship, and another for the literal amateurs of the game.

ALTER EGO.

M. André Caloyani, Attaché to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs at Athens, has been appointed Greek Vice-Consul at Alexandria.

The Egyptian Ministry of Finance has approved the scheme, at a cost of approximately £1,500,000, for the construction of 100 hospitals in various towns and villages in Egypt, to be completed within the next five years.



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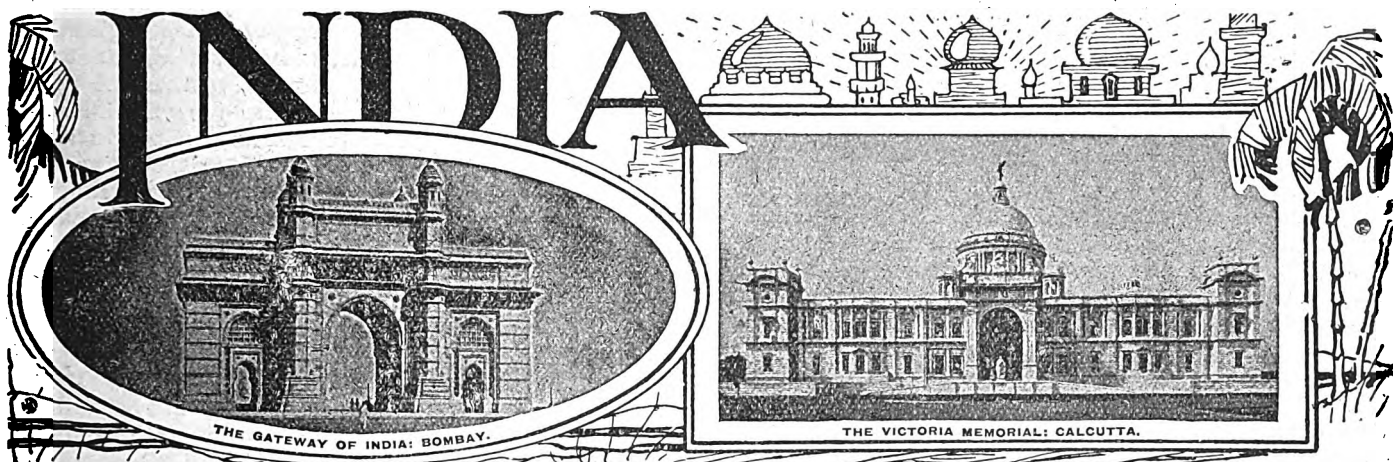
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INDIAN WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.

The Royal Commission on Indian Agriculture has done well to direct attention to the urgent need for standardising weights and measures in India. This is a reform which is long overdue. It has been talked about for many years, but it does not come; and Indian weights and measures remain in what the Commission describes as "a chaotic condition." This description is not a bit too strong. In fact the word "chaotic" is hardly a strong enough description of the existing muddle. The report quotes several instances of unnecessary complications created by the present absence of system. For example, in one district of the Bombay Presidency a single unit of weight—the maund—has thirteen different values ranging from $21\frac{1}{2}$ seers to 80 seers. It must not be supposed also that such divergencies are known in the Bombay Presidency only. The example quoted is typical of all the provinces, and the Commission rightly points out that "innumerable other examples of a similar character could be cited." Such a state of affairs is of course opposed to the interests of the cultivator, because it gives unscrupulous dealers and others most excellent opportunities of cheating him. Nor is the evil resulting from it confined to the cultivator. Commercial transactions are hampered by it, and it is in every way unsatisfactory.

For many years past the Government of India have been alive to the importance of attaining uniformity. Indeed, as far back as 1871 they legislated with this object in view. By the Act which they then adopted—the Indian Weights and Measures Act, 1871—the Governor-General is empowered to introduce a system of weights and measures of capacity consistent with a statutory unit, which is defined as being a weight to be called a *ser* and to be equal to the kilogramme. But no Governor-General has ever attempted to put the Act into force. It was hoped at first that the weights and measures based upon the statutory unit would be gradually adopted without intervention on the part of the Government. But this hope has never been realised. All that has been done is that the Indian Railways and various Government departments have adopted as standard the tola of 180 grains, the seer of 80 tolas, and the maund of 40 seers. Between 1890 and 1894 the Government of India consulted the local Governments on the question, and it was agreed that, as the necessity might arise attempts should be made to prescribe for particular districts, or groups of districts, standard weights and measures similar to those adopted by the Indian railways and the Government Departments. But when reviewing the question in 1913 the Government of India said that although some of the local Governments had taken action in this direction the then existing state of affairs was far from satisfactory. They were convinced that the lack of uniformity was seriously prejudicial to trade; and they thought that the development of commerce, and of railway communications, and the advance of munici-

pal and trade organisations had gone far to remove the objections which had been formerly raised to the introduction of a single uniform system. Holding this view the Government re-opened the question and appointed a Committee to investigate it.

The Committee made an exhaustive inquiry, coming finally to the unanimous conclusion that the desire and the necessity for the establishment of a uniform system were wide-spread. As regards the particular system to be adopted the members of the Committee were not unanimous; one of them advocating the introduction of the metric system, and the others the Indian railway system which is explained above. The majority likewise made recommendations for standardising various measures of length, area, capacity and cubic content. After the publication of the report the Government of India again consulted the local Governments, but no definite steps in the way of introducing uniformity were taken. And at the present time, as the report of the Agricultural Commission says, "matters remain much as they were prior to the appointment of the Committee." It is greatly to be hoped that the Commission's strongly expressed recommendation for a re-examination of the question with a view to action, will be accepted. Admittedly there are difficulties in way of the successful introduction of uniformity. But these ought not to be insuperable. It is possible that there might be some disturbance to trade at first; and the time would therefore have to be allowed between the prescription of the new system and its enforcement. The Committee of 1913 suggested that the change should be made gradually, the new uniform system being applied first to the large centres, then to the more advanced rural areas and finally to the less advanced, excepting for a number of years specially backward tracts. Under this scheme it would be within the discretion of the local Governments to select the areas and to decide when and how each advance should be made. The Agricultural Commission recommends that the Government of India should lay down general principles to which the provincial governments would adhere as far as possible without due interference with local trade custom. The Commission makes no recommendation as to the particular system to be adopted. There are two systems which have been seriously suggested in the past, namely the metric, and the Indian railway system. Opinion in India has not so far greatly favoured the metric system, seeing that it is not in force in the United Kingdom or the United States. But it is probable that considerable support would be forthcoming for the Indian railway system which is based on the tola of 180 grains. Under the system the maund would weigh $87\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. avoirdupois, or 40 seers. The only weight which is at present more or less generally known throughout India, is the tola of 180 grains, which is in fact the weight of a newly coined rupee. It is, therefore, as the Committee of 1913 recognised, a unit which is likely to be a reasonably good foundation upon which to construct a uniform system.

CURRENT TOPICS.

Wiser Counsels.

The news that the Bardoli dispute has been settled at the eleventh hour will be received with widespread relief and satisfaction. That the cultivators in a single district should have disputed the fairness of a land revenue reassessment and refused to pay the increased taxation demanded might not at first be a matter of more than local importance. But, as we have more than once pointed out in these columns, the dispute did not long remain, even if, which we gravely doubt, it ever was, merely a question of the justice or injustice of the revised assessment. It is true that Mr. Patel has always contended that "the Bardoli people are not fighting in order to have the right of civil disobedience vindicated. They are fighting by way of civil disobedience to induce the Government to waive the enhancement or to appoint an impartial independent inquiry." The distinction is a subtle one quite beyond our comprehension. And the fact remains that the Swarajist party, quick to seize the slenderest opportunity for retrieving its fading popularity, took early charge of the situation; and from the moment that Bardoli—no more harshly dealt with, to all appearance, than the neighbouring talukas where similar reassessments had evoked no protest—became the rallying-point of political agitators and all who were anxiously seeking for examples of British "injustice," the question became one of grave moment to the whole of India.

That the settlement should have been construed as a great victory for Mr. Vallabhai Patel and his party is natural enough in the circumstances. But it would certainly be more true to the facts, as disclosed in last week's telegraphic reports, to say that both sides are satisfied and that there has been a welcome, if tardy, manifestation of the spirit of give and take by all concerned. The Government, as the *Times of India* observes, "though slow to assert its authority, has upheld the administrative power, which is its sole function, and by getting the two main and original terms (that the whole assessment should be paid and that the agitation should immediately cease) accepted has shown that no form of civil disobedience can be tolerated even under the most distressing conditions." The cultivators, on the other hand, have secured their fresh inquiry, and to show that it is to be no mere formal affair the terms and the nature of the investigation have been clearly stated, although it appears that the actual work, which will be carried out by an experienced revenue official, with whom a judicial officer, as an additional safeguard, will be associated, cannot be commenced until the beginning of October.

The Hindu-Muslim Pact in Sind.

The feeling of tension between the two great communities in Sind is becoming chronic; but at present it is excited on the question of the separation of the Province from Bombay. The Muhammadans as a whole are anxious for the separation. They are dissatisfied because their share of official posts is so much below their proportion of the population, though this is chiefly due to their deficiency in education. They very genuinely fear that measures which they think necessary to prevent their ancestral lands from passing into the hands of their opponents, such as a Land Alienation Act, will never pass through the Bombay Legislative Council with its unfriendly Hindu majority; and they are also afraid of unsympathetic treatment at the hands of a remote Government in the distribution of the land and water made available by the Sukkur Barrage. The wish for separation is naturally supported by the leading Muhammadan politicians of Upper India, who desire to add another to the small number of Provinces with a Muhammadan majority, even if the new Province be relatively a small one. The mass of the Sind Hindus are, as might be expected, equally hostile to the proposal. They profess to be afraid of the probable course of action of a Muhammadan majority; they are genuinely reluctant to lose the strong position which superior education, and greater astuteness in the

Law Courts have given them; and they do not wish to lose the support of the Hindu majority in the Legislative Council of Bombay. There is, however, a small but intelligent minority of Hindus who believe that the risks of separation would be counterbalanced by the advantages of local autonomy, and of careers confined to local talent; and the minorities in Sind, such as the Sikhs and the Karachi Parsis, communities small in numbers but distinguished in ability and good sense, would probably welcome a separation, if the representation of minorities was ensured.

With such a sharp contest of opinion, it was somewhat surprising recently to learn that a pact had been arrived at between the Hindus and Muhammadans, agreeing to the separation of the Province on certain terms. These were, put briefly, that the local Council should be formed of Muhammadans and Hindus in proportion to the population, with a 20 per cent. allowance added to the representation of the Hindu minority; but with the proviso that the Hindus should vote in the election of the Muhammadan representatives, as well as in that of their own candidates, and vice versa. This last provision is a dearly loved tenet of the Hindu politician, who professes to see in it the antidote of the evils of communal representation, though to the ordinary person it would appear to make such representation farcical. So contrary is the Pact to the feelings of the majority of Sind Hindus that the suspicion is aroused that the Pact was dictated by outside politicians who intended to use Sind as a pawn in the all-India political game. Unfortunately, however, the Pact has had a very bad reception in Sind. It must be admitted that the standing of those who arrived at it did not command confidence. The Muhammadan representatives were a few insignificant ex-Khilafatists. The Hindus only represented one section of extreme political opinion. The names of the big land-holders, and of the leading business men were painfully lacking in the list of signatories. Both the Muhammadan and Hindu communities have been unanimous in repudiating the so-called Pact; while minorities, such as the Sikhs, point out that they are apparently to be entirely ignored under its conditions. The Pact, therefore, has not affected the question of separation one way or another. Yet the question is likely to rise again with increased acuteness; such subjects as the alienation of land held by Muhammadans to Hindu owners, and the disposal of the Barrage lands must bring it into early prominence. Probably the most suitable solution would be local autonomy with a local Provincial Council and a Chief Commissioner, under the benevolent suzerainty of the Governor of Bombay in Council.

Films in India.

Although comment on the somewhat divided counsels disclosed in the telegraphic summaries of the report of the Indian Films Committee must be withheld until access can be had to the complete document, the majority proposals, as outlined, make interesting reading. The Committee, it will be recalled, was appointed by the Government of India in October last to examine the present system of film censorship in India, to proceed from that to a survey of the nascent Indian film industry, and specifically to recommend what steps, if any, should be taken, in response to the suggestion of the Imperial Conference of 1926, to encourage the exhibition of films of Empire production. The personnel of the Committee consisted of the Chairman—Diwan Bahadur Rangachariar—three Englishmen and two other Indian members. The outstanding feature of the report are the rejection of any suggestion that special encouragement should be given to the exhibition of Empire films, the proposed institution of a Central Cinema Bureau with a non-official advisory Committee, assisted by technical advisers and staffs, and a somewhat grandiose plan for the development of a national Indian cinema industry. The latter scheme, which is based on that of the Canadian Government's Motion Picture Bureau, it is proposed, should be financed by an increase of 5 per cent. in the

present import duty on films, by a cess on the films exhibited, and by contributions from the Government of India and the Provincial Governments. The three English members apparently challenge the utility of the further suggestions that, as many Indian film producers suffer from the lack of adequate finance, they should receive assistance from public funds, that public bodies should be authorised to finance the opening of cinema halls, and that every cinema proprietor should be compelled to exhibit a proportion of Indian-produced films increasing in five years to a quota of 50 per cent.

CALCUTTA LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Calcutta, July 26.

Child Marriage and Age of Consent.

A meeting of the Bengal Presidency Council of Women, presided over by Mrs. P. Chaudhuri (Indira Devi), was held at the Y.W.C.A. recently to consider the Child Marriage Bill and the Age of Consent Bill, those children of Mr. Harbilas Sarda and Sir H. S. Gur. The principal speaker was the writer's old friend, Mrs. P. K. Ray, well known for her association in educational work with Mr. Gokhale, the politician who so often crossed swords with Lord Curzon in debate. Mrs. Ray, a warm supporter of both measures, "declared that all women's associations in Bengal should come forward and express their opinion on these matters, and thus help the promoters of the Bills in the Legislative Assembly." "There are provinces where girls," Mrs. Ray said in another passage, "though given in marriage early, are not sent to the father-in-law's house before they attain the age of puberty; but in Bengal we have no such restriction. If the orders of the father-in-law's house are not carried out, and the girl is not sent any time they like, the husband can marry again. Consequently the evil effects of early marriage is more pronounced here. Most of our intellectual men, and especially the orthodox communities, are against this Bill. They quote the *Shashtra* and prove that it is a religious mandate. They also impute that girls can only be kept 'chaste' if they are married early."

Mrs. Ray is herself a member of a community, the *Brahmo Samaja*, in which early marriage is unknown. It is all the more credit to her to advocate reforms affecting others. It is commonly thought, when people hear nowadays of such movements, that they are a consequence of the publication of "Mother India," and are a proof of the good Miss Mayo has done. The fact is that the movements were begun before Miss Mayo was born. Many years before she was born, in fact.

Government School of Art.

Mr. Mukul Chandra Dey, well known in artistic circles in London as a drawer and teacher, and more widely known for his work on the paintings of the Ajanta and Bagh caves, is the new Principal of the Government School of Art. His first disciplinary measures have provoked a strike of the students. One must wish, for Mr. Dey's sake, that it will soon be over, and indeed for the students' sake too. No worker in literature or art can point to a strike as the beginning of his success, whether it be one of the common kind, or a throwing of palette or pen out of the window in a temper at the insuperable difficulties of expression.

The Statutory Commission and the Anglo-Indians.

The memorandum submitted to the Statutory Commission by the Anglo-Indian community has now been published. A strong plea for protection and for greater educational facilities for the Anglo-Indians and those known as the Domiciled Europeans is put forward. The memorandum states that "no scheme of self-government can afford to ignore the rights of minorities and . . . the element of sentimental attachment and racial responsibility should help to reinforce the political plea for protection."

A claim for more appointments in the public Services is made. "We strongly protest," say the authors of the memorandum, "against the manner in which the policy of Indianisation has been manipulated to our disadvantage." That a fair share should be secured to the Anglo-Indians and the Domiciled Europeans one must wish, but that Sir John Simon and his colleagues should ever agree with the leaders of those communities upon the measure by which that share should be measured—is not that a thing beyond hope? It will have to be, one fears, a rough measure. The fact is that the Anglo-Indians' claim on England is morally stronger than their claim on India. England is their father; India their mother. Men look to their fathers to advance them in life. They do not look to their mothers.

South Indian Railway Strike.

The strike with violence on the South Indian Railway, especially as likely to interfere with the regularity of the Calcutta-Australian mails, is being followed here with no less interest than we showed over the strikes on the Bengal-Nagpur and the East Indian systems. The origin of all three strikes was the same—the need to reduce the workshop force, or lose the benefit of centralisation and more up-to-date machinery and tools. The railway workshops at Negapatam, Podanur, and Trichinopoly on the South Indian system having been found hopelessly inadequate to cope efficiently with the construction and repair of locomotives, etc., central shops were constructed at Golden Rock, near Trichinopoly, at the cost of some Rs. 3½ crores. These new shops will require a smaller labour force than the old ones that they are replacing. This has been known for some time, and all that could be done, as by securing voluntary resignations, to bring in the reduction with the least possible hardship to the men affected, appears to have been done. It was a reasonable hope that a strike might be averted. One has not been, however: the labour leaders had influence enough over the men in the shops, as well as over the station staffs, to bring about a general strike on July 19, following a strike that developed into a lock-out in the shops. There has been more determined violence, and more casualties in killed and injured, than in either of the Bengal railway strikes. The last news are that things are quieter, following arrests, including that of the president of the S. I. R. Central Labour Union.

The Belur Disaster.

The East India Railway offered the reward of Rs. 30,000 for information that would lead to the conviction of those responsible for the disaster to the Calcutta-Gaya express at Belur. Following sensational revelations in an alleged statement made by an accused, the police have made a large number of arrests. Abdul Rahim is the man's name. Practically the whole of the menial staff of Dankuni, the station next to Belur, has been arrested. There is to be a demonstration parade, when Abdul Rahim will be called on to point out those who he alleges were his confederates. The desire that the guilty should be laid hold of is widespread in Calcutta. It transpires that Indian children are commonly brought up to believe that, whenever there is a railway accident, the orders issued to the European employees of the railway will be to kill the wounded and conceal their bodies. One may meet a cultured Bengali who still says that, until after he began his professional life he fully believed such stories himself.

BOMBAY LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Bombay, July 28.

The Madras Constitutionalists.

The South Indian Liberal Federation, Madras, has at last decided to supply the Press with copies of the memorandum on Constitutional reforms which it had submitted to the Simon Commission in the last week of May. The delay, we are told, is due to a difference of opinion about the propriety of doing so, but the fact that others had

submitted copies of their memoranda to the Indian Press persuaded the Executive Committee of the party to forward copies to the newspapers. The aims of the party are laid down at the commencement of the memorandum—a procedure which the newly constituted parties submitting memoranda to the Commission would do well to follow, as it is not easy even for Indians to distinguish between the various parties that have sprung up during the last six months. "We accept," write the Constitutionalists, "that the ultimate determination of the time, the manner and the extent of the constitutional progress of India is entirely at the discretion of the British Parliament. But in the Bill that may hereafter be passed by the Parliament making constitutional changes in India, it should be recognized that it is so passed out of deference to the wishes of the people of India—so that the emphasis of the people might indicate the democratic origin of the Constitution and foreshadow its nature." The Madras Non-Brahmins are very anxious that a semblance of democracy should be kept up. The goal of the party is full Dominion status, "leading up to absolute equality of status with Great Britain." The members of the party wish to make it clear that separation from Great Britain is not by any means their desire. The demands of the party are the immediate introduction of (1) complete Provincial Autonomy; (2) the principle of responsibility in the Central Government; (3) a federal system of government for India, and (4) a declaration of rights. The party favours the introduction of bicameral legislatures in the provinces—a Legislative Council and a Senate. The Council will be an entirely elected one, while the Senate will in part be nominated. There will not only be the present reservation of seats for the backward communities in Bombay and Madras and separate electorates for the Muslims, the Indian Christians and the Europeans, but separate electorates, with separate electoral qualifications, are to be established for the depressed classes. In the Central Legislature the Lower House is to be composed on these communal lines and the Upper Chamber on a provincial basis. It is but natural that the South Indian Liberal Federation—which is not in any way connected with the All-Indian Liberal Federation, but is the party of the Madras Non-Brahmins—should be more anxious to provide for the interests of its own members than for the democratic principles of which it speaks so enthusiastically at the outset.

Two Pronouncements on Bardoli.

We have had this week two pronouncements from Government on the Bardoli problem. Sir Leslie Wilson opened the last session of the Bombay Council at Poona with his promised statement on Bardoli. Much was expected from this as His Excellency has won the hearts of the people of this Presidency during his Governorship and there is a general feeling that he has the welfare of the province at heart. The speech was a personal appeal from beginning to end, and Sir Leslie Wilson tried hard to convince his hearers that, in telling them of Government's determination in the last resort to use coercive measures, he was not holding out threats to the people of this country. Unfortunately, Lord Winterton's speech, reported by Reuter the same evening, conveyed the impression that Government would "crush the movement if the conditions mentioned by Sir Leslie Wilson in the Council were not satisfied." Sir Leslie Wilson mentioned no conditions in the Council; he only referred to them. These I have already stated in my last week's letter, and the chief one is that before the inquiry is appointed the revenue due to Government under the recently revised assessment must be fully paid. Sir Leslie Wilson, speaking on this point, said: "This is obviously a vital condition, the revenue collection being a lawful and constitutional demand, the repudiation of which is both unlawful and unconstitutional." The members of the Bombay Legislature are faced with a problem which they have been asked to solve within fourteen days. However anxious they may be to satisfy the Governor, they cannot proceed very far without taking Mr. Vallabhbhai Patel with them, and Mr. Patel, on

the other hand, is not at all willing to accept a settlement on those terms. The situation is further complicated by the fact that the agriculturists are more likely to throw the M.L.C.s overboard than to ask Mr. Patel to resign his leadership.

Strikes All Over.

The workers on the South Indian Railway have gone on strike. It is regrettable, however, that they should have departed from the custom of the other strikers in other provinces and resorted to violent measures to gain their ends. Every other day news comes from Madras of the wreckage of some passenger train owing to the removal of fishplates by persons presumably among the strikers. There is a general demand that the strike should be brought to an end, and the workmen have alienated public sympathy from their cause. It is reassuring that in this crisis all the newspapers in Madras have declared themselves against the strike.

THE STATUTORY COMMISSION.

The following announcement is made by the Indian Statutory Commission:—

Arrangements for the work of the Education Committee, auxiliary to the inquiry of the Indian Statutory Commission, are being rapidly advanced.

The chairman, Sir Philip Hartog, has had a number of consultations with his colleagues, both Indian and British, and a scheme of procedure is under consideration. All memoranda on the subject of education received by the Commission will be considered by the Committee, and form part of the material for the review it has undertaken to draw up for the Commission, and it is hoped that the Commission will meet members of the committee, probably in Calcutta, in the month of January, after the Committee's review has been presented to the Commission.

The statement, it will be observed, follows closely the lines foreshadowed in THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA of August 2, when the work entrusted to the Education Committee was reviewed in detail. The scope of the inquiry is further explained in the minute of appointment of the Committee signed by Sir John Simon as Chairman of the Commission, which was issued last week for publication. The minute says:—

The Commission understands its terms of reference regarding education as requiring from it, not a general survey of the whole field of education in all its branches and aspects throughout British India, but a review within moderate compass, limited by the general scope and purpose of the broad inquiry with which the Commission is charged. The Commissioners therefore regard themselves as primarily concerned with education and its organisation in British India in relation to political and constitutional conditions and potentialities of progress.

It is in this sense, therefore, that the Commission desires the reference to the Auxiliary Committee on the Growth of Education to be interpreted. Subject to this, the Committee will be free to pursue its inquiries and to draw up its review in whatever way seems best to it.

It is the Commission's intention, without excluding such general evidence as it may receive on the question in the ordinary course of its inquiry, to set apart a portion of the time available during its next visit to India for the special consideration of that part of its terms of reference which deals with the growth of education in British India, and it will desire to have the review of the Auxiliary Committee before it in good time for this purpose. After the Committee's review has been received, and the Commission has had sufficient time to digest its contents, it is hoped that there may be an opportunity for the Commission to discuss the contents of the document, probably in some place in Northern India, with the members of the Auxiliary Committee, or some of them. In view of the great importance of the subject, the Commission desires to give the Auxiliary Committee the longest time possible for its work, but, on the other hand, it is important that the discussion between the Commission and the Committee on the Committee's review should take place before the Commission's tour of inquiry has progressed too far. For these reasons it is desired that the Auxiliary Committee's review should be in the hands of the Commission not later than December 15, 1928. The review will be treated as confidential in the first instance (it will, of course, be made available to Committees of Indian Legislatures collaborating with the Commission), but it is contemplated that it will at a later stage form part of the documents published as an appendix to the Commission's report.

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Tuesday Morning.

Yugoslavia's Position.

As was the case practically throughout the Near East, 1927 was a disappointing year for Yugoslavia. Broadly speaking, the Balkans are dependent on agriculture, and unfortunately last year's harvests were generally poor. The effect of this on the position in Yugoslavia was pronounced. Mr. Murray Harvey points out in his report on Yugoslavia, extracts from which are given elsewhere in these columns, that all branches of economic life were influenced and that both for the peasants and the small traders the results were disastrous. Naturally the trade statistics reflected the prevailing conditions, and for the first time for several years Yugoslavia had an adverse trade balance. If, however, the year was one of widespread depression it was not without redeeming features. Thus in a number of industries notable progress was made, a development of special importance being the advance of the timber industry. Vicissitudes such as Yugoslavia experienced in 1927 are inevitable from time to time in countries mainly dependent on agriculture, and, as Mr. Murray Harvey justly remarks, too pessimistic a view should not be taken of the immediate future. A good harvest can bring about an entirely opposite state of things, and, as I pointed out last week, this time Yugoslavia's harvest is uniformly good, and the large amount of cereals which will be available for export should go a long way towards helping the country to recover from the experiences of 1927.

British Trade with Yugoslavia.

Mr. Murray Harvey comments in detail on the position of British trade with Yugoslavia, and his survey is on the whole not encouraging. As regards manufactured goods generally, he points out that the bulk of the population neither appreciates the high quality of British goods nor can afford to buy them, and it is rather in machinery and technical material that a development of the British export trade to Yugoslavia is to be anticipated. The question of quality and price can be overcome, of course, given the requisite initiative on the part of our manufacturers. Their object is to develop trade, and if the goods they at present manufacture are unsuitable for a particular outlet, the obvious remedy is to provide goods which are acceptable. That the maintenance of quality is an outstanding virtue is not to be disputed, but there is such a thing as making too great a fetish of it, and if in any market quality is unimportant, then it is clearly sound policy to give that market what it wants if that is the only way by which trade can be obtained. As a matter of fact, from what Mr. Murray Harvey says regarding the falling off in the number of representatives of British business houses visiting Yugoslavia, it looks very much as if our exporters as a whole, as a result of their experiences, were paying less attention to this market. It is to be hoped that they will not persist in any such policy, the only result of which can be to give an advantage to our Continental rivals such as they would not possess if our traders cultivated the market energetically.

Bulgarian Customs Duties.

Bulgaria's action in raising the Customs duties, with the double object of providing increased revenue with a view to assuring a balanced budget and of increasing the yield of the revenues which are to provide the guarantee both for Reparations and the Stabilisation Loan, has met with opposition on the part of other countries, and identical Notes have been presented to the Bulgarian Foreign Office by the British and French and other Legations in Sofia protesting against the decision. The point raised is that the action is contrary to the resolutions taken at the International Economic Conference to which Bulgaria was a party; but while that is unquestionable, Bulgaria's decision, in view of her economic situation, is understandable, and the development rather serves to illustrate the difficulty in the way of bringing about greater trade freedom in the existing conditions. The demand put forward in the Notes that there should be exemption from the increased duties for those goods which at the time of the alteration were on their way to Bulgaria or were passing through the Customs is only reasonable, and it may be assumed that it will be granted.

Coal for the Near East.

Particulars of the tenders submitted for the supply of 140,000 tons of coal to the Egyptian State Railways are distinctly encouraging as showing that Great Britain is able to compete on very favourable terms with her Continental rivals. It may be taken for granted that this order will be given to this country. It is impossible, however, to generalise from this instance and to suppose that British coal can compete on equal terms throughout the Mediterranean. In each case it depends on what is required. If it is a question of the best quality coal then a British success may confidently be anticipated, but if that consideration does not obtain then our coal exporters may be at a disadvantage.

Imperial Bank of India.

Reference is made in the half-yearly report of the Imperial Bank of India to the money stringency which prevailed in India during the first five months of this year. The average Bank rate for the six months was 6.945 per cent., as compared with 6.508 per cent. for the corresponding period of 1927. The prevailing stringency, it is pointed out, was accentuated by Government requirements which were secured by weekly issues of Treasury Bills. The net profits of the bank for the half-year amounted to Rs.71,38,557 as against Rs.76,15,229.

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SHIPPING CONDITIONS IN TURKEY.

Colonel H. Woods, O.B.E., Commercial Secretary, H.M. Embassy, Constantinople, in his report on economic conditions in Turkey, states that there is little of an encouraging nature to report in 1927 as regards shipping questions.

There has been some attempt on the part of the Turkish authorities to reduce the delays arising from the various controls to which foreign vessels passing through the port of Constantinople are subjected, but difficulties continue to be placed in the ways of agents in respect to effective supervision of operations on the vessels of the companies they represent.

The frequent cases of loss and pilferage of cargoes discharged in the port of Constantinople have given rise to many complaints and to an increase in insurance rates, but the Turkish Customs and the Constantinople Port Monopoly have been making serious efforts to combat this practice and some improvement in the situation was noticeable by the end of 1927.

Another cause of complaint was the congestion which prevailed from time to time in Customs depots, but a solution of this difficulty has, it is hoped, been found during the present year.

As regards British shipping, 978 vessels flying the British flag passed through the port of Constantinople in 1927, as compared with 1,073 vessels in 1926, whilst British tonnage declined from 2,470,036 tons in 1926 to 2,075,018 tons in 1927. Excluding Turkish shipping, 15.5 per cent of the vessels passing through this port in 1927 were under the British flag, as against 18 per cent. in 1926, whilst on the basis of tonnage there was a slight decline—23.6 per cent. in 1926 as compared with 21 per cent. in 1927.

A total of 1,125 vessels carried out commercial operations in the port of Constantinople during the year 1927, the total quantity of goods discharged being 366,361 tons, i.e., an average of 325 tons per vessel. Of this amount 62,790 tons, or 17 per cent. of the total, were discharged from 235 vessels under the British flag.

The institution of port monopolies by the Turkish Government cannot be said to have worked without friction with shipping, as under the new conditions agents were deprived of the use of their own staff, of their lighters, and of their organisations. For some considerable time conditions in the port of Constantinople, wherein the first port monopoly was instituted, were unsatisfactory, the port monopoly being unable adequately to administer the monopolised services owing to insufficiency of lighters and of experienced tally clerks, defective administration and lack of necessary machinery in general.

One of the first difficulties arising out of these changed conditions was the question of responsibility vis-à-vis the

Customs in respect of missing packages. In the port of Constantinople, as in the case of other Turkish ports, packages are not discharged from ship's tackle on to Customs wharves. They remain in lighters for several days, thereby being exposed to theft. It was only natural that shipping agents, who previously handled cargoes and delivered them to the Customs by means of their own organisations, could no longer accept responsibility for packages being taken over by the Port Monopoly from ship's tackle and found to be missing at a later date. It was after repeated representations had been made that the Customs Administration and Port Monopoly were obliged to admit that, in principle, the responsibility of shipping agents ceased to exist from the time the Monopoly took delivery of packages from ship's tackle, but some considerable time elapsed before the Port Monopoly could be induced to put this into practice and to regulate the issue and prompt delivery of clear receipts to shipping agents for packages taken over by them.

There are still many difficulties with which shipping has to contend, due to police measures or to other factors. The nationalisation of port services as interpreted by the police and port authorities almost constitutes a barrier between agents ashore and their vessels afloat.

Conditions are unsatisfactory in other Turkish ports wherein monopolies have been instituted, agents being faced with the same difficulties as those with which agents in Constantinople had to contend, such as insufficiency of lighters, tugs and other material, responsibility for cargoes, etc. This is particularly apparent in the port of Mersina (an open roadstead), where a port monopoly was instituted some months ago. A settlement has still to be effected in respect to the shortage of lighters and to responsibility, both the Customs and Port Monopoly taking up the same attitude as the authorities at Constantinople before a satisfactory arrangement was reached in this latter port.

FORTHCOMING SAILINGS.

The following are the sailings for the Near East and India, the ports of departure and closing dates for cargo being given in parentheses:—

Anchor Line.—S.s. Castalia for Bombay (Birkenhead, August 25). (For passenger sailings and dates see advertisement.)

Anchor Brocklebank Line.—S.s. Mahanada for Calcutta (Birkenhead, August 30); s.s. Manipur for Calcutta (Birkenhead, September 6).

Bibby Line.—S.s. Gloucestershire for Port Said, Port Sudan, Colombo, and Rangoon (Birkenhead, August 22).

British India Line.—S.s. Manora for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, August 25); s.s. Golconda for Bombay and Karachi (London, September 8).

Cunard Line.—S.s. Bothnia for Gibraltar, Genoa, Leghorn, Naples, Palermo, Messina, Catania, Corfu, Bari, Venice, Trieste, and Fiume (Liverpool August 18, and Swansea August 21); s.s. Bosnia for Malta, Patras, Piræus, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, and Constantza (Liverpool, Glasgow and Swansea, August 25).

Johnston Line.—S.s. Kenmore for Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, September 1); s.s. Drömöre for Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, September 29).

P. and O. Line.—S.s. Ranpura for Bombay (London, August 17); s.s. Kaisar-i-Hind for Bombay (London, August 31).

Prince Line.—S.s. Egyptian Prince for Tunis, Malta, Alexandria, Jaffa, Haifa, Beyrout, and Cyprus (Manchester, August 18); s.s. Sailor Prince for Tunis, Malta, Alexandria, Jaffa, Haifa, Beyrout, Tripoli, Alexandretta, Mersina, and Cyprus (London, September 1); s.s. Algerian Prince for Tunis, Malta, Alexandria, Jaffa, Haifa, Beyrout, and Cyprus (Manchester, September 1).

Ellerman & Papayanni Lines.—S.s. Assyrian for Malta, Alexandria, Jaffa,* and Haifa* (Liverpool, August 18); s.s. Mardinian for Oran*, Algiers*, Piræus, Volo*, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, and Constantza (Liverpool, August 18, Swansea, August 18). *Subject to sufficient inducement. Cargo taken on through Bill of Lading to:—Algerian Ports via Algiers; Morocco ports via Gibraltar; Tripoli (Barbary) via Malta; Syria and Cyprus via Alexandria; Greek outports via Piræus or other convenient port.

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THE WEEK'S FINANCE.*(By Our Financial Expert.)**London, August 14.*

The Stock Exchange returned from the holidays to find business on the traditional limited scale, a further retarding influence being the fact that the week was near the end of a three week account. In many directions, however, prices were well maintained. In particular there was considerable firmness in the industrial share market, though gramophones finished weak after early buoyancy. The speculative markets also received support. Gilt-edged stocks were again inclined to be easy owing to the monetary situation, the market rate of discount being firm. The German exchange has moved to a point at which further withdrawals of gold in the immediate future are not expected, but the position in New York is not free from obscurities. Apparently a further effort is being made to curb speculation in that centre. There was no rise in the rediscount rate this week, but it remains to be seen whether a higher rate is avoided. Meanwhile, it is satisfactory to observe that the Bank of England has strengthened its position during the week, the proportion of the reserve to liabilities being $48\frac{7}{8}$ per cent.

The Rubber Outlook.

During the past few weeks the price of rubber has shown a considerable degree of stability and, indeed, there has been a slightly improving tendency. Demand appears to be fairly satisfactory, while London stocks have lately shown an appreciable reduction. The latest total of London stocks is 33,649 tons, which compares with over 64,000 tons at the beginning of the year; present stocks are thus not much above the exceptionally low figure of 27,972 tons recorded at this time in 1926. There is likely to be little disposition, however, to indulge in speculation, the fact that restriction comes to an end on November 1 acting as an effective brake. November will inaugurate a phase of uncertainty in the rubber industry. The market is taking it for granted that there will be a large increase in shipments from November onwards. The extent to which shipments will increase in the first few weeks of November is largely a matter for conjecture, since there is no entirely reliable data with regard to stocks in producers' hands. But even assuming that the highest estimates are realised, the situation is not without redeeming features. American

consumption is fairly well maintained, and apparently reclaimed rubber is being used somewhat less extensively. Moreover, the present price of the commodity is discouraging the production of native rubber in the Dutch East Indies.

Shipping Prospects.

The world's wheat crops are on a distinctly encouraging scale, and this fact is welcomed by shippers since it will be reflected in an increased demand for tonnage to ship the grain from the producing countries to the consuming centres. This demand, in fact, has already made itself felt. Freights have taken an upward turn, the "Economist" index number for July showing an increase of 2.66 per cent. as compared with June. The index number, however, is still below the level of January last. This should serve as a reminder that all is not well with the shipping industry. Recent statistics show that the supply of tonnage greatly exceeds the demand, with the result that freights have been forced down to a level at which they afford only a very narrow margin of profit. There are no signs that this state of affairs will be ended in the near future. There will doubtless be seasonal improvements, and there may also be a gradual improvement extending over a long period of time. Of course, certain companies, being more efficient than others, will be more fortunate with regard to earnings. During recent months share prices have been somewhat irregular, but the yields on the shares of the strongest companies remain modest. A good prior charge security is available in the White Star Line $6\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. cumulative preference shares, the return being £6 2s. per cent.

Brewery Company Results.

A number of the larger brewery companies closed their annual accounts on June 30. The first batch of results has lately been published and many more are due in the coming weeks. The returns at present available suggest that brewery earnings have recently been stable. In cases where increases are shown these are no more than might have been expected in view of the fact that the previous year's accounts covered six months of the coal stoppage of 1926. Have brewery companies, therefore, reached the zenith of their prosperity? A generalised answer, one way or the other, is impossible. It is possible, however, to draw attention to several factors which suggest the need for caution on the part of the investor contemplating an investment in this industry. Over a period of recent years the production of beer tends to diminish rather than increase. Clearly ever-increasing prosperity cannot be reckoned with. Again, it seems unlikely that any further economies on a substantial scale will be effected in production. Other factors also point to the conclusion that profit margins, though undoubtedly still generous in many cases, will not in all probability widen materially. The larger companies should not experience great difficulty in maintaining revenue, but the smaller companies are apparently less fortunately circumstanced. Finally, some investors allow a margin for political risk.

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British Consular Reports

IV.—YUGOSLAVIA.

The following extracts are taken from the Report on Economic Conditions in Yugoslavia of Mr. E. Murray Harvey, O.B.E., M.C., Commercial Secretary, H.M. Legation, Belgrade:—

A certain amount of progress was made towards the economic consolidation of Yugoslavia during 1927, notably in the virtual stabilization of the national currency; the transference of certain administrative functions from the central government to local authorities; the elaboration of a new law to unify taxation throughout the country; the development of certain industries. In a country so dependent on agriculture the effects of an abnormally dry season and exceptionally poor harvest could not fail to influence all branches of economic life; and many small traders, whose businesses had been founded during the post-war "boom," were unable any longer to struggle against the effects of the long period of stagnation, and succumbed; the number of insolvencies recorded for the year reaching the unprecedented figure of 1,060. For the first time for several years Yugoslavia's foreign trade showed an adverse balance. The peasants, formerly comparatively prosperous, besides being conservative in their business transactions, had also begun to speculate to some extent, usually in land or produce, and had been driven to raise money at very high rates of interest, frequently on the security of their standing crops. In many districts the results of this are believed to have been so grave that the Government is now considering proposals for a remedy in the form of a moratorium and the forced reduction of the rates of interest exacted, which in some instances are said to amount to nearly 100 per cent. per annum. The shortage and consequent dearth of hay and other fodder led to an increased export of cattle and other livestock which in the opinion of many has resulted in the too great depletion of stocks of breeding animals. There was also a scarcity of food in the comparatively unproductive districts of Dalmatia, Montenegro and Herzegovina; and it became necessary to vote a credit to provide relief in those regions. While there was no shortage of money at the banks, bankers are said to have experienced difficulty in finding sufficient sound business in which to employ their resources; they consequently were obliged to confine the granting of credit to well-chosen customers; and it is significant that only the smaller financial institutions found it necessary to take up the full amount of their credit at the National Bank.

On the other hand, the timber industry, which pro-

vides such a large proportion of Yugoslavia's exports, emerged from the long period of depression caused by exchange movements, and is making great progress; textile manufacture, fostered by a high customs tariff is rapidly developing, and other branches of industry which are prospering are mining, cement, leather, boots and shoes, beet-sugar and certain chemicals.

A great deal of building was carried out, particularly in Belgrade, Zagreb and Liubliana; the chief source of capital being the State Mortgage Bank which, utilising for this purpose the government and other pensions funds entrusted to it, together with the proceeds of a number of loans which were obtained in former years from Switzerland, as well as some from America during 1927, advances money on first mortgage to owners of real estate.

In spite of the adverse circumstances of 1927, too pessimistic a view of the immediate future should not be taken. Although a bad harvest has an immediate effect on general trade, the converse is also true, and a good harvest in 1928, would no doubt do much to remedy matters. It is, at the time of writing, too early to make predictions regarding maize, which is the staple crop, but present prospects for the earlier harvests, those of wheat, barley, rye and oats, are distinctly good, and there should be abundance of hay.

Foreign Commerce.

The year 1927 has been the least favourable for some years past with regard to Yugoslavia's foreign trade. In the three years previous to this there was a balance in favour of the exports, but owing largely to the bad harvest in 1927, exports fell to 87.84 per cent. of the value of the imports for the year.

Whereas the total value of import and export in 1927 amounted to some 13,686 millions of paper dinars it amounted in 1926 to 15,449 millions in round figures. There was a falling off of some 18 per cent. in the exports for 1927 as compared with the previous year, while imports fell off by only about 4.75 per cent. The principal cause of this adverse balance lies of course in the bad harvest of 1927, and the consequent shortage of grain for export; in addition to this the price of Yugoslav cereals was frequently above world market prices, which hindered their exportation.

Maize, in some years the principal article of export, comes only fifth in order of value in the list of exports for 1927, the value of the maize exported in that year having been only some 337 millions of dinars as compared with 1,338 odd millions in the previous year. The wheat

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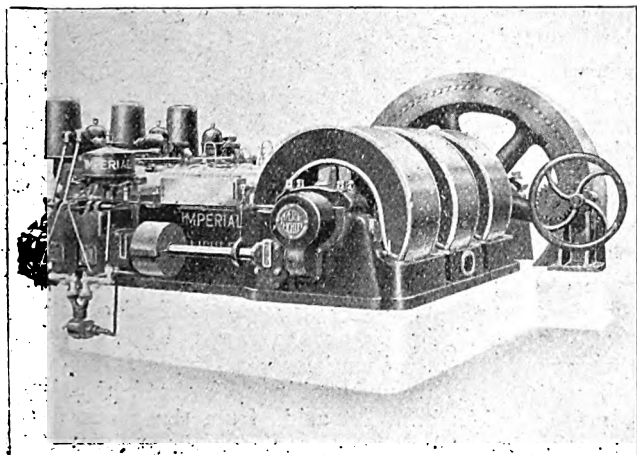
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exported in 1926 was of a value of 846 millions of dinars whereas the value of that exported in 1927 was only 195½ millions. Prunes, another important article of export, provided only 156 millions of dinars in 1927 as against 233½ millions in the previous year. On the other hand there was an important increase in the quantity of building timber exported, 1,150,071 tons being exported in 1927, as against 1,086,314 tons in the previous year. The increase in the value of the timber exports was, however, owing to the fall in prices, comparatively slight. The quantity of fresh fruit exported in 1927 also shows an increase over that of the previous year and there was also some considerable increase in the quantity of livestock exported, especially of swine.

With regard to imports, a falling off is shown in the amount of coal imported, due to the increased production of Yugoslav coal. The amount of textiles imported has also decreased since the previous year, which is no doubt partly explained by increased activity in the Yugoslav textile industry. Under most other heads, there is a slight falling off in importation. This is less to be attributed to increased production of the Yugoslav industries than to an actual decline in trade, due to decreased purchasing power. The trade balance, therefore, gives some anxiety, although much is hoped from the harvest of 1928.

(To be continued.)

The Persian Post Office, having exhausted its supply of the provisional air mail stamps issued last year, has had recourse (according to *The Times*), to over-printing a limited number of fiscal stamps pending receipt of a definitive series now on order. The overprint is somewhat similar to that previously employed, consisting of the words "Air Post" in Persian and French characters, together with the device of an aeroplane in flight, but with the addition of the value in English, namely:—3 krans orange-brown, 5 kr. dark brown, 1 toman violet, 2 tom. green and brown, and 3 tom. green.



The Postal Account

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NEAR EAST MARKET REPORTS.

The current issue of the Monthly Review of Barclays Bank, Ltd., contains the following reports:—

Egypt.

The three months under review may be termed the summer quarter, when business in all departments is at its lowest ebb and when the principals of many of the leading houses retire to Europe for their summer holidays. Activity, therefore, has been confined to the business strictly necessary to keep the wheels revolving. Cotton has been subject to violent fluctuations, as is usual during the growing period with its conflicting crop news.

The stock and share market has exhibited seasonal weakness and quotations generally show a decline. The growing cotton crop is the most favourable feature in the situation and reports indicating that the crop is making excellent progress and that no adverse factors have made their appearance, continue to arrive.

During April and May, the native holidays caused considerable activity in cotton goods, but the usual slackness at this time of the year is now being experienced. Throughout the whole period, the cereal markets have been dull, there being little demand for either local consumption or export. Stocks in all departments are steadily increasing, but the poor demand is keeping prices low. The market in gunnies has been very brisk and business in this article has greatly improved. The coffee market has also been satisfactory, the greatest demand being for Santos Superior.

The Sudan.

The most important feature of the period under review has been the continued prosperity of the motor trade, there being a large demand for vehicles of every description. The increased transport facilities thus created bring the more isolated districts within reach of the local markets, a factor which naturally reacts beneficially on trade in general and leads to a better circulation of money and to an improved distribution of goods.

Transactions in local produce have been held in abeyance, owing to exporters not being inclined to quote unless good prices were obtained and although the demands from importers abroad have been few, high prices were maintained, particularly in respect of gum, sesame and dura. The demand for tea and coffee has been steady and prices remained good. Activity in the various markets, however, is now falling off and business will remain very quiet until the harvests in December.

Palestine.

There is little change to report in the general situation in Palestine, and owing to the scarcity of money, many local merchants are insisting on cash settlement and are content with a small profit. The cereal markets remain steady, with wheat showing a slight improvement. The recent hot weather has caused some doubt with regard to next season's orange crop and, in consequence, prices are advancing. A marked decrease has occurred in both imports and exports, as compared with the same period last year. Although the general decrease in imports was only 1½ per cent., which includes all classes of goods, with the exception of benzene and fuel oil, the decline in exports was 11 per cent., mainly accounted for by smaller shipments of oranges, barley, olive oil and soap. The failure of the olive crops has made it necessary to import large quantities of olive oil for the manufacture of soap and this industry will undoubtedly suffer owing to the lack of the local supply.

The labour situation has shown great improvement, owing to the increased activities in the building trade and the planting of new orange groves. It is also anticipated that a new field of employment will soon be opened through the commencement of work on the Haifa Harbour and on other Government undertakings, for which a sum of £1,500,000 has been set aside from the proceeds of the Palestine Loan.

SMYRNA DRIED FRUIT PROSPECTS.

The outlook for the Smyrna dried fruit trade is summarised by Messrs. C. J. Giraud and Co. in the following report:—

Sultanas.—Estimates of the production vary between 43-46,000 tons. Atmospheric conditions during the past winter have been favourable, with a normal rainfall, and the grapes appear to be well developed and give promise of good quality. The yield is reckoned to be about a week late on last season, and first arrivals of new fruit are expected in about ten days' time. We give below the approximate figures dealing with the extent and disposal of the yield during the past two seasons:—

Shipments, Continent, 1926, 15,800 tons, 1927, 26,900 tons; U.K., 1926, 12,100 tons, 1927, 11,600 tons; sundries, 1926, 1,100 tons, 1927, 1,500 tons; consumed locally, 1926, 5,000 tons, 1927, 9,000 tons; total production, 1926, 34,000 tons, 1927, 49,000 tons.

For the purposes also of comparison, it may be interesting to note the average level of prices which have ruled for, say, our type No. 13 during the first four months of the season in the past two years. These are as under: 1926, per cwt. c.i.f., Sept., 53s.; Oct., 58s.; Nov., 57s.; Dec., 58s. 1927, per cwt. c.i.f., Sept., 47s.; Oct., 43s.; Nov., 41s.; Dec., 42s.

These figures are instructive in comparison with the current quotations of to-day for type No. 13 which we are at present quoting for September shipment at 39s. c.i.f. London, or Fls. 47 c.i.f. Continent, for October shipment at 38s. c.i.f. London or Fls. 36 c.i.f. Continent.

The lower values now being quoted for Smyrna sultanas are due to the pressure of Californian competition, the effect of which is being reflected in the reduced volume of business which has so far been done for forward delivery. It is estimated that barely 5,000 tons have been sold forward for August to October shipment as opposed to 10-12,000 tons commitments to the like date during the past two seasons.

Another point which should be noted is the annually increasing quantity of sultanas required by the Turkish Alcohol Monopoly. With the installation of new distilleries in different part of the country, it is reckoned that the wants of the Monopoly during the coming year are likely to absorb 14-15,000 tons of dried fruits of various descriptions.

Figs.—Present forecasts estimate the growing crop as likely to yield approximately last year's quantity (22,000 tons). On the other hand, owing to the abundant rainfall we have had this winter, the fruit is reported to be well developed and of better quality than last year.

Mr. H. K. M. Kindersley, of Messrs. Lazard Bros. and Co., has been elected a director of the Royal Exchange Assurance.

INCREASE IN CYPRUS IMPORTS.

The report on Cyprus trade in June shows that the value of imports during the month under review was £144,855, £13,167 more than for June, 1927, and £38,229 more than the quinquennial average. With the exception of a large consignment of Roumanian timber (2,394 cub. metres), which was landed at Limassol, the increase is general. The annual importation of chemical manures commenced with consignments from Greece and Holland.

The export trade at £110,643, while showing an increase of £17,374 over the quinquennial average, is £18,272 lower than that of June, 1927. The reason for this decrease is that certain items, e.g., beans and peas, barley, oranges, sumac and terra umbra, valued at £17,044, last year exported in June, were this year shipped in May.

Nearly 2,000 tons of asbestos were exported during the month under review. Shipments of potatoes were not so good as in 1927. The fact that neighbouring countries are increasing their production of potatoes may continue to have an adverse effect on local exports under this head.

Shipping maintained a good average level.

AMERICA AND MOSUL OIL.

The announcement was forthcoming last week that negotiations have now been concluded for the participation by representative American oil interests in the Turkish Petroleum Company, which has a concession for the development of the oil resources of the Baghdad and Mosul vilayets of Iraq.

The shares in the Turkish Petroleum Company will in future be held as follows: D'Arcy Exploration Company (Anglo-Persian Oil Company) 23.75 per cent.; Anglo-Saxon Petroleum (Royal Dutch Shell Group) 23.75 per cent.; Compagnie Francaise des Petroles (French Group) 23.75 per cent.; Near East Development Corporation (American Group) 23.75 per cent.; Participations and Investments (Mr. C. S. Gulbenkian) 5.00 per cent.

The American group, represented by the Near East Development Corporation, is composed of the following companies: Standard Oil Company (New Jersey), Standard Oil Company of New York, Atlantic Refining Company, Pan American Petroleum and Transport Company and Gulf Oil Corporation (of Pennsylvania).

Steaua Romana (British), Limited, are advised that the production of the Steaua Romana Company, Bucharest, for July was 54,900 tons.

A Cairo message states that the Egyptian State Railways have received 14 tenders for the supply of 140,000 tons of coal. The lowest tender was submitted by Messrs. Watts Watts, namely, 22s. 4d. for Northumberland coal. Messrs. Benyons quoted the lowest price for Welsh coal at 26s. 9d. Germany quoted 27s. 7d. for Rhenish-Westphalian coal.

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Cotton and Cotton Goods.

THE LIVERPOOL COTTON MARKET.

Messrs. Reynolds and Gibson report as follows for the week ended August 8:—

Egyptian Futures.—Sakel Contract.—A further substantial drop in values has again to be recorded, and on the eve of the first Bureau report the market finds itself in a more nervous and expectant state than has been the case for a long time past.

We ourselves find it difficult to believe that the decline has not been overdone, for, apart altogether from reports of bad trade, buyers the whole world over have been holding aloof during the last few weeks, until this report is out of the way. The flood of "bearish" crop estimates which have been received from America during the past week, has succeeded in completely occupying attention to the exclusion of all other crop news and, with the exception of a temporary reaction last Wednesday, following the settlement of the Ramsey Mill dispute, prices have sagged steadily. Fixing of "on call" cotton, which has been steadily increasing, has never been of sufficient weight to arrest the decline more than temporarily, and the same remark applies to covering by professional "shorts." It is probable that the amount of covering will increase to-day, and that the market will show a steadier tone, for so great is the uncertainty of the coming report, few but the very boldest operators will care to retain an open interest.

Perhaps the most interesting feature of the week has been the Egyptian Government's acreage estimates published last Friday. For several days previously advices had been received here preparing for a slight decrease in the Sakel acreage and an increase in the Upper acreage. The published figures were as follows:—Sakel acreage, 799,523 feddans; Upper acreage, 768,441 feddans; Various acreage, 170,538 feddans; total, 1,738,472 feddans.

These figures caused something in the nature of a sensation, both here and in Alexandria, and prices broke sharply. If anything, the weaker tendency was displayed in Egypt.

In spite of the continued poor trade reports an improved business has been taking place, both in spot and forward cotton, and we are inclined to think that once this momentous report is disposed of, a much more healthy tone will develop. Should it prove "bullish" we look for a trade buying movement of importance. If, on the other hand, prices are forced still lower by larger figures than are generally anticipated, we consider that the opportunity to acquire cotton will be taken advantage of by speculators and merchants generally.

At the beginning of August, 1926, when the prospect of a record American crop hung over the market, Egyptian Sakel cotton, November delivery, was quoted at about 14.75d. per lb. The Egyptian crop that year was one of approximately 8,000,000 kantars.

Upper Contract.—Business in this contract has shown slightly more activity and values have been largely ruled by the downward tendency displayed in other markets and the large acreage report issued by the Egyptian Government. No tenders have been made so far this month, and the near position has firmed up slightly in relation to more distant months. The premium over American has now come down to a level which many competent observers regard as attractive. At one time it dropped to as low as 225 points, and straddle buying against sales of American was noticeable at round about this figure. Fixing of "on call" cotton has been in evidence, and whilst our local trade has as yet shown no decided inclination to enter the market, a steady business has continued for export to America. We can only repeat that at the current levels the cotton looks cheap.

Egyptian Spot.—The improvement in the demand for spot Egyptian has been maintained during the four business days under review, but a further reduction in values has taken place. This is not surprising, in view of the weakness displayed in the various futures markets and the excellent crop report published by the Alexandria General Produce Association on the 6th inst., which latter report followed closely on the increased acreage figures previously published by the Government.

The trade generally has shown a disposition to await to-day's Bureau report before committing themselves, but, in spite of this rather natural inclination, the drop in prices has induced a certain amount of covering by spinners and the basis (for all cotton quoted in this manner) has been very firm. Advices from Alexandria have again reiterated the firmness of their spot market in spite of a dearth of business there.

The local inquiry for Sakel cotton has been concerned chiefly with cotton at from 300 off contracts to about 200 on. Qualities outside this range have met with scant inquiry. The bulk of the business

has been done in Upper and Zagora at from 25 off contracts to 25 on. The inquiry from America for this cotton, which has in recent weeks been quite a feature, has been maintained, and we learn from Egyptian sources that Alexandria has been benefiting in a similar manner. Approximately, a thousand bales have been done this week for export from Liverpool and certain qualities are becoming scarce. The attraction, of course, is the low premium over American at which our Upper contract stands, and the comparative cheapness of the actual cotton as compared with outside growths, such as East African, etc. The better grades have been neglected.

White cotton, Pilon, and Nahda have received little attention this week. A slightly improved business has taken place in the lower qualities of Sudan Sakel, but the stock of Tokar Sakel continues to increase, with no improvement in the offtake. Most of the recent arrivals have been of a very undesirable character.

One or two lines of c.i.f. business have been reported, but the improvement has not been of a general character. Forwardings to spinners, 3,356 bales Egyptian and 832 bales Sudan. Estimated spot sales (4 days), 1,900 bales Egyptian and 550 bales Sudan. Quotations of Sakel show a net decline of 45 points; those of Upper and Pilon are 60 points lower. F.G.F. Sakel to-day, 18.50d. F.G.F. Upper to-day, 12.90d. F.G.F. Pilon to-day, 13.85d.

THE EGYPTIAN MARKET.

The Alexandria Commercial Company, in their report for the week ended August 2, state:—

Since our last report the market has continued its downward course and prices are heavily down on the week. The week's summary of price movements is as follows:—Sakellaridis: November, 37.34 dollars, 2.21 dollars down; January, 37.55 dollars, 2.15 dollars down. Ashmouni: August, 24.28 dollars, 1.42 dollars down; October, 24.90 dollars, 1.55 dollars down; December, 25.27 dollars, 1.48 dollars down.

Sakellaridis:—Once again Sakellaridis has shown considerable weakness. Liquidation has been practically continuous and the drop since last Thursday is about 2½ dollars. From time to time there has been some buying on the reaction theory, but these purchases have been invariably liquidated the following day when it was realised that no outside help was forthcoming.

The demand has again been very poor, and, apart from isolated cases, it does not seem to have extended to new crops. In this connexion it may be well to remember that mill stocks are very low; with wretched trade reports constantly coming in, one is apt to regard the depression as chronic and to ignore the fact that demand is principally controlled by price. Prices have dropped fairly heavily recently, and with each decline the demand comes nearer. Whether we have yet arrived at a level sufficiently low to induce demand yet remains to be seen, but it is a factor not to be lost sight of.

The Government has this week definitely declared that it has no intention of putting its stock on the market during the present season; this settles a point which has long been in doubt.

The Sakel/Ashmouni straddle has narrowed in again to 1.24 points, and the tendency seems to be for a still further narrowing.

Uppers.—This variety has also been weak, but the decline has not been so severe as Sakellaridis, being limited to about 1½ dollars. Spinners' demand has shrunk still further, and even the interest shown by America has now evaporated. The American/Ashmouni straddle stands at 525 points against 588 points a week ago.

General.—The statistical position is considerably better on the week, and the local stock is down to about 1,500,000 kantars. However, as we pointed out last week, the size of the stock is no longer of importance, and from now on the all-important factor of supply and demand will dominate the situation. Supply will, within a few weeks, be capable of rough estimation, and attention must then be concentrated on the question of demand, in which connexion, we repeat, the recent decline must play an important part.

The week's receipts amount to 2,448 kantars, against exports 114,005 kantars; the stock in Alexandria stands at 1,536,137 kantars.

Spot.—The demand on the whole has somewhat slackened off with the fulfilling of the July commitments. Total sales amount to about 4,450 bales, of which we estimate 1,400 bales Sakellaridis, 3,000 bales Ashmouni and Zagora, and 50 bales other varieties.

Sakellaridis: There has been a great increase in the demand for this variety; with the small existing stocks of desirable cotton showing it would seem that export houses are no longer able to offer freely abroad. Sellers, however, continue to maintain a firm attitude and spot differences show no signs of easing.

Ashmouni and Zagora: There is always a good inquiry for cotton round about Fully Good Fair, but rather less interest has been shown for other grades; spot differences remain steady with an upward tendency. In spite of the approaching arrival of New Crop cotton, sellers do not seem anxious to dispose of their stocks.

Other Varieties: Practically no business to report; only one or two lots of Pilon have changed hands at about last week's rates.

Crop, 1928: Advices from all our up-country agencies are unanimous in reporting the continued satisfactory progress of the crop. In Upper Egypt the bolls are already opening, and picking will seriously commence in a few days in the southern districts. In the Delta the plants are maturing well and the boll worm attack is, for the moment, very light. Temperature is high and in favour of early maturity, but, on the other hand, humidity is excessive and if it continues so damp we may see some damage to the plant from this cause.

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*GOI-CONDA	5,316	Sept. 1	Sept. 8	Bombay and Karachi
MULBERA	7,275	Sept. 1	Sept. 8	Madras and Calcutta
MASHOBRA	8,288	Sept. 15	Sept. 22	Madras and Calcutta
MODASA	9,070	Sept. 19	Sept. 28	East African Ports
*DUMANA	8,600	Sept. 22	Sept. 29	Bombay and Karachi
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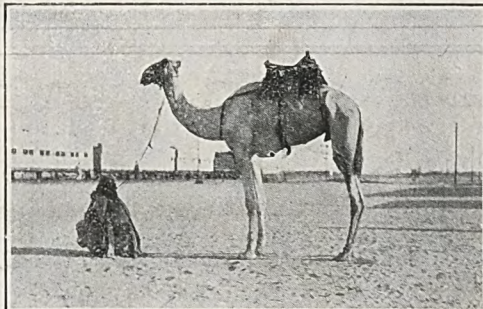
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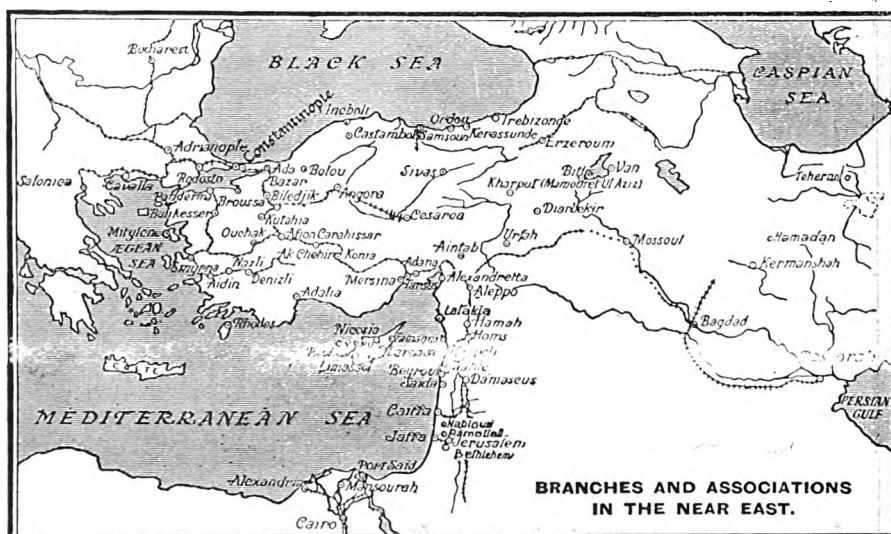
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The NEAR EAST AND INDIA

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Notes of the Week.

The Greek Elections.

Although at the moment of writing the final results of the Greek elections are not known, it is established that they have resulted in an overwhelming majority for M. Venizelos. This verdict, it is to be hoped, represents the considered judgment of the country and has not been influenced by incidents such as the mobbing of Opposition candidates reported from some districts. Greece needs a strong and a stable Government, but the interests of the country also require that the Government should carry conviction among the people. It is all to the good that the feeling aroused at first by the return of M. Venizelos to politics should have given place to the reflexion that the national welfare overrides personal considerations. The Coalition Governments of M. Zaimis were the first steps in the burying of the hatchet as between Monarchists and Republicans. It was found, however, that, although the Coalition spelt political peace, it was the negation of all concrete achievements in the administrative sphere. A higher level of patriotism has now been reached, if former Monarchists have decided that the country must, in the absence of any other strong man, have recourse to the one who was anathema to them previously. M. Venizelos will now assume power under better auspices than in 1924. His star may not be as high as it was, but he comes before the country with a definite programme, which holds out the promise of concrete results in the material rehabilitation of Greece.

Italy and Yugoslavia.

The ratification by the Skupshtina of the Nettuno Conventions passed according to plan on August 13, no member of the Opposition being present to vote against them. By far the strongest argument for their ratification was the fact that Yugoslavia had already received her share in the bargain, the evacuation by Italy of the last Dalmatian ports and islands. Only when the full text of these Conventions is published will it be possible to determine whether the Yugoslavs have been called upon to pay too high a price for the benefits received. At the time of signature it was supposed that the agreements

would insure correct relations, if not actual friendship, between the two countries, and this aspect of the bargain must have appealed strongly to the Yugoslav Government, when making its concessions. Friendly feeling between peoples, however, has to be based on something stronger than documents signed by their respective Governments. Italians and Yugoslavs have remained at arms' length, and it is significant that ratification has not been urged as a seal of friendship, but is regarded merely as the removal of one obstacle among many in the way of the distant goal of friendship. The boomerang effect of this peace weapon has been shown by the outbreak, a few days after ratification, of rioting at Shibenik (Sebenico) and Split. Anti-Italian demonstrations were staged at both towns and at the former the Italian Consul became the object of the crowd's attention. No serious harm was done, but the incidents, coming, as they do, on the top of the Croats' abstention from the Skupshtina, will be held in Italy to justify the very guarded reception accorded to the ratification of the Nettuno Conventions. In this matter of Italo-Yugoslav friendship the Belgrade Government seems likely to be ploughing a lonely furrow. In the face of Croat hostility it is apparently to receive no assistance from Italy. The leader of the Yugoslav Agrarians could well ask how the Conventions, which were being ratified against the will of a large portion of the nation, were to bring about friendship with Italy, which the Pact of Rome had failed to promote; and his question has to remain unanswered.

The Yugoslav Crisis.

The incidents at Split and Shibenik took place in spite of the orders of the Executive of the Peasant-Democrat Coalition that there were to be no demonstrations against the Nettuno Conventions. The Croat leaders appear to have realised that in the presence of much explosive material it behoves them to act warily. There is a section in Serbia that has not forgotten the success that attended the adoption a few years ago of extreme measures against the Croats, whose deputies were arrested and

imprisoned until the idea of co-operation with Belgrade began to appeal to them: The breach between the two provinces is, if possible, wider than it was then, and so far the Serbs have not shown any indication that they favour any less forceful methods of conciliating Croat opinion on the present occasion. So long as Belgrade is boycotted by the Croats there must be a danger that the Serbs may have recourse to drastic methods for terminating the crisis. That such a solution would bring about no permanent settlement would not deter the Serbs from attempting it. The Croat leaders, therefore, have to pick their way carefully, lest obstruction of the administrative machinery brings down upon them the heavy hand of the Belgrade Government. They may protest that their desire is merely to negotiate in the cause of good government, but the course that they have chosen promises to deprive them of any opportunity of opening those negotiations.

Bulgaria and Her Macedonians.

The British and French Governments have taken upon themselves a delicate task in making joint representations to the Bulgarian Government on the subject of the Macedonian Revolutionary Organisation. As far as Bulgaria can be held responsible for the activities of that body, the problem belongs essentially to the internal administration of the country. Interference from outside, therefore, can be justified only by the urgency of the matter or by extreme solicitude for Bulgarian interests. It is to be hoped that the Anglo-French *démarche* will have satisfied the Sofia Government on both these points. The dissensions in the executive body of the Organization seem to afford an opportune moment for winning the moderate section over to greater moderation by dealing drastically with the extremists, without incurring the reproach of hostility to the Macedonian cause. At the same time there can be no doubt that Bulgaria stands in urgent need of a loan, and no one is in a better position than the British and French Governments to know how susceptible financial interests are to the influence of disturbed conditions in the Balkans. The natural instinct of every Bulgarian Government must be to avoid, as far as possible, interference with the Macedonian problem; therefore, if anything is ever to be done, it may need just that small amount of outside suggestion without which no Cabinet in Sofia will have an inducement to take even the most obvious steps. Bulgarian opinion will be quick to note that the action of the British and French Governments has not synchronized with a complementary *démarche* in Belgrade; but it will not be

forgotten that representations on the subject of Macedonia were made some time ago to the Yugoslav Government. Conditions in Belgrade now, however, are not favourable to any constructive policy on the part of a Cabinet as precariously situated as that of Dr. Koroshetz. In these circumstances it would be a mistake for Sofia to defer action, if an opportunity offers of dealing effectively with the Macedonian Organization. The Bulgarians in this matter can be sure of one point: that Great Britain and France have no axe to grind apart from Bulgaria's own interests in supplying her with the stimulus required for eliminating the Macedonian extremists. At the same time they can derive no little amusement from Italy's unctuous rectitude in ostentatiously dissociating herself from a step which is taken for Bulgaria's good.

The Status of Albania.

After many *ballons d'essai* Albania, or at least those primarily responsible for her destinies, would seem to have decided that a monarchy is to be preferred to a republic. It has frequently been asserted that Ahmed Bey Zogu, like Riza Khan of Persia, would ultimately become the crowned head of the country; but so long as such a step was calculated to embitter Albania's relations with one or more of her neighbours, it was wisely postponed. Italy in particular was understood to be hostile to the suggestion, on the ground that Ahmed Bey Zogu's improved status might render him less amenable to Italian influence. If Italy's consent has now been secured, it may be inferred either that, with the success attending Italian measures of penetration, the attitude of the ruler of the country has acquired less importance in Italian eyes or that disappointment over Ahmed Bey Zogu renders the Italian Government less averse from the prospect of his becoming embroiled with his own people over an alteration of the three-year old Constitution. As far as Yugoslavia is concerned, the status of Albania is a matter of little moment, and, although the declaration of a monarchy would have been strongly resented a year ago, there is reason to suppose that Belgrade is now wiser, and will be prepared to accept any decision on the subject that Albania takes. There remains the point of view of the Albanians themselves. In the first place it may be laid down as an axiom that anywhere east of the Adriatic the republican idea is essentially of exotic growth. Circumstances may render a republic a useful *pis aller*, and in the first resort, under conditions of a virtual dictatorship, it may be worked successfully. With the passing of the first dictator, however, comes the question of a successor, and, unless the rôle of President is to continue to be the reward of military prowess, presidential elections are likely to entail political struggles even more intensified than parliamentary contests. A monarchy, with an established dynasty, provides an element of stability that a republic in the East will always lack. Albania, the least predisposed to republican ideas of all countries, may well argue, in view of her smallness and her inexperience in constitutional procedure, that she cannot afford to risk the constant danger of presidential elections being made a trial of strength for rival chieftains; and, as the first President of the Republic has so far outstripped all other potential competitors to be the only possible nominee for a native dynasty, she may hope to be furthering the cause of internal peace by seating him on the throne. Arguments in favour of the introduction of a foreign dynasty are unlikely to carry much weight in the face of the country's experience as a Principality in 1914.

The Hijaz Railway.

One failure of negotiations with the Wahhabis succeeds another, although it was possibly a foregone conclusion that, after Sir Gilbert Clayton had left Jidda in disappointment, the conference which was begun on July 26 at Haifa between British, French, and Wahhabi representatives on the subject of the Hijaz Railway, would be

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adjourned. The breakdown of this Haifa conference will have been particularly lamented by the Wahhabi representatives, who have long been waiting for the realisation of the Anglo-French agreement made in regard to the Pilgrim Railway at Lausanne in 1923. It is stated, in the brief report from Palestine, that the conference broke down owing to a difference of opinion between the French and the Wahhabi representatives about the scope of the negotiations, the Mandatory Power for Syria having come to discuss technical details only, while the Wahhabis under Dr. Abdullah Damluji wished to discuss the whole question of ownership and control. In this matter one can hardly blame the Wahhabis, whose theoretical basis of argument, founded on the joint Anglo-French declaration, was quite sound. Whether it would have been policy for the Wahhabis to have accepted whatever concessions were offered, hoping for a better settlement of the major problem subsequently, it is impossible at this distance from the scene of discussion to say. But it is difficult not to deplore the disappointment that will surely have been caused in Arabia at the second failure of Mandatory Powers to come to terms with the Keepers of the Holy Places. Had the British and the French never recognised the Hijaz Railway as a religious railway; had they never consented to the formation of a Muslim Advisory Board to sit at Madina, in order to supervise the Railway; had they never gone out of their way, so to speak, to meet Muslim sentiments on this Pilgrim Line, then this attitude of *non possumus* would have been easier to comprehend. As things are now, it is inconceivable that, however the Exchequers of Syria and of Palestine and Trans-Jordan may benefit, the good name of the Mandatories will be strengthened in the world of Islam.

Iraq and Najd.

It is very comforting news to read from Baghdad that the frontier situation as between Iraq and Najd continues to be absolutely satisfactory. Evidently King Ibn Saoud has given strict injunctions that nothing shall be done to inflame the delicate position in which things have been left as the result of the failure of the Jidda Conference. It is stated, indeed, that the Mutair, under Shaikh Faisal al Dawish, have actually returned the camels recently stolen by them from the Dhafir of Iraq; and Iraq in general seems to be fearing possibilities less than is her wont. As we remarked last week, the best that can be hoped is that both sides will observe tact, and that time will provide the solution. After all, there are in other parts of the world artificial frontiers across which migrating tribes have been wont to roam in search of sustenance; Iraq certainly has them on other fronts than her Najd border. As against this migrating habit the police posts which the Iraq Government have built militate in no real way, and one should not despair of the Najdis' ultimately seeing things in this light. It is a misinterpretation to represent the construction of these disputed posts as being in direct conflict with economic tradition and habit, for their object is to check illegal, not legal, activities on the part of the Iraqi and Najdi tribes. That there are arguments both for and against the erection of these forts is obvious to anyone who has impartially studied the problem, but an over-simplification of the case, such as this denunciation of the frontier as an unfair attempt to break economic and traditional customs, does not, we think, help to demolish the case which is being upheld by the British and Iraq Governments.

Alarmist Reports.

Obviously the deserts of Arabia, despite their disappointing sterility last spring, when busy journalists sowed abundant seeds of a "Holy War," are not yet to be treated by all sections of the Press as poor "copy." For already the word has gone out (from omniscient Jerusalem) that the "desert stretch south of Kuwait and north of Hayil" is "an armed camp," from which the fanatical Wahhabis are prepared, as a result of the failure of the Jidda Conference, to debouch on their unfortunate

neighbours. Not content with mere generalisation, however, a correspondent at Jerusalem brings in the slaughter of men, women, and children at the hands of the Wahhabis: the murdered innocents being said to owe allegiance to the Amir Abdullah of Trans-Jordan. Elsewhere in the Press we note references to the irresistible impulse of King Ibn Saoud's "expansionist policy," the inference being made that this feud with the Sharifian family is a factor greatly overriding such minor considerations as his pledged word, expressed in the Agreements made with the Iraq and Trans-Jordan Governments in 1925. It seems necessary, therefore, to utter a warning in regard to this very stupid Press campaign. So far, King Ibn Saoud is holding his hand, that is, he is restraining his *Akhwan*; and nothing could be more harmful to the prospects of peace in Arabia than to suppose that he is either unwilling or incapable in that respect.

Armed Forces in Iraq.

Steadily the issue of the nature and the composition of the military forces in Iraq draws nearer to decision. The problem of Conscription, which attained great prominence during the last Premiership of Jaafar Pasha, was shelved for a time, owing to the declaration by the British Government that British forces would in no circumstances be used to compel Iraqis to join a national Army. A compromise was suggested: that Iraq should pay the difference in cost between the upkeep of British forces in Iraq and their upkeep at home; this would have permitted the retention of both the voluntary Iraq Army and the Royal Air Force in Iraq. Now, however, it is seen that the Iraqis will not consent to such an arrangement, for the Prime Minister, Sir Abdul Muhsin Beg, has just disclosed in the Majlis that his Government would never consent to such a payment as has been suggested, and has made the counter-proposal that, if the political and economic interests of Great Britain in Iraq are worth protecting, they should be protected at the expense of Great Britain alone. Thus it is made clear that if Iraq is not to have Conscription, at least the British Government must pay for its own troops in Iraq. This question of armed forces in Iraq has to be settled one way or another during this present year, as has the Financial Agreement subsidiary to the Anglo-Iraq Treaty. The clear statement of Sir Abdul Muhsin Beg is to be welcomed, and it is to be hoped that before the end of the present extraordinary session of the Majlis further light may be thrown upon the opinions of the Iraqis on the Subsidiary Agreements.



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1878—1928.

For an event that was hailed at the time as a "glorious success" and a triumph of "the firm force of English resolve" the fiftieth anniversary of the Treaty of Berlin has been allowed to pass with what might seem to be unworthy neglect in an age devoted to celebrations. The passage of time, however, has not dealt kindly with that great landmark in the history of the Eastern Question, and the best purpose that its consideration to-day can serve is to provide a touchstone for a verdict, in the light of current events, on the attempt made forty years later to re-draw the map of South-Eastern Europe. The Congress of Berlin met on June 13, 1878; the last sitting, when the Treaty was signed, was held on July 13, and ratification followed on August 3. It is true that the Congress sanctioned the independence of Roumania, Serbia, and Montenegro, and the autonomy of Bulgaria; that in providing extensions of territory for these States it accorded recognition to the principle of nationality as no previous congress had done, and that it couched a lance for the principle of religious liberty. As an instrument of peace, however, the Treaty was not successful. Its failure, as we see to-day, was due to the fact that the Powers controlling the Congress could not bring themselves to regard the rights and aspirations of the smaller States as a thing apart, to be adjudicated upon without reference to their own individual interests. The security of Austria-Hungary was held to require the dismemberment of the Southern Slavs, and the security of India was supposed to depend on the dismemberment of the Bulgarian race. The great fault of the Congress of Berlin, as has been well said, was the failure to recognize that the peace of Europe is not ensured, nor the interests of any Power permanently served, by creating unnatural, unjust and intolerable conditions; the failure to recognize that even in international politics justice is, in the long run, the surest foundation of States and nations.

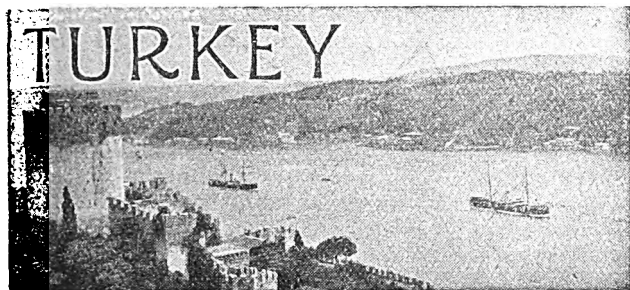
The first alteration of the Treaty of Berlin was effected in 1886, when the new State of Bulgaria, which had been restricted to territory between the Danube and the Balkan Mountains, annexed the Turkish province of Eastern Roumelia. Russia in the same year, it is worthy of note, denounced Article LIX of the Treaty, which had provided for the constitution of Batoum as a free port. In 1908 the revolution of the Young Turks led Austria-Hungary on October 3 to annex Bosnia and Herzegovina, in violation of Article XXV, and Prince Ferdinand two days later proclaimed the complete independence of the Principality of Bulgaria and invested it with the status of a Kingdom. Any sanctity that the Treaty of Berlin ever possessed, however, had already been dissipated by the

failure of Turkey to introduce those reforms to secure which, Russia, whatever territorial ambitions she may have entertained, made herself the champion of Europe's conscience in embarking on the Russo-Turkish War. The Treaty of San Stefano, which the Berlin Congress was summoned to tear up, had placed the greater portion of Macedonia under the jurisdiction of Bulgaria, to which by ethnical rights of priority it belonged. By the Treaty of Berlin the Macedonians were left under Turkish rule with the promise of a reformed administration. This arrangement gave rise to all the subsequent trouble that has made the Balkans a by-word in European history. The process of claim-pegging in Macedonia embittered the relations of the countries concerned; it was responsible for the provisions of the Treaty of Bucharest, which registered the defeat of Bulgaria in the Second Balkan War at the hands of Serbia, Greece and Roumania; it drove Bulgarians into the arms of the Central Powers in the Great War, and determined their fate in the settlement enacted by the Treaty of Neuilly. Macedonian unrest still continues; it has kept Yugoslavia and Bulgaria at arm's length and has played its part in the political unsettlement of Yugoslavia.

Ten years after the end of the Great War it is difficult to claim that the settlement which the Peace Conference provided for South-Eastern Europe is likely to stand the test of time any better than the provisions of the Treaty of Berlin. Like the latter the post-War settlement can point to its achievements in furtherance of the principle of nationality. If the Croats and Slovenes on the one hand and the Transylvanians on the other find that their incorporation in the national State has not yet brought about the consummation of earlier hopes, the fault does not lie with the framers of the Peace Treaties. The efforts of the latter for the cause of nationality, however, were unequal and were allowed to exhaust themselves on behalf of Yugoslavia and Roumania. In the light of experience it is easy to prove to-day that the Greater Bulgaria of the Treaty of San Stefano would not have been the menace to British interests that Lord Beaconsfield imagined at the time. It is equally certain that the fears of Bulgaria entertained by her Balkan neighbours nine years ago served to obscure their vision of what the interests of the Peninsula as a whole required. Gradually it is being brought home to each country that economic prosperity is of greater importance to the contentment of a nation than political catchwords. Fate, however, is likely to be kinder to the Peace Conference of 1919-20 than it was to the Berlin Congress. Where modification of its settlement takes place it is more likely to be by peaceful means than by violence. The course of events has indeed determined that the Macedonian problem should achieve the solution enacted for it only by the application of force, and it may now be doubted whether the material necessary for any other settlement, such as a Macedonia as a separate political entity, is still in existence. Bulgaria, it is true, remains without her outlet on the Aegean Sea, guaranteed her by the Treaty of Neuilly and required by the exigencies of modern development. She can, however, hope for a settlement of this point only by agreement, and to that end her general policy should be shaped. The lesson of the Berlin Congress is that, although treaties may seem at the time to represent the acme of wisdom, experience shows that they are of necessity imperfect instruments, the more provocative of evil and unrest the more they offend against the canons of impartial justice. It is unreasonable to suppose that the Peace Conference of nine years ago reached a higher standard. Common sense and self-interest require, therefore, that all concerned should keep a sharp look-out for opportunities to amend the weak parts of the later Treaties before they lead to the adoption of more drastic remedies.

*The Near and Middle East

From Our Own Correspondents.



Constantinople, August 15.

Latin Characters and Western Music.

The Constantinople sector of the People's Republican Party gave a *soirée* at the Gulhane Park Casino last Thursday night, at which the President of the Republic was the principal guest.

The Gulhane Park, which abuts on the Seraglio Point, the promontory known to every traveller entering Constantinople, either by sea or by rail, was at one time the old-world pleasure and rose-garden surrounding the Top-Kapou Palace, the Imperial Residence in those spacious days when Sultans and Sultanas preferred Stamboul to the more modern and Europeanised quarters of Constantinople. This little promontory is unique. Its stone façade and white marble steps are lapped by the blue waters of the Bosphorus, the Sea of Marmora and Golden Horn. Facing the observer there is the long unbroken vista of the green and chocolate hills of Europe and Asia divided by the sparkling waterway up which once ferried the Argonauts in search of the Golden Fleece; behind him rises the stately pile of the old Imperial Seraglio backed by the swelling domes of St. Irene and of St. Sophia, together with the graceful Corinthian column of granite which commemorates the defeat of the Goths at Nissa by the Emperor Claudius Gothicus.

The Ghazi, after being acclaimed vociferously by the Party members and their wives, rose to his feet and stated that, instead of making an *extempore* speech, he would call upon one of the younger members of the Party to read an address which he himself had been at some pains to draft. A young Effendi was called up and handed a sheet of foolscap. A look of amazement overspread his features. He hesitated and was dumb. The onlookers were non-plussed. Having taken back the document, the Ghazi explained that the address was written in the "new Turkish script" and he called upon Rifki Bey, a deputy, to read the message.

"Dear brothers," so ran the gist of the peroration, "it is incumbent upon every one of you to discard the cabalistic signs and letters which for centuries past have encircled our brains with hoops of steel. The whole world will shortly witness the results which can be achieved by perseverance and fixity of purpose. At the present moment close upon 80 per cent. of our population is illiterate. I earnestly appeal to every citizen to help in this noble task of educating the masses. In one year, or, at the latest, two years, every Turkish man, woman, or child the poorest boatman and *hammal* (porter) must be able to read and write in the new Turkish characters. Our nation, by its writing and culture, will then be in a position to prove to all and sundry that we are on a level with the rest of the civilised world."

Turning to other matters, the Ghazi went on to say: "To-night, by a praiseworthy effort, we have been regaled by exponents of both Oriental and Western music."

*Under this heading appear weekly or at regular intervals communications from correspondents in Egypt, the Sudan, Roumania, Yugoslavia, Greece, Bulgaria, Albania, Turkey, Cyprus, Palestine, Iraq, and Persia.

Munire Hanoum has given us a glowing example of the high level to which Oriental music can be brought. Nevertheless, this music, this simple, doleful music is not sufficient to satisfy the artistic aspirations of the Turk. We have just heard and enjoyed a selection of music of the Western World. You, who all appeared depressed and dejected whilst listening to Oriental strains, at once brightened up and smiled as soon as the European orchestra started playing. You danced, you laughed, you were happy as Nature intended that you should be. The Turk is in verity a cheerful and joyous being, and he can now afford to be care-free and happy because it is no longer necessary for him to prove that to attack him is dangerous. This innermost conviction also expresses his most earnest hope."

Lastly, lifting his glass, the Ghazi added: "There were at one time impostors who surreptitiously consumed this very drink in the secrecy of their locked Palace-chambers whilst they plotted against the liberties of the nation. I am no hypocrite. I drink openly and I toast the health of my people."

Bobbed Hair, Short Skirts, and the Veil.

As an additional side-light on the rapid advance towards Westernisation which is manifesting itself more and more as the days go by in the higher ranks of Turkish social circles, it is interesting to hear the views expressed a week ago to a Turkish reporter by Kiazim Pasha, President of the National Assembly, on the subject of women's fashions.

For a shingled Turkish woman—they are all that now—to allow her hair to grow long again, says the Speaker of the Turkish House of Commons, would spell, if not retrogression, at least reaction. Bobbed hair is not a manifestation of the caprice of feminine fashions and foibles but a distinct sign of advance. Man discarded the fashion of wearing his hair long ages ago. It is now the turn of the women—even the most stubbornly conservative among them cannot possibly put back the hands of the clock. The same reasoning applies to short skirts, adds the Pasha. Nowadays no civilised woman, unless she wished to make herself ridiculous, would think of sweeping the dust off the streets with trailing skirt, nor is there any reason why any woman should desire to camouflage her nether limbs under a ballooning, voluminous and ungainly sack as so many do to this day

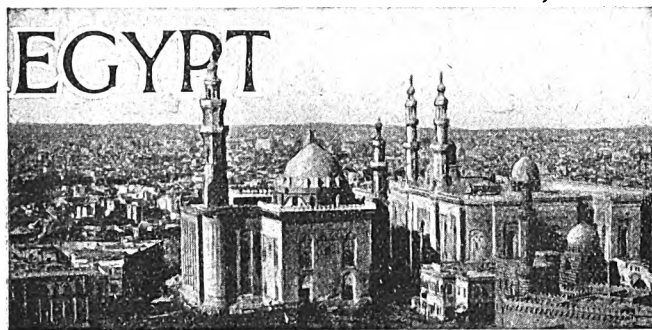
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in Anatolia, in violation of the most elementary canons of æsthetic taste.

As for the dainty little slips of brightly coloured veil or figured voile with which the younger generation of Turkish women now adorn their heads—their faces, of course, being uncovered—the Pasha unmercifully stigmatises them as *bonnets de nuit*, or night-caps, and he suggests that the sooner they are discarded the better. Their Western sisters, he insists, would have adopted this mode of head-dress ages ago had it appealed to their æsthetic sense, and the fact that they have not done so is proof enough, to his way of thinking, that the fashion is an unbecoming one. The Pasha suggests no alternative, although there is, of course, only one which is obvious.

The Turkish Speaker is a gallant soldier, and the last thing one would wish to do would be to tilt a lance at him over Turkish sartorial matters in which he must have greater experience than any Westerner. One cannot help feeling, however, that he is a little unfair to the up-to-date Turkish *mondaine*. If there is one thing which we mere males of the West do ungrudgingly admire about the modern Hanoum, it is the taste, artistry and coquetterie with which she can don—thereby outshining many a Christian sister—a mere whisp of flimsy, gauzy veil through which auburn hair shines up like burnished gold and darker tresses take on an ebon hue. The voile has, in these hard times, the added advantage of costing but a few pence.



Cairo, August 13.

The Singapore Dock.

The Singapore floating dock passed through the Suez Canal without any misadventure *en route*, and glided out into the Red Sea, passing the Attaka Mountains and the pretty harbour of Suez on August 7. The shady avenue at Port Tewfik, which is at the entrance to the Canal, was crowded with people from early in the morning, and soon after ten o'clock a wave of excitement went through the throng, for looming out of the white, dazzling desert came the first section of the dock. As it came closer it towered up out of the water like a giant, led along by three pigmy tugs which have towed it all the way from the Tyne, and are taking it out to Singapore. On the other side of the Canal the *Badawin* had come out of their deserts and lined the shore to watch these two monsters glide by. The second portion came by about two hours later, and they both went straight on out to sea without waiting. The passage down the Canal of these two huge Leviathans is a very creditable perform-

ance for the Canal Company, for their pilots, and for the Dutch towing company.

Cape to Stockholm by Car.

The Chevrolet Cape-to-Stockholm expedition arrived at the Pyramids in Cairo on August 7, having left Cape Town on March 7 and having travelled 10,000 miles in five months. The expedition consists of a Chevrolet Sedan and a Chevrolet one-ton truck. The reason they did not average more than about sixty miles per day was that the territories of Rhodesia, Tanganyika, Kenya, Uganda, and the Sudan were transformed into swamps and the expedition on occasions were able to do no more than three miles a day. The undertaking was in order to determine the possibility of joining Cape Town to Cairo by road, but mainly as an advertisement for General Motors cars. The four members of the expedition state that they had no mechanical trouble. They are proceeding through Palestine, Syria, Constantinople, Athens, Rome, Berlin, Paris, London, and finally by Antwerp to Stockholm.

Suppression of Newspapers.

There were in Egypt a few days ago more newspaper "rags" that were probably to be found in any other country, but they have now wisely been suppressed. The Cabinet has issued an *arrêté* cancelling the licences of daily papers which have not appeared within three months following the date of issue of their licences or which have suspended publication a year or more before the issue of the present *arrêté*. Licences of daily newspapers which are not published regularly have also been cancelled.

Schoolboys and Politics.

Steps have at last been taken by Mohamed Pasha Mahmoud's Cabinet to put a stop to the participation of schoolboys in politics. In the past the Wafd party have done untold wrong to the youth of Egypt by weaning them from their studies at an early age and encouraging them to howl and demonstrate in the street in support of the Wafd party. Aly Shamsi Pasha, as Minister of Education in the Nahas Cabinet, tried to do something to stop the disorder, but he was fighting all the time against the bad traditions of the Wafd, and it has been left for Ahmed Lutfy Bey es Sayyid, the present Minister of Education, to take drastic steps. At the end of last month a Note was passed by the Council of Ministers and circulated to the various schools stating that any student or schoolboy taking part in politics either through writing or belonging to a committee shall be dismissed his school. This has been followed by an invitation to all political parties to dissolve any student organisations and to discontinue all efforts to enlist schoolboy support.

The Prince of Wales and Egypt.

Next month a P. and O. liner will be specially diverted from its normal course to bring Their Royal Highnesses the Prince of Wales and the Duke of Gloucester to Alexandria. They will stay one night there, proceeding next day to Cairo, where they will stay in a boat on the Nile. They will then make a tour of the Sudan and the British East African territories.

Egypt's Death Rate.

A movement is being made by the Alexandria Municipality to clear up the town's slum area, and a committee has been studying the question since 1926, when Dr. Saleh Hamdi Bey, having returned from studying conditions in Europe to become Director of the Sanitary Services in the Alexandria Municipality, submitted a detailed report on conditions in the city. He lays especial stress on the high death rates throughout the towns of Egypt, which are considerably higher than in the country villages, despite the lack of pure water and a sufficient number of hospitals in the latter. The following are the death rates given per thousand in 1925: Alexandria, 36.2; Cairo, 37.2; Tanta, 35; Mansoura, 26.2; Assiut, 34.7. Infant mortality rates per thousand in 1922 were: Alexandria, 203; Cairo, 237; Tanta, 183; Mansoura, 171. Dr. Hamdi Bey adds that in some quarters in Alexandria

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the infant mortality is as high as 400 and 450 per thousand; which is a terrible state of affairs. The proposal is that tenement blocks of three storeys, each of eight apartments, are more suitable for the purpose than separate dwellings for each family. Each block will cost £E7,500, and for a start 211 blocks will be built, of which the total cost would be £E1,582,500, plus £E300,000 for expropriations. The expenditure, it is suggested, should be spread over a period of 20 years, which would mean £E95,000 per annum.

Such schemes, combined with the present Government's definite desire to improve and regulate the lot of the working man, will do much to ameliorate the terrible conditions that exist in Egypt.



Sofia, August 14.

The War between the Macedonian Revolutionaries.

The Anti-Mihailovist Central Committee of the Macedonian Revolutionary Organisation has issued, under the signature of MM. Peter Shandanoff and George Popchristoff, the following Note, which explains, better than anything else, the gravity of the situation created by the inter-Macedonian tension in connexion with the assassination of General Protogueroff:—

"On July 7 last, at night, Alexander Protogueroff, a member of the Central Committee of the Macedonian

Revolutionary Organisation, was treacherously assassinated in Sofia. It was officially announced in due course that the assassination was carried out by order of Ivan Mihailoff. But the higher authorities of the Macedonian Revolutionary Organisation have, up to the present time, received no official communication from Ivan Mihailoff on the subject of this assassination, nor on the subject of the reasons which made him order it.

The assassination was regarded as a disgrace by Macedonian emigrants and by the Bulgarian and the foreign public. The most eloquent proof of this sentiment was furnished in the solemnity attending Protogueroff's funeral and in the attitude adopted by the Press. Immediately, and on all sides, a cessation of further fratricidal struggles between the Macedonian revolutionaries was urged.

Conscious of the grave responsibilities which would be assumed if the path of reciprocal extermination were followed, the responsible governing body of the Macedonian Revolutionary Organisation gave orders that recourse to vengeance and persecutions was not to be had, because they foresaw that the Macedonian cause stood only to lose in such a struggle.

We hoped that the country, in whose capital Protogueroff was killed, was administered by a responsible Government, which would demand a reckoning from those who had decided to trouble the public conscience by a cruel crime. But, to our great surprise, we saw both the actual assassins as well as the intellectual opponents of Protogueroff walking about freely the very day after the murder in the streets of Sofia without being molested by anyone. The restless Macedonians, not being able to bear quietly the sight of this tolerance by certain organs of authority of the assassins of Protogueroff, resolved to act according to their own methods, but thanks to the severe orders of the M.R.O.—to avoid any shedding of blood—they had to be patient. Certain among them wished to depart from Sofia, so as no longer to witness this state of affairs. One of these was the unforgettable hero, Pando

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Nicoloff Stroumishki, who, as a civilian, without rifle and armed only with a revolver, was on July 25 attacked in an ambush, at the "Youndola," by aggressors armed with rifles, and was killed on the spot by order of the assassins of Protogueroff. But do they know whom they have killed?

They have killed the hero who last year sustained a desperate combat lasting several days with 5,000 men—Serbian troops and gendarmerie. He saved himself then, to be treacherously killed now by the "Macedonian revolutionaries" and Bulgarian police. . . .

In spite of this second attempt against the men of the M.R.O. on the part of Ivan Mihailoff, the responsible heads of the M.R.O. confirmed afresh their decision not to resort to bloody reprisals, in the hope that public opinion would not fail to disparage this dastardly assassination. The public was influenced in error and from all parts voices were still heard demanding the cessation of the war of reciprocal extermination. The general cry was: Enough! We were, nevertheless, convinced that that sincere "Enough" would in no way shake the demoniacal nature of Protogueroff's assassins.

In his own journal, *Svoboda ili Smert* ("Freedom or Death"), Ivan Mihailoff, reasoning on "The Philosophy of Revolution," declares that *he is interested neither in Bulgarian internal public security, nor in her prestige abroad*. He considers himself as the most worthy Macedonian Revolutionary, and he is resolved to kill all those who block the way, wherever they are.

Our conceptions differ from those of Ivan Mihailoff. We cannot admit for a moment that we had the moral right to interfere in the internal life of the Bulgarian State, nor to cause it annoyance, knowing that this country has sheltered 500,000 Macedonian refugees and that it has sacrificed hundreds of thousands of its sons for the freedom of Macedonia. We do not wish, through our struggles, to lower the prestige of that country before the world. And that is why we still possess the moral force to wait. But to what end have we waited?

On July 31, at one o'clock in the afternoon, Steftcho Karkalacheff and Dontcho Zaphyroff—the latter one of the actual assassins of Protogueroff—assaulted the revolutionary Athanas Kaltcheff in his own building. Dontcho Zaphyroff brought out his revolver without being seen, and fired on Kaltcheff, but did not hit him with the first shot. After that, Kaltcheff's companions threw themselves on him with their arms and wounded him in two places. At this moment Steftcho Karkalacheff also tried to draw his revolver, but he was caught by Kaltcheff, who disarmed him. The two assassins were handed over to the police.

In making the foregoing brief report, we present it for the judgment of the Macedonian and the Bulgarian conscience.

At the same time we declare that henceforth we shall be in a state of legitimate defence and that we shall not be able in future to welcome with crossed hands the *coups* which are prepared against us by Ivan Mihailoff.

In fulfilling this supreme duty towards our country, we on our part reject responsibility for the consequences of Ivan Mihailoff's follies, as much on account of our work

of liberation as for the Bulgarian State itself, the calm and tranquillity of which must above all be the care of its own rulers."

The Anglo-French "Demarche."

It is known that Ivan Mihailoff has refused, and for good reasons, to recognise the Committee; he has, meanwhile, called a meeting of revolutionary friends, which has proclaimed itself a congress of the Organisation. It has not only absolved its leader for the assassination of his colleague Alexander Protogueroff, but has also voted him its thanks for this "heroic" act, after which it elected a new Central Committee, composed of Ivan Mihailoff, Ivan Karajoff, formerly a Lycée Professor, and Strachil Razvigoroff, brother of one of the assassins of the Serbian General Kovatchevitch, at Shtip last October. But it should be remarked that in order to be legally considered as a congress, this meeting must comprise regularly, in accordance with the Statutes of the Organisation, 40 delegates from different revolutionary districts in Macedonia, which for revolutionary purposes has its own administrative divisions. The meeting convened by Mihailoff had only 18 delegates; all the others, representing the true revolutionary Macedonia, that is three or four districts, abstained from attending, although elected and provided with their full powers, and remained faithful to the former Committee comprising George Popchistoff and Peter Shandanoff.

The two sections will, then, continue to fight each other, and the split in the ranks of the Organisation will become deeper and deeper. This division has inspired the Serbs and the Greeks to suggest a big blow at the Revolutionary Organisation which will be a death blow for the Macedonian movement and which, as such, would relieve these two countries, especially Yugoslavia, of the permanent danger which this movement has been to their Governments. And as they could not act efficaciously themselves at Sofia, they have tried to induce their great Allies, England, France and Italy, to act. Their suggestions have ended in an Anglo-French protest, with which Italy, however, has refused to associate herself. This *démarche*, which took place on August 10, would have been made even without the Serbo-Greek suggestion, because England has for over a year pursued in the Balkans a vigorous policy of stabilisation and appeasement by the elimination of every source of misunderstanding and discord between the different Balkan nations. And it will be remembered that ever since last autumn British diplomacy at Sofia has attacked the Macedonian revolutionaries, whom it regards as a serious obstacle to the establishment of an effective peace in the Peninsula. It could not allow the opportunity to escape of returning to the charge. Thus England took the initiative in a collective representation to the Bulgarian Government, drawing attention to the change that had come about in Macedonian affairs after the assassination of Alexander Protogueroff and the consequences proceeding therefrom, which considerably weakened the hitherto formidable power of the Revolutionary Organisation. This formidable power having constantly been advanced by the Bulgarian Government as a decisive hindrance to the application of all

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repressive action against the Revolutionary Organisation, that weakness itself rendered this latter more vulnerable and permitted, in consequence, the taking of serious measures on the part of the Bulgarian authorities. This is what the British Minister, Mr. Sperling, seconded by the French Chargé d'Affaires, M. Elie, pointed out to M. Bourroff in their interview of August 10, explaining all the measures it would be useful to take with regard to the Macedonian Revolutionaries in order to shatter their organisation and reduce them to an inoffensive state. These measures are of various kinds. They do not exclude the arrest of the leaders, notably the members of the two Central Committees.

It is not yet known what the Government will decide, and especially what it will be in a position to do. But its good will is beyond doubt. It is for this reason that the Italian Legation has preferred not to complicate the situation by an inopportune intervention, and to leave Bulgaria to clear up the situation herself in the fulness of her sovereignty, being confident that she will take, of her own initiative, all the measures which the situation demands.



Zagreb, August 12.

The Late M. Raditch.

The importance of M. Raditch's death on Yugoslav politics cannot easily be exaggerated. He was the idol, as well as the only real leader and teacher, of the peasant masses of Croatia. Single-handed he built up the solid organisation of the Croat Peasant Party; on foot or in springless peasant carts he visited every village, almost every house of his country; everywhere he was known, loved, revered, and thus he was able to lead his peasants wherever he wished. Thus his constant changes of front, usually very understandable from a tactical point of view, but bewildering for those who tried to square one attitude with another, one speech with the last, were always accepted enthusiastically and unquestioningly. In this way he was able, when he considered the time ripe, to lead them to Belgrade—when this venture failed, to lead them back to Zagreb. In this way he would have been able—had he lived—to lead them again to Belgrade, to explain away the past and find good reasons for their return.

Now, Raditch's last words, his attitude of antagonism to Belgrade, will become a permanent motto, a sacred trust to many of his faithful followers, and it will be a long and difficult process to bring about the change which he could have made in a few months.

The Funeral Scenes.

Raditch's funeral was most impressive. Apart from the effect of hundreds of thousands of peasants and townsfolk, rich and poor, gathered from every corner of Western Yugoslavia, in costumes often of great beauty, richly

embroidered, brightly hued—there was an air of patient, disciplined decision, which could not fail to strike the onlooker. Organisation, discipline, unanimity—these words recur continually in every account of the ceremony and express the strength of the Croatian cause—for the Serbs remain unorganised, undisciplined politically, and undecided, and divided as to what course to take.

The speeches made from the verandah of the Peasants' Hall were remarkable for their moderation. M. Matchek, now leader of the Croat Peasant Party, M. Pribitchevitch and a number of delegates from Bosnia, Herzegovina, Dalmatia, Montenegro, Slavonia and the Voivodina, all spoke in the same vein—one of sorrow for the loss of their great teacher and leader, and of the sure conviction that his fifty years of struggle had not been in vain, and that their lives should be devoted to bringing about the realisation of his great ideals and plans—the liberty and equality of the peoples of all the different South Slav provinces united in a federal State, which should eventually include Bulgaria and stretch from the Adriatic to the Black Sea. M. Pribitchevitch emphasised the solidarity of the "Pretchanski" Serbs with the Croats, and declared that all the many attempts being made from Belgrade to separate them would be in vain.

Several thousand wreaths—including martyr's wreaths of thorn and the King's silver wreath, borne by four sergeants of the Royal Guards—were carried past the bier by peasant men and women from all parts, and a defile of Sokols, Scouts, and peasant organisations passed steadily for over three hours. Over 300,000 peasants must have come from Zagreb for the funeral, and most of them were delegates representing the whole Croat nation.

While in Belgrade the full seriousness of the situation is not realised and the solidarity and purpose of the people of the ex-Hapsburg provinces are not appreciated abroad, too much attention seems to have been paid to the extreme utterances of certain Croat leaders and too much significance to have been paid to the holding of meetings of the P.D.B. Club in the old Croatian Sabor and to the appointment of an Executive Committee divided into departments, which has given rise to wild talk of a rival parliament and a rival Government to that in Belgrade.

A dinner was given by the Hungarian Government at Budapest on August 16 in honour of Dr. Tewfik Rushdi Bey, Turkish Foreign Minister.

The Nettuno Conventions were ratified in the Yugoslav Skupshtina at Belgrade on August 13.

The Greek Upper Naval Council has decided to build four destroyers, with a speed of 36 knots, at a cost of £2,000,000, and also two torpedo-boats as soon as funds are available.

King Fuad has placed his Royal river yacht at the disposal of the Prince of Wales and the Duke of Gloucester for use during their coming stay in Egypt next month, though it is not yet known what route they will travel by on their way to the Sudan.

Mohamad Gad El-Mawla Bey, Minister at the Egyptian Ministry of Education, left Egypt on August 9 to represent the Egyptian Government at the International Congress of Orientalists, which will meet at Oxford from August 27 to September 1.

In consequence of an accident at Skaikh Othman, Aden, to a Fairey 3F machine, on August 14, Flight-Lieutenant E. N. T. Edwardes, the pilot, was killed, and the passenger, 362026, Leading Aircraftman A. W. Jones, was slightly injured.

THE PERSIA SOCIETY.

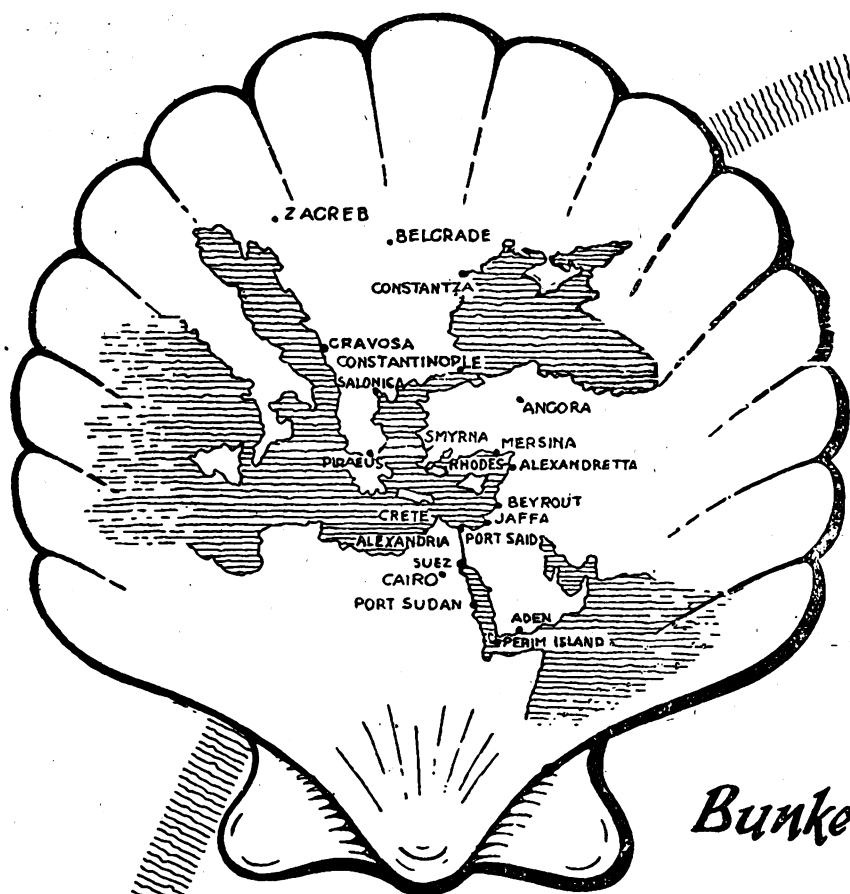
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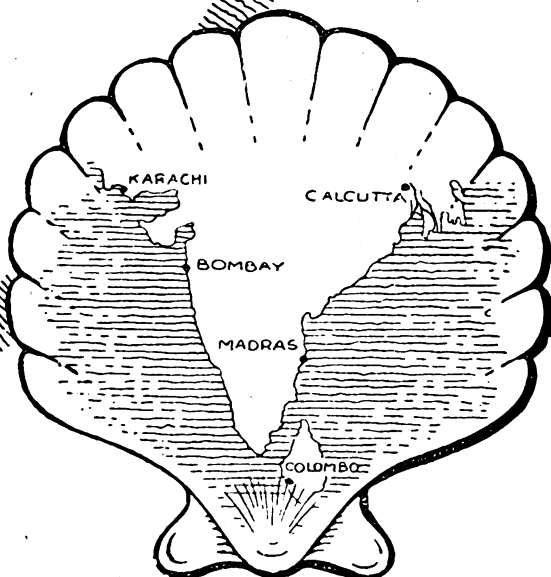
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SHELL



PERSONAL AND GENERAL

TO-DAY

August 23, 1928 (New Style).

August 10, 1928 (Old Style).

Rabia I, 6, 1347 A.H., of the Muslim Calendar.

Ellul 7, 5689, of the Jewish Calendar.

The Hon. Mrs. Emmett sailed in the s.s. Ranpura on August 17 for India.

The Prince of Wales received Lord Lloyd, High Commissioner for Egypt and the Sudan, at St. James's Palace on August 17.

Sir Arthur and Lady Froom and the Hon. Sir Maneckji Dadabhoy left London on August 16 for Marseilles, to join the Morea at Bombay.

Lady Hailey, who has been on a three-weeks' visit to England, left London on August 16 for India, to join Sir Malcolm Hailey, Governor of the United Provinces.

Earl and Countess Winterton left London on August 16 by air for France before proceeding to Czechoslovakia and Poland. They will return to London about September 24.

Field-Marshal Lord Plumer was received in audience by the King at Buckingham Palace on August 15, upon relinquishing his appointment as High Commissioner and Commander-in-Chief, Palestine. Lord and Lady Plumer left London on August 16 for Buxton.

NEWS IN BRIEF.

M. Henri Ponsot, French High Commissioner for Syria, is expected soon in Paris to discuss with the French Government the difficulties which have arisen owing to the action of the Syrian Constituent Assembly in declining to delete from the draft Constitution those articles to which he has taken exception.

During May 287 immigrants entered Palestine, including 223 Jews; 158 persons (including 111 Jews) entered the country as travellers and were given permission to remain permanently. Nineteen prospective immigrants were refused admission; 312 persons left the country permanently, including 264 Jews.

The *Morning Post* correspondent at Simla states that King Amanullah's reforms in the educational system of Afghanistan are to be based on Turkish principles, and for this purpose a Turkish educational committee is visiting Kabul to revise the curricula of the primary and high schools. Twenty-five Afghan students have been dispatched to Turkey to complete their education.

The Skupshtina in Belgrade on August 14 unanimously ratified the Judicial and Consular Conventions with Poland and a trade agreement with Greece. The Skupshtina also voted the suspension of the immunity of the two Yugoslav deputies alleged to have been concerned with M. Punisha Ratchitch in the shooting of the Croat deputies on June 20. After that it adjourned *sine die*.

A message from Riga states that the Soviet steamer Tobolsk is reported to have returned to Odessa after a successful expedition to the Persian Gulf, the first trip to those waters by a Russian ship since 1914. The Tobolsk discharged 800 tons of sugar and textiles at Hudaida, Bundar Abbas, and Bushire, making a great impression in the Yaman, where the Imam Yahia and the Governor of Hudaida expressed a hope for further closer relations with the Soviet Union.

The Commission set up by Field-Marshal Lord Plumer as High Commissioner for Palestine to investigate the position of unskilled labour in Palestine (complicated by the great difference of scale of living between Arabs and Jews) has completed its work, and its findings have been sent to the Secretary of State for the Colonies. It is said that the Commission recommends a minimum daily wage of 120 mils (about half-a-crown).

The Index to Volume XXXIII (January 5—June 28, 1928) of "THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA" is now ready, and copies will be forwarded to subscribers gratis on application to the Manager, *The Near East and India*, 170 Strand, London, W.C.2.

APPOINTMENTS AND PROMOTIONS.

M. Ant. Saktouris, formerly Greek Minister at Cairo, has been appointed Minister in Vienna.

M. Vassili Lappas, Greek Vice-Consul in Cairo, has been appointed First Secretary to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Athens, and is being replaced by M. Capetanidis.

M. Sourlas, Greek Vice-Consul at Alexandria, has been appointed Secretary to the Greek Legation at Belgrade.

The following appointments to the Colonial Service have been made by the Secretary of State for the Colonies:—

Iraq.—Mr. E. R. Guest, B.Sc., A.R.C.S., to be Plant Breeder. Palestine.—Mr. N. H. Anabtawy, to be Administrative Officer, Class 3; Miss I. G. Cooper, to be Nursing Sister.

CONGRESS OF ORIENTALISTS.

The Seventeenth International Congress of Orientalists will open at Oxford on August 27, and nearly 600 delegates will be present. Papers will be read on Asiatic and Egyptian subjects by English, French, German, Italian, Indian, and American scholars, and popular lectures will be delivered on the excavations at Ur, Kish, Kirkuk, the Indus Valley, and on Southern Arabia and the Levant. The Congress will be presided over by Lord Chalmers, and the Chairman will be Professor F. W. Thomas.

The last International Congress of Orientalists was held at Athens in 1912.

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THE WEEK AT HOME

London, Tuesday Morning.

Aberdeen.

Aberdeen is not notorious for handing out anything at all lavishly, and it may have been due to the native caution of that place that, at the quite important by-election which took place there last week, only 56 per cent. of the electorate should have recorded their votes. Nor was this omission owing to the lack of alternative choice, for there were the victorious Labour man, Capt. Wedgwood Benn, who recently "ratted" from the Liberal Party, the Conservative candidate, a Communist fellow, who put up a respectable show (in the numerical sense), and, of course, the inevitable defeated Liberal candidate, on whom to place the costless vote.

The only two obvious lessons that can be learned from this affair at North Aberdeen are that the de-rating proposals of the Government have so far brought it little popularity; and that the Liberals, in putting into every field a candidate, are merely wasting their money. For the few surprises which the Liberals have sprung upon an apathetic country, they have a most melancholy record of "Also Rans."

It will be quite fun to have Capt. Wedgwood Benn back in the House. He is both able and versatile; and it is probable that, with him about, a certain other Liberal who drifted successfully to the Labour Party will no longer have the monopoly of the "questions."

Lord Haldane.

There is not, I think, likely to be much difference of opinion upon the merit of the services which Lord Haldane rendered to Great Britain: Haig's dictum that he was the greatest Secretary for War we have ever had is now accepted generally. He had a genius for organisation, and it was a genius used to the finest ends.

Apart from his services as War Secretary, however, it is improbable that Lord Haldane's name will bulk largely in our national history. He was never the essential Liberal, and unquestionably it was his Hegelianism, his idealism of the State, which made his conversion to the Labour or Socialist Party so easy and unlamented a step. His philosophy and his ideals have largely been beclouded by the robust realism of the present day. But his name will always be remembered with gratitude, because his services before and at the beginning of the Great War were of inestimable value.

Sir George Trevelyan.

Very few of this generation are at all familiar with the work of Sir George Trevelyan, who has just died, as a politician of the Gladstonian school. But his services to what is called historical literature will long be remembered. It is true that his outlook was one which is not fashionable to-day, for the revolt against the Whig reading of English history, although it has not yet come full circle, is in steady process. Undoubtedly there is a reluctance now to accept the gloss which historians of the Macaulay school put upon the actions of older statesmen, particularly of eighteenth century statesmen.

But Trevelyan had an element of greatness. His work on Charles James Fox is a fine work, and the biography of Macaulay is not only indispensable but permanently readable. In addition, of course, Sir George was a magnificent survival into this curious modern age of the quintessential English gentleman.

Char-a-banc and Train.

The Railways have quickly shown what advantage they intend to reap from the recent reduction of two and a half per cent. in wages and salaries. They are about to issue long week-end tickets (Friday to Tuesday) at reduced fares, thus endeavouring to cut the ground from under the feet of the motor-transport companies.

What effect this will have on the motor traffic it is impossible yet to say. It is anticipated in some quarters

that the Railways will inevitably take passengers from the Road, so that the motor companies will in turn have to reduce their fares; and by others the new move is regarded as merely a temporary measure to be adopted while the Railways get their own road vehicles or force the existing road transport companies to accept their own terms. For myself, however, I think that the motor transport will continue to hold its newly-won own over the short distances, and that the Railways, which, incidentally, are far more comfortable to travel in when the weather is of the usual, not of the present, kind in England, will be favoured for the long distance. And, of course, for heavy transport the Railways' future is secure.

The County Championship.

There was gloom in the hearts of Southron folk last week when Lancashire so decisively beat Kent, but much admiration was expressed for the team wearing the Red Rose, for without doubt Lancashire are a tremendously efficient side, full of Northern determination, steadiness, thoroughness. Their joy in the game of cricket, their indulgence in its unique graces, pleasures, and pleasantries may not be manifest; but as a match-winning combination they are—as must ungrudgingly be admitted by everyone—the team of the year.

The County Championship being thus practically decided, humble observers can concentrate upon the doings of individuals. Here, nothing has been so remarkable as the all-round ability of Hammond, who, born in Kent, plays in the capacity of W. G. Grace's successor for Gloucestershire, and the consistent batting of Hobbs. Hobbs is still England's No. 1 batsman, and Hammond could be played in Test matches for his fielding alone.

Concerning the proposed alterations in the L.B.W. rule, by the way, I can find no support for them among club cricketers. So far as is ascertainable now, there is little chance of the bowlers' being more favoured in this matter. But the problem is going to take months to thresh out.

Smoking Habits.

Everyone knows that the habit of cigarette smoking received an enormous impetus during the War, but I should not have thought the substitution of the pipe by the "fag" was as great as it is found to be by the Report on Tobacco just issued by the Stationery Office. Therein it is shown that in 1907, of the total consumption of tobacco in the United Kingdom, cigarettes provided 23.8 per cent., pipe tobacco, 71.1 per cent., and cigars, 5.1 per cent. In 1924, however, these percentages had changed to 58.5, 40.0, and 1.5 respectively. And it is thought that since 1924, the consumption of pipe tobacco has decreased still further—by 5 per cent.

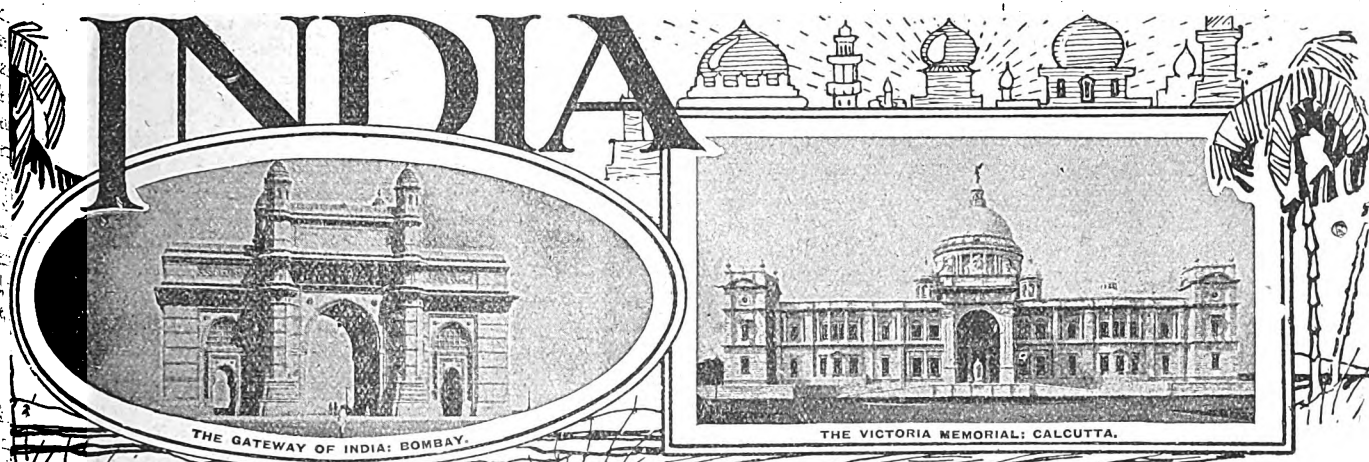
This is extraordinary. But apparently England is not the only sinner in regard to the "gasper." In Germany, where pipe tobacco still predominates, cigarettes are increasingly favoured; and the same is true of the United States. Does this mean that mankind as a whole is becoming more "jumpy," less contented, less considered? Personally, I would always prefer—other things being equal—the judgment on human affairs of a man who smoked a pipe to that of a man whose lips itched to contain a cigarette.

From a patriotic point of view it is good to read of the growth in the consumption of Imperial tobacco. In 1921, out of the 228 million lb. imported, Empire tobacco supplied 7½ million lb. In 1927, out of 222 million lb. it supplied 41 million lb. But, try as I will, I can cultivate a taste neither for pipe nor for cigarette tobacco from the Empire.

ALTER EGO.

The Third Destroyer Flotilla arrived on August 12 at Port Said from China, and sailed for Malta on August 15.

Signor Mussolini on August 13 entertained at luncheon H.H. Mirza Abdul Husein Khan Taymoor Tash, Minister of the Court in Persia, and the Persian Minister to the Quirinal, with some members of the Italian Cabinet.



THE INDIA OF THE FUTURE.

Two interesting and noteworthy contributions to the discussion of the Indian constitutional question have appeared during the week. One of these is the report of the Committee which was appointed on May 28 last by the All-Parties Conference; and the other is a memorandum framed for the Statutory Commission by the Associated Chambers of Commerce. The memorandum may be accepted as an expression of the considered opinion of the European commercial and industrial community, as it is endorsed by all but two of the constituent Chambers. The report, on the other hand, is the work of a specially appointed Committee and it will be discussed at a meeting of the All-Parties Conference to be held at Lucknow on August 25. It may or may not be adopted by the Conference, and it consequently cannot be regarded at the moment as a final statement. But according to the telegraphic summaries which have been received in this country it is a document deserving of close attention; for it apparently defines the Indian demands more clearly and with greater precision than has been hitherto attempted. It recommends that India should be styled the Commonwealth of India, and should have the same constitutional status within the British Empire as Canada, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa and the Irish Free State, with a Parliament and an Executive responsible to it. The Parliament would consist of the King; a Senate of 200 members to be elected by the Provincial Legislative Councils; and a House of Representatives of 500 members to be elected directly by constituencies, every person of both sexes of full age being entitled to vote. The Executive would be exercised by the Governor-General, acting on the advice of a Council of seven Ministers responsible to the legislature. There would be an Advisory Committee of Defence to effect such economies in the military expenditure as would be compatible with the safety of India. The precise character of the recommendations concerning the provinces is not altogether clear from the telegraphic reports; but it would seem that provincial autonomy with unicameral legislatures is contemplated.

If the report is accepted by the All-Parties Conference it will, we think, have served a useful purpose. It does not, of course, solve the many complex difficulties by which the road to self-government in India is beset. But it does state clearly and definitely what the Indian wants; and this is in itself a great step in advance. Furthermore it is reasonable and sane in tone, and it merits therefore serious consideration. Although its authors are severe critics of this country, it recommends a system of government which is exclusively British. But unfortunately it ignores the tremendous differences in the circumstances and conditions of Britain and India. For instance, it is only within the last few months that universal suffrage has been established in these islands, after centuries of experience of parliamentary govern-

ment. But the framers of the report have unhesitatingly recommended its adoption in India although the Indians are almost entirely without experience of self-government and are, to an enormous extent, illiterate. Again the report contemplates that the Commonwealth of India should exercise the same rights in relation to, and should discharge the same obligations towards, the Indian States, arising out of treaties or otherwise, as the Government of India has hitherto exercised and discharged. If this means that the Government of India in its imperial capacity—as the Paramount Power that is to say—is to be made responsible to a legislature elected only by British India it is obviously impracticable. The Indian legislature cannot possibly claim to exercise authority over States and peoples that are not represented in it. In other words the people of British India have no right to exercise authority over the people of the Indian States.

We have pointed out over and over again in these columns that the European community in India is not opposed to the Reforms scheme; and the memorandum which the Chambers of Commerce have submitted to the Commission abundantly proves this statement. The Chambers recognise that the pledge which Great Britain gave in 1917 to establish representative institutions must be honoured; and for this reason they recommend that a further advance should now be made. As they rightly say it would be difficult to prove that the Indians are capable of governing themselves. But, on the other hand, it would be equally difficult to prove that the Indians are incapable of governing themselves. Nothing, therefore, is to be gained by a prolonged wrangle on this point, and the Chambers are accordingly of the opinion that the full provincial autonomy should now be established in the provinces. That is to say, the next step which would naturally follow after ten years' experience of the Reforms should now be taken. They are prepared to agree to the transfer to autonomous provincial governments of the control of the police and the responsibility for the maintenance of law and order. They would, it is true, introduce certain special safeguards with the object of preventing magistrates and police being unfairly treated. But they take the view that the surest way to make those responsible for the Government realise the need for an efficient police force is to make them responsible for the maintenance of law and order. Under the Chamber's scheme the provincial executive councils would disappear, as there would be no reserved subjects; and all departments of each provincial Government would be under the control of a Ministry. The Chambers favour bicameral legislatures in the provinces; and they also urge that the Central Government should be given powers of intervention in the event of the breakdown of the administration in any province. But subject to this restriction they support the grant of full provincial autonomy forthwith. Their attitude towards the Government of India is not clearly defined in the summarised statements which have been published here. But it would seem that they do not contemplate the introduction of the principle of responsi-

bility into the Central Government. They suggest that *vis-à-vis* the Assembly the Government should be strengthened, presumably by the addition of more nominated members. But in the absence of full information as to what they propose in this connexion no useful comment is possible. One of the recommendations which they have made is, we think, certain to attract a great deal of attention. It is that in the new Government of India Act there should be inserted a clause forbidding discrimination against industrial and commercial interests in central and provincial legislation and taxation, and in municipal by-laws and taxes. The tendency, which has been of late so plentifully exhibited by Indian politicians, to introduce legislation discriminating against British commercial interests in India has naturally alarmed the Chambers. They do not ask for privileges, but they justifiably contend that British commerce in India is entitled to the same impartial treatment that Indian commerce receives in Great Britain. They do not ask for more than this, but they cannot be expected to accept less.

CURRENT TOPICS.

Tobacco and Timber.

When the Imperial Economic Committee was appointed it was agreed between the constituent Governments that recommendations affecting the policy of Customs preference should be excluded from its mandate. This limitation of its reference has been scrupulously respected in each of the interesting earlier reports which the Committee has published on the marketing of food-stuffs within the Empire. But we doubt whether the extent of the handicap imposed by the veto was fully realised until the Committee came to consider the case of tobacco, which forms the subject of the ninth volume issued last week. Although, however, the Committee regarded it as no part of its duty to advocate or oppose any extension of the preference which has been granted on a considerable scale in the United Kingdom, it devotes much space to an instructive analysis of the effects, "since that preference is now one of the dominating facts in the situation." Clearly in such an inquiry India, in spite of the fact that its exportable surplus is small in relation to a crop of 1,000 million pounds, or over one-fifth of the world outturn, has a particular interest. And the presence on the Committee of the High Commissioner, Sir Atul Chatterjee, and of Sir David Chadwick, the former Commerce Secretary to the Government of India, as its very capable Secretary, affords the best possible assurance that the special circumstances of India have received due recognition at every stage of the inquiry. It is, therefore, somewhat surprising to find that, for the reason above stated, and on account of the variations in the total crop being so marked, owing to seasonal and other causes, "it is difficult to ascribe any portion of the growth of production to the direct action of the preference given to the United Kingdom." At the same time it will be noted that whereas the average imports into this country during the three years 1919-21 (inclusive) were only 5 million pounds, during 1925-27 they had risen to practically double that figure. Although cigar smoking has decreased of late in the United Kingdom the Indian producers will note with satisfaction that the Committee does not regard a limited revival as impossible, especially in the case of mild cigars. But manifestly the greatest opportunity before Empire producers in general in this market is in cigarette tobaccos, of which only one per cent. of the total importations are at present drawn from Empire sources, and none from India. The Com-

mittee's valuable suggestions in that connexion merit close attention in that country, where research work, as we pointed out some time ago in these columns, on suitable varieties of leaf has been in progress for several years.

In one sense it was a little unfortunate that another report from the same Committee, also of particular interest to India, should appear with only a few days' interval. But time is the essence of forestry and results are often slow. Demands therefore have to be anticipated and provided for long before they occur. And as the quinquennial meeting of the British Empire Forestry Conference will be held in Australia next month, it was obviously wise to publish the results of the Committee's subsequent investigation into the marketing of timber with the minimum delay. Those concerned in newspaper production do not need to be reminded of the need for an authoritative review of the question on wider grounds as well. The leading forestry authorities are agreed that available supplies of the principal timbers of commerce are rapidly approaching exhaustion. The outlook with regard to soft woods, which constitute about 80 per cent. of the industrial demand, is particularly unsatisfactory. At present the United States alone consumes nearly half of the world's lumber production, and its own softwood resources will soon be limited to the few Western States. When they are exhausted it will be compelled to seek its future supplies almost entirely from the British Empire, and a serious shortage, with all its attendant evils, appears inevitable within a period of less than thirty years. Fortunately the position is not so critical in the case of hardwoods, and the problem which confronts the responsible authorities throughout the Empire is to determine the extent to which certain lighter hardwoods from its great tropical forests can be transformed into efficient substitutes for the softer varieties. India, with its increasing annual outturn consisting chiefly of hardwoods and already representing nearly one-half of the Empire supply of those varieties, has an especial interest in such an inquiry, for the exportable surplus is likely to attain its largest dimensions within the period during which it is expected that the world shortage will occur.

The Kashmir Ice Dam.

The reliability of the annual forecasts of the south-west monsoon by the Indian Meteorological Department, as has been emphasised on several occasions, has been materially improved in recent years. Marked progress, in particular, has been made in the observation of the upper air, and weather conditions in India can now be connected with various prior meteorological occurrences in Africa, South America and other distant countries. But in his evidence before the Royal Commission on Agriculture in India last summer, Sir Gilbert Walker, who is responsible in no small measure for the fact that a department, which for many years was not inaptly described as a step-child of the Government of India, has at last come into its own, explained that while an opinion could be formed of the snowfall in the Himalayas no estimate could be given of the date at which the subsequent floods might come down. Similarly, to foretell the probable extent of catastrophes of the nature of that with which Kashmir has been threatened during the past week is not, of course, likely to be a question of practical politics for many years to come. At the same time much can be done, as was demonstrated on the occasion of the disastrous floods in the Bombay Presidency last year, to mitigate the consequences of such disasters if timely warning is given. Happily the latest indications are that the dam will not burst after all this season, or that if it does burst, a channel will be formed, thus giving gradual relief. At present the Indus is well below normal for this time of the year and even if the earlier reports had proved correct it now seems improbable that any serious damage would have been caused in the surrounding districts while, fortunately, the Sukkar barrage works are amply protected, so far as can at present be ascertained.

CALCUTTA LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Calcutta, August 2.

Bengal Council and India's Constitution.

Had it lain with the Bengal Council to settle the new Constitution for India, the matter would already be settled. The Council has been in session since Tuesday, when Sir Abdur Rahim, not to be out-distanced by any one, moved :—

"That in order to secure a satisfactory and lasting solution of the political and constitutional problems that have arisen it is the opinion of this Council that :

"(a) The status of India should be that of a self-governing Dominion under the British Crown as an equal partner in the Commonwealth of Nations within the British Empire . . . ;

"(b) The Constitution of India be on a basis of a Federation of autonomous States, the Federal or Central Government administering only such subjects as concern the whole of India ;

"(c) the present system of government in the provinces, popularly known as diarchy, be abolished and full responsible government be inaugurated in the provinces ;

"(d) in the constitutional instruments the citizens' rights as recognised by all responsible Governments be defined and adequate, and effective safeguards be provided for the protection of the rights and interests of minorities."

There was more of it, but the rest is relatively unimportant. Explaining the scheme embodied in his motion, Sir Abdur Rahim said, among other things, "As regards British interests what we say is this: we want to make our own country worth living in. We want them to remember that this is our own home and our ambition is to make it worth living in. We do not want to injure their interests in any way. In fact, the condition of the country is such that to improve our condition we shall be only too glad to avail ourselves of their knowledge of science, technical skill and power of organisation. But what we want is that whatever intellect we have in this country should have the fullest scope. Indians have never been hostile to the British people, and there is really nothing to be afraid of."

The debate that followed Sir Abdur's speech was described by the *Englishman's* special representative as follows :—

"The debate . . . was a fiasco. A pact had been entered into in the lobby between the Swarajists and the Muhammadans not to press certain amendments likely to lead to bitter controversy, and everything had been so nicely arranged that, after the prayer interval, it looked as if the House would have to adjourn for want of a quorum. But the necessary number responded to the warning bell, and Mr. Nalini Sircar proceeded to upset the whole apple-cart. The Swarajist Whip had prepared an oration on the amendment standing in his name, and, pact or no pact, it had to be delivered. The result was a farcical division, an alteration in the wording of the protection of minorities clause in the Dominion status resolution which the Muhammadans resented, and the rising of Mr. Fazlul-Huq to press his amendment in favour of communal electorates as the only means of safeguarding Muslim rights. Thereafter the debate degenerated into a bitter communal squabble."

Neither the Government nor the European group in the Council took part either in the debate or the division on Mr. Fazlul-Huq's amendment. It was lost by 50 votes against 30. Sir Abdur Rahim's motion was carried without a division.

Bengal Legislation.

The session of the Council was opened by His Excellency the Governor. "In view," His Excellency said, "of the important nature of the subjects with which the

Council will be asked to deal during the session, I have thought it advisable to take advantage of my privilege of addressing the members to-day." The subjects include the Bengal Tenancy Act Amendment Bill, a very difficult piece of legislation, and one that has been before the Council, in one form or another, for over two years. The Amending Bill aims at granting substantial rights to under-ryots, and there is general agreement that legislation is overdue. Another piece of legislation, on the supreme importance of which His Excellency dwelt, is the Bengal Rural Primary Education Bill. That too much money is being spent on universal and secondary education in Bengal, at the expense of the education of the masses, is the view expressed in a quinquennial review of the progress of education in the province that has just been published. Illiteracy is still rampant, despite the strenuous efforts that are being made to kill it, and the review shows that 79.5 per cent. of boys of school-going age are still unschooled.

To speak so is to speak in the language of the authorities: it is the language of the quinquennial review. I have before this expressed my own opinion, which is that a little knowledge to read, which is presumably all that the peasantry of a country will ever possess, is not the good thing that it is imagined to be, but an evil thing. I know, however, that I am at present a voice on that subject crying in the wilderness. Word has gone forth that education is *the* thing, even in Afghanistan.

The Political Detenus.

His Excellency made an important pronouncement to the Council on the subject of the political *détenus*. The sentence of most importance in this part of His Excellency's speech is the one, it may be feared, that least attention will be paid to. It was this: "I sincerely trust that a movement which was met, and in similar circumstances *would always have to be met, by exceptional measures*, however repugnant it might be to Government to use them, will not again develop to the infinite harm of the Province." There are now no political *détenus* in the jails, and only sixteen in village or home domicile, or exiled from certain areas in the Province, or from the whole Province, and His Excellency hopes that the number will be greatly reduced, if not extinguished, in the course of a few more weeks.

Appointments.

By the appointment of Sir Malcolm Hailey, now Governor of the Punjab, to succeed Sir Alexander Muddiman as Governor of the United Provinces, his services are secured to India for a further term, and there can be little doubt of the wisdom of the step. Sir Geoffrey de Montmorency, at present the Chief Secretary to the Punjab Government, will be the new Governor of the Punjab. The King-Emperor has appointed the Hon. Sir P. C. Mitter to the Bengal Executive Council in the vacancy caused by the death of the Maharaja Bahadur of Nadia. That is undoubtedly another good appointment.

East India Railway.

Though the East India Railway strike ended so recently, there is trouble again, and the authorities have closed the Lillooah workshops for a week, while the Agent goes to Simla to discuss matters with the Railway Board. There should be matter of more moment to report next week.

BOMBAY LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Bombay, August 4.

The Committee of the Bombay Council.

On Wednesday Sir Chunilal Mahta moved the following resolution: "That the Legislative Council do proceed to elect a committee of seven representatives to take part in the joint conference of the Indian Statutory Commis-

sion, as stated in the letter from the Chairman of the Indian Statutory Commission to his Excellency the Viceroy and Governor-General, dated February 6, 1928." In discussing the resolution the House descended to a very low level of debate—in fact, the lowest seen in this Presidency. Sir Chunilal made a very short speech in proposing the resolution and gave the impression that he was not very enthusiastic about the question; this most probably was due to a desire to keep on good terms with both parties. It is interesting to note that the House set up the record of 42 speeches on the resolution. The voting was on Thursday, and it was not a surprise when the resolution was passed by a majority of 24 votes. Yesterday the Council elected the Committee. It is composed of the following gentlemen:—Khan Bahadur Bhutto, Leader of the Muslim party in Sind, who headed the poll with 53 votes; Khan Sahib Abdul Latif of Sholapur; Syed Mahomed Shah, the new member for Hyderabad; Sardar Muzumdar; Mr. B. V. Jadhav, leader of the Non-Brahmins in Bombay; Dr. Ambedkar, another leader of the Non-Brahmins; and Mr. E. Miller, of the Bombay Chamber of Commerce.

Bardoli Negotiations.

The arrival of Mr. Gandhi at Surat was followed by Mr. Patel's departure to Poona. Mr. Patel left for Poona at the invitation of the members of the Council who wished to confer with him. It is significant that Mr. Patel is staying at Sir Chunilal's place in Poona, and the general feeling is that the chances of arriving at a settlement were never better than at present. While the persons present at the Conference are anxious not to wreck the chances of settlement by a too early disclosure of their plans, certain incidents which have taken place at Poona during the week lend support to the view that the dispute will be ended in a few days. The most important event is the interview which Sir Leslie Wilson had this week with Mr. Patel. Mr. Patel has expressed himself ready for an honourable settlement, and I have reason to state that he is eager to settle the question, because there is a general feeling that he missed his opportunity when he refused the terms of the Governor of Surat. The entire responsibility of the settlement has been thrown on the Surat members of the Council, and it must be said to their credit that they are sparing no pains to arrive at a compromise. The reports in the Press are conflicting and it is by no means easy to decide whether the negotiations will succeed, as some reports have it, or whether they will break-down, but there is no doubt that the public are anxious to bring the matter to an end, and that in itself is a good omen.

The Coastal Traffic Reservation Bill.

Mr. Sarabhai Haji, an employee of the Scindia Steam Navigation Company, seeks through two Bills to give effect to the recommendations of the Indian Mercantile Marine Committee that indigenous shipping should be encouraged by a system of "bounties, subsidies, etc."; the object of the two Bills is to secure the coastal traffic to Indians. The first Bill is intended to do away with all monopolies, and the second aims at getting all the coastal traffic into the hands of Indians in the next five years. The Bill, should they come up before the Assembly, have every chance of being passed. Mr. Gandhi expresses the public sentiment when he writes in *Young India*: "I should welcome and support all such action that would protect the organised industries from foreign competition, especially when it is grossly unfair, as it is in the case of shipping." In this connexion it is interesting to note that two directors of the Scindia Steam Navigation Company are at present in England; Mr. Walchand Hirachand Doshi and Mr. H. P. Mody have gone over to see Lord Inchcape with regard to certain complaints about the agreement between the S.S.N. Company and the British India Company made ten years ago.

The Agricultural Commission.

An interesting address was delivered last Saturday by

Sir Lalubhai Samaldas at the Institute of Political and Social Science, when Dr. Harold Mann presided. Both the Chairman and the speaker are recognised authorities on agriculture and kindred subjects. Sir Lalubhai dealt with the Agricultural Commission's Report in all its aspects. Criticising the terms of reference of the Commission, he said that the exclusion of the systems of land tenure and revenue assessment from them was a mistake. He held that the personnel of the Commission was not satisfactory, and that the method of inquiry was also faulty. Out of the 395 witnesses examined, only twenty were agriculturists *bona fide*, the case of the small landholders thus going by default. Two important questions were dealt with only cursorily by the Commission: the effect of the present rate of exchange on the economic condition of the agriculturists and the extent of rural indebtedness in the various provinces. The report had only taken the Government point of view and, in fact, only two recommendations were to be found in it, viz., the projected establishment of a Council of Research and the proposal to increase the salaries of the Directors of Agriculture. Dr. Mann, in his speech, disposed of the report as a "wearisome product with nothing in it worthy of the conception of a statesman." He further pointed out that the idea apparently entertained by the Commission that the increase of the production of crop per acre would be a panacea for all the ills of the cultivator was not correct.

OBITUARY.

SIR J. S. CAMPBELL.

Sir John Stratheden Campbell, K.C.S.I., who has died at Sidmouth, was born in 1863, and was educated at Rugby and Balliol College, Oxford. He entered the Indian Civil Service in 1881, and served as Joint Magistrate, Deputy-Commissioner, and Magistrate and Collector. He became Commissioner, United Provinces, in 1906, was a Famine Commissioner in 1907, and was appointed to the Board of Revenue, U.P., in 1913, retiring five years later.

SIR FRANK BEAMAN.

Sir Frank Beaman, whose death, at the age of 71, after a long and distinguished judicial career in India, is announced, was the son of the late Surgeon-General Arden Hulme Beaman, and was educated at Bedford Grammar School and Queen's College, Oxford. He passed into the Indian Civil Service by the examination of 1877, and, arriving in India at the end of 1879, served in Bombay as Assistant Collector and Magistrate. After further service in the Panch Mahals district he was appointed in 1886 special Settlement Officer in Baroda, and in 1891 became judicial assistant to the Political Agent in Kathiawar. Promotions duly followed, and after a few years as Judicial Commissioner of Sind he was appointed in 1907 a Judge of the High Court of Bombay, where the rest of his service was spent until his retirement in November, 1918. He was knighted in the June of the preceding year. After his return to England Sir Frank Beaman by no means lost touch with events and political movements in India. In his later years he suffered from declining sight, but that physical impairment by no means weakened his intellectual vigour or the philosophical and ethical studies to which he devoted himself, and on which he wrote with great conviction.

Mr. Suleiman, Acting Chief Justice of the Allahabad High Court, on August 7 inaugurated the first Bar Council formed under the Indian Bar Councils Act.

The Secretary of State for India in Council has appointed Mr. Edwin Howard to the post of Information Officer at the India Office, vacant owing to the death of Mr. O. Lloyd Evans.

Mr. Surendra Nath Mallik, C.I.E., Member of the Council of India, has been appointed Member of the Indian Delegation to the forthcoming Assembly of the League of Nations in place of Sir Basanta Kumar Mullick, who is detained in India by his duties as Acting Member of the Executive Council of the Governor of Bihar and Orissa.

The Government of India has given formal approval to the Articles of Association of the Bengal Flying Club, and the initial subsidy is being made in October. This comprises a grant of 20,000 rupees (about £1,500), with 9,000 rupees (about £700) besides, for the erection of a hangar, the gift of two light aeroplanes, and rebate off customs duty on equipment. The Bengal Flying Club, which was founded in Calcutta last year, is the fourth light aeroplane club in India to be officially recognised by the Government, the others being at Delhi, Bombay, and Karachi.

Commercial and Financial Section.

NOTES AND NEWS

170, Strand, London, W.C.2,
Tuesday Morning.

Roumania's Stabilisation.

The various financial measures taken recently by the Roumanian Government, foreshadowing the issue of a large stabilisation loan, which now seems to be a distinct possibility in the autumn, have naturally been received by the Roumanians with considerable satisfaction, for it is realised very clearly that the obtaining of a large loan from abroad, coupled with the stabilisation of the currency, are the inevitable preliminaries for the country's recovery from the economic difficulties from which it has suffered ever since 1918. As our Bucharest Correspondent points out this week, the policy of M. Bratianu to avoid further foreign obligations has been responsible for the lack of assistance from abroad hitherto, but it is now evident that this policy is being modified, as indeed it must be if Roumania is to regain her former position in the Balkans. Thus our Correspondent records the arrival of two experts to draw up a scheme for the better development of the mining and metallurgical industries, while it is reported that an English and an American railway expert have been engaged to examine the condition of the railways. It looks, therefore, as if, once the loan is a *fait accompli*, developments in Roumania will be fairly rapid. The country is certainly in a position to make a quick recovery, given favourable conditions, and her economic progress, it must be emphasised, is going to make an enormous difference not only to the Near East but to world trade generally.

Cyprus Asbestos Company.

Further very satisfactory progress was made by the Cyprus Asbestos Company in 1927, and at the recent general meeting, a report of which will be found elsewhere in these columns, Mr. Runacres, who presided, was able to give a most encouraging report of the company's position and prospects. In 1927 the production of asbestos increased by 5,003 tons, and thus for two years in succession the production has been very nearly doubled. The tonnage milled in 1927 was 301,839, and Mr. Runacres stated that the company expects to mill this year a minimum of 400,000 tons, which on the same recovery basis as last year means a production of 14,800 tons.

Greek Loan Service.

Particulars of the yield of the new and old revenues assigned to the Greek Seven per Cent. Refugee Loan of 1924 for the first half of this year show a substantial increase in both cases. For the six months the new revenues amounted to 444,807,246 drachmæ, an increase of 6,110,366 drachmæ, while the total of the old revenues was 1,589,122,605 drachmæ, an increase of 219,282,427 drachmæ. The loan has a first charge on the new revenues and on the surplus of the old revenues after the prior charges, which for the current year are estimated at 29 per cent., have been satisfied. The security available for the Refugee Loan for the first six months of this year is put at about 1,557,193,069 drachmæ, representing £4,152,514 at the stabilised rate of exchange. The service of the loan requires £461,250 for the half year, so that it is at present covered nine times over. It is not surprising in the circumstances that the loan, which was issued at 88, should now stand at 102½. The increase in the revenues is an index of the gradual improvement of the economic position of Greece in recent months, a

development which will be continued if, as is to be hoped, the new Government is able to give to Greece the political tranquillity of which she stands in need.

Suez Canal Traffic.

The figures for the Suez Canal traffic for the first half of this year show that the great improvement shown in the first quarter was more than maintained in the ensuing three months. For the second quarter the tonnage totalled 8,139,000 tons as against 7,853,000 tons for January to March, the figures for the half-year being thus 15,992,000 tons. This total, it is interesting to note, is 1,490,000 tons above the previous record for the same period of the year. As regards the direction of the traffic in the six months, 7,484,000 tons represented the outward and 8,508,000 tons the homeward movement. Of the total tonnage the shipping under the British flag totalled 9,043,000, an increase of 767,000 tons on the figures for the first half of last year. Holland was second with 1,686,000 tons, an increase of 185,000 tons, and Germany was third with 1,518,000 tons, an increase of 288,000 tons. A feature of the returns was the increase of 71,000 tons in the shipping under the Greek flag. Greece only figures tenth in the list of countries, but this increase was the fourth highest. It will be remembered that at the meeting of the Suez Canal Company a warning was given as to the trade prospects for the later part of the year. We are now in a position to estimate the values of the various harvests, and as this summer has been almost a uniformly good one for the crops, it is obvious that the demand for tonnage will increase.

The Motor in India.

Further evidence of the effect of the competition of the motor on the railways in India is forthcoming in the report of the Darjeeling-Himalayan Railway for the past year. There was a decline of Rs. 56,000 in the passenger receipts, which was due to the development of motor-bus services. As I have already pointed out, the railways in India are in a special position as regards motor competition, and it is only over relatively short distances and in large centres of population that the rivalry of the motor is at present likely to be serious. No doubt in India, as elsewhere, the railways will ultimately have to take to the roads, and in view of experiences elsewhere the sooner this development happens the better it is likely to be for the railways.

COMMENTATOR.

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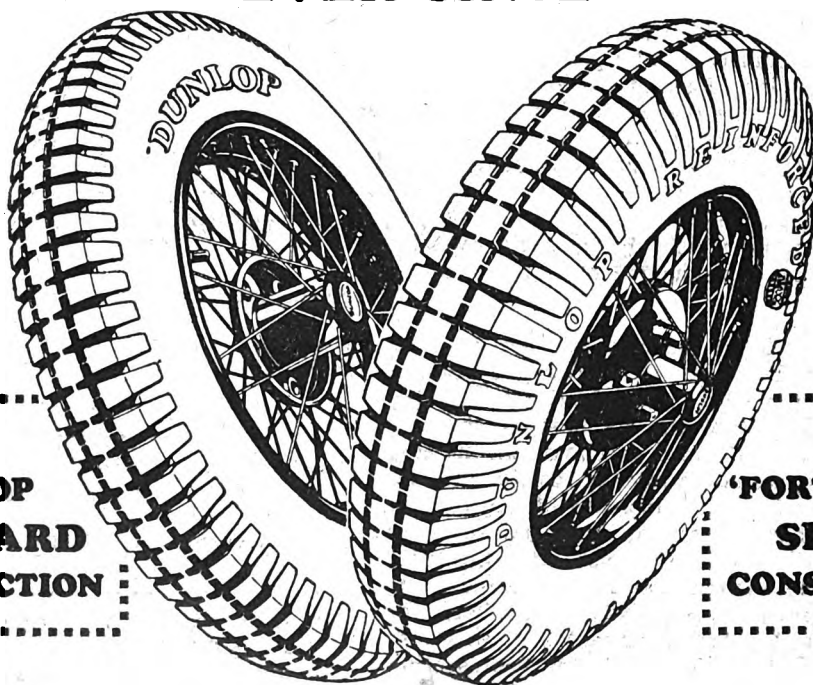
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C.F.H. 330

NOTES FROM ROUMANIA.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Bucharest, August 15.

Stabilisation of the Currency.

There are two subjects occupying the minds of most people in this country at the present time; these are, the intended stabilisation of the currency and the heat wave and long drought.

With regard to the first there is little new to report. Ministers are on holiday and the negotiations appear to be in abeyance. But the country as a whole is enthusiastically in favour of the step, which all financial and commercial circles believe will mark the beginning of a gradual improvement in the economic condition of the country. All the Chambers of Commerce and of Agriculture have expressed their approval, and the Union of Roumanian Industrialists at a meeting on August 9 passed a motion heartily approving of the efforts of the Government to effect the stabilisation, and stating that they hoped that this measure, when brought into operation, would encourage an important influx of foreign capital into the country. Apparently the Minister of Finance has somewhat modified his tactics in this regard, for it is to-day reported in the Press that two important engineer experts, one French and one German, have arrived in Roumania at the request of the Roumanian Government and are visiting the mining districts with a view to elaborating a scheme for the more efficient development of the Roumanian mining and metallurgical industries. It is further reported that an English and an American railway expert have been engaged by the Roumanian Government to examine the condition of the State Railways from the administrative and technical point of view and to draw up a scheme for their improvement, covering the necessary new construction. So many abortive attempts have been made to set the railways on their feet that one feels diffident about building great hopes on the present information; still, as there does seem to be a probability that the negotiations for a stabilisation and railway loan are destined to bear fruit this autumn, it may reasonably be hoped that something will really be done this time to enable Roumania to develop her great natural wealth.

All attempts made by foreign groups to lend assistance in this direction have hitherto been wrecked by the consistent policy of M. Vintila Bratianu (whose word has been law during most of that period) to incur no further foreign obligations until all existing debts had either been paid or consolidated, and his measures to this end affected not the policy of the State, but also discouraged the co-operation of private foreign capital in Roumanian industries. From the above statement regarding the proposed development of the mining industries, it would appear that M. Bratianu has now modified his policy. There is no doubt that there is great scope for capital investment in Roumania, but it remains to be seen whether the conditions offered will be acceptable to foreign capitalists.

The Agricultural Situation.

At the beginning of the summer all the cereal crops promised a "bumper" harvest, but on June 24 a period of intense heat began, and in some districts no rain at all has

fallen since then. In other parts, however, and especially in Transylvania, there has been sufficient rain to save the maize crop, which in a great part of the Danube valley has suffered very severely from the drought. The last official report, which is always rather inclined to optimism, states that the maize crop in most parts of Old Roumania is badly in need of moisture. Some local rains have fallen since then, but it is not certain that they were in time to do much good. Heavy hail storms in the late spring did great damage to the fruit trees in many parts of the country, so that tree fruits, such as apricots, apples, and pears are scarce and very expensive this year. Owing to the prolonged drought also all vegetables cost double the usual price this summer. This, however, only affects the town dwellers, and it is the maize crop that chiefly interests the majority of the population, for maize is the staple diet of the peasants, for whom it largely takes the place of bread. Hence a failure of the maize crop is something like a national disaster, so it is to be hoped that the final returns will show that the general situation is less critical than it appears to be.

The Vice-President of the Union of Chambers of Agriculture has made a public statement to the effect that the reports from the different districts as to the quantity and quality of this year's harvest vary enormously. In the north of Moldavia, the Banat, the Dobruja and the north of Bessarabia they are said to be excellent, while in the hilly districts of Muntenia and in the south of Bessarabia they are very poor. Barley is generally reported to be excellent, but in many parts there is no seed-wheat and many petitions have been received at the Chambers of Agriculture for assistance in this direction, by the distribution of seed-wheat. There are no complaints as regards transport.

Italy and Roumania.

The Roumanian press comments with great satisfaction on the ratification by Italy of her official sanction of the union of Bessarabia to Roumania, by the publication of the relative law in the Italian Official Gazette.

The Banca Commerciale Italiana of Milan has offered a loan of 12 million dollars to the Roumanian Banking Institution, the "Credit Industrial," which is to be used for the discounting of industrial Bills. This sign of goodwill from the Italian group has been greatly appreciated in official circles and has raised the status of the affiliated Italian Bank in this country, the Banca Commerciale Italiana si Romana.

Roumano-German Differences.

A delegation headed by M. Oromolu, formerly Governor of the National Bank, has arrived in Berlin for the purpose of starting negotiations with a view to settling the outstanding financial differences between the two countries, i.e., the question of indemnity for the bank notes issued by the Banca Generale during the German occupation of this country; and the question of the recognition by Roumania of her obligations in regard to the stocks of certain issues of Roumanian loans on the German market. These are some of the questions which have hitherto obstructed all loan negotiations, and it is understood that both parties are now determined to come to an agreement.

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THE BULGARIAN BUDGET.

The Bulgarian Budget for 1928-9 in the form in which it was presented to and left the Sobranie showed a total expenditure of 7,481,500,000 leva (ordinary expenditure, 6,750,000,000 leva; special expenditure, 731,500,000 leva) and a total revenue of 7,565,000,000 leva (ordinary, 6,788,000,000; special funds, 777,000,000). Minor alterations were made during the passage of the Budget through Parliament, but without affecting the total. The special expenditure included as its main items: Agriculture and Domains, 283,000,000 leva; Railways and Ports, 253,000,000; War, 99,000,000; Justice, 87,000,000 leva. The details of the Budget are as follows:—

EXPENDITURE.

	1928-9. Millions of leva.	1927-8. Millions of leva.
Court, Parliament, and Cabinet	57	52
Public Debt	1,787	1,577
Audit Office	22	25
Ministries—		
Foreign Affairs and Religion		
Foreign Affairs	94	97
Religion	45	46
Interior and Public Health		
Interior (including Police)	285	295
Public Health	161	167
Public Instruction	892	871
Finance	196	205
Justice	188	191
War	1,110	1,182
Commerce, Industry, and Labour	133	154
Agriculture and Domains	207	229
Public Works		
Roads and Works	209	269
Forced Labour	163	171
Railways, Posts and Telegraphs		
Railways and Ports	805	981
Posts, Telegraphs, and Telephones	223	248
Aviation	30	31
Reparations	39	52
Amortisation of Debt to National Bank	100	150
	6,750	6,992

REVENUE.

	1928-9. Millions of leva.	1927-8. Millions of leva.
Direct Taxation	918	897
Indirect Taxation	2,647	2,730
Fiscal Duties	636	615
Fines and Confiscations	72	70
Railways and Ports	1,168	1,171
Posts, Telegraphs and Telephones	261	267
State Domains and Enterprises	397	181
Local Contributions for Education	445	433
Miscellaneous Receipts	110	
Balance from previous Budget		

The Bulgarian financial year of 1927-1928 closed with a surplus of 238,000,000 leva (about £355,000) after the necessary expenditure and supplementary credits necessitated by the liquidation of War debts.

Company Meeting.

CYPRUS ASBESTOS COMPANY.

Production Again Nearly Doubled.

The ordinary general meeting of the Cyprus Asbestos Company, Limited, was held at Amiandos on July 31 last.

Mr. A. S. Runacres, who presided, said:—Gentlemen,—As you will have seen from the directors' report and accounts, the production for the year 1927 increased by 5,003 tons, which compares with an increase in 1926 of 2,976 tons, and our production for the second year in succession has been again very nearly doubled.

The tonnage milled in 1927 was 301,839, as against 154,595 in 1926. On the basis of the recovery yield of 4 per cent. obtained in 1926, we should have produced 12,000 tons of asbestos without any appreciable increase in working costs. The yield, however, dropped to 3.7 per cent., and results, although showing substantial progress, were not so good as at one time were expected. However, I am glad to say that the recovery yield shows no sign of falling any further; on the contrary, indications point to a somewhat slow but steady improvement.

We expect to mill this year a minimum of 400,000 tons, which, on a recovery yield on the same basis as last year of 3.7 per cent., would produce 14,800 tons. Possibly we shall do better than this, as the production to date amounts to 7,130 tons, as compared with 5,049 tons last year, so that we are to-day (July 31) 2,081 tons ahead of last year's figures. We have installed a fourth 330 k.w. set in the central power station, and a fifth 330 k.w. set will be added shortly.

Quarry Organisation.

Primary Mill No. 6 started up on July 1, and is being fully supplied with ore. The quarry organisation is working satisfactorily, and we are now benefiting by the large amount of development work done during the last two years. No difficulties are anticipated in the future in increasing quarry production to keep pace with increased milling capacity.

The quarries are still in the very early stages of development, and although some time hence we may reach a point when an improved recovery yield will give us a yearly increased tonnage of asbestos and larger profits without having to instal additional plant, this stage has not yet been reached, and in the meantime we must look mainly to further development work and the milling of an increasing yearly tonnage to enable us to earn larger profits each succeeding year. The whole business is working smoothly and satisfactorily, and the profit for the year 1928 is expected to show a substantial increase over that shown in the accounts now before you.

FORTHCOMING SAILINGS.

Anchor Line.—S.s. Castalia for Bombay (Birkenhead, August 25). (For passenger sailings and dates see advertisement.)

Anchor Brocklebank Line.—S.s. Mahanada for Calcutta (Birkenhead, August 30); s.s. Manipur for Calcutta (Birkenhead, September 6).

Bibby Line.—S.s. Oxfordshire for Port Said, Port Sudan, Colombo, and Rangoon (Birkenhead, September 5).

British India Line.—S.s. Manora for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, August 25); s.s. Golconda for Bombay and Karachi (London, September 8).

Cunard Line.—S.s. Bosnia for Gibraltar, Malta, Patras, Piræus, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, and Constantza (Liverpool, Glasgow, and Swansea, August 25); s.s. Bantria for Gibraltar, Genoa, Leghorn, Naples, Palermo, Messina, Catania, Corfu, Bari, Venice, Trieste, and Fiume (Liverpool September 15, and Swansea September 18).

Johnston Line.—S.s. Kenmore for Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, September 1); s.s. Dromore for Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, September 29).

P. and O. Line.—S.s. Kaiser-i-Hind for Bombay (London, August 31); s.s. Nagoya for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, September 1).

Prince Line.—S.s. Sailor Prince for Tunis, Malta, Alexandria, Jaffa, Haifa, Beyrout, Tripoli, Alexandretta, Mersina, and Cyprus (London, September 1); s.s. Algerian Prince for Tunis, Malta, Alexandria, Jaffa, Haifa, Beyrout, and Cyprus (Manchester, September 1).

Ellerman and Parry Lines.—S.s. Egyptian for Gibraltar, Malta, Alexandria, Jaffa, and Haifa (Liverpool, August 25); s.s. Algerian for Genoa, Leghorn, Naples, Palermo, Messina, Catania, Bari, Gruz, Ancona, Venice, Trieste, and Fiume (Liverpool September 1, Swansea September 6); s.s. Dido for Malta, Alexandria, Jaffa, and Haifa (Liverpool, September 8); s.s. Gerano for Gibraltar, Patras, Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, and Constantza (Liverpool, September 8); s.s. Lesbian for Oran, Algiers, Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, and Constantza (Liverpool, September 22).

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THE WEEK'S FINANCE.

(By Our Financial Expert.)

London, August 21.

The volume of Stock Exchange business is at a low ebb, as is usually the case at the height of the holiday season, but there are few signs of weakness, and the new account has opened with a steady tone. The only market presenting features of exceptional interest is the oil share section where most of the leaders have advanced in price as a result of persistent buying, prompted by more optimistic views of the future of the industry.

Markets being quiet, attention in investment circles has been largely absorbed by two important announcements made by the Treasury on Thursday night. One concerned the result of the offer of 5 per cent. Treasury Bonds 1933-35 to convert during July into 4 per cent. Consols. The response to this offer has been far better than was expected, £134 millions out of a total of £217 millions having been converted. The other announcement is of a new issue of £35 million 5 per cent. Treasury Bonds, the proceeds to be used to pay off the outstanding portion of the 4 per cent. and 5 per cent. National War Bonds which mature on September 1. The new bonds are to be sold by tender, the minimum price being 101. These are steps preparatory to a bigger conversion operation for which the Treasury is biding its time and watching for suitable monetary circumstances. But the success of each step lightens the bigger task ahead, and the good conversion result just announced should serve to strengthen the tone of British Government securities, which have been slightly affected of late by monetary doubts.

The "Tote."

One of the events of the week has been the exemplary action taken by the Stock Exchange Committee in order to protect the investing public. A prospectus was issued by a company called "Totalisators, Limited," which, in view of the recent legalisation of betting by totalisator in Great Britain, has been formed to purchase the rights for Great Britain and the Irish Free State in the "Premier" totalisator machine from an Australian company. The issue of the prospectus was followed by a statement by the Stock Exchange Committee that no

dealings would be allowed in respect of any totalisator flotation unless it was stated that the machine concerned had been adopted by the Racecourse Betting Control Board. As a result the directors of Totalisators, Ltd., have postponed making the allotments and it will be interesting to see what further steps they will take. The Stock Exchange Committee, it has been said, might have acted earlier, and there is much difference of opinion whether the Committee took the right course. The Stock Exchange Committee, whatever the technical merits of their action, has served the investing public well if it has thereby stopped a flood of prospectuses of a premature type.

The Oil Outlook.

The oil share market has recently shown more buoyancy than for some time past. This is due less to any outstanding tangible fact than to a general belief that the worst is passed. American production, it is true, shows a somewhat declining tendency, while the oil war in the East was lately terminated. But, although American production is lower, the phase of overproduction is by no means at an end. There have recently been rumours that a number of the world's leading oil magnates are meeting in Scotland with a view to arriving at an international agreement to restrict production. It remains to be seen how much substance there is in these rumours. Many authorities, however, would welcome such an agreement, since they hold that there is urgent need for conserving the world's oil resources. In the words of one observer: "Although few things are more dangerous than attempting to prophesy future events where oil is concerned, it is difficult to escape the conviction that the world is using up its oil resources of liquid petroleum at such a rate that bankruptcy is inevitable." It will be remembered that Sir John Cadman, speaking as a geologist and business man, said substantially the same thing at the last meeting of the Anglo-Persian Oil Company. In a word, whatever the immediate future may hold, the present signs would seem to point to the likelihood of the more distant future favouring the holder of good oil shares.

Port of London Stocks.

The report of the Port of London Authority for the year ended March 31 last again makes a satisfactory showing, the surplus of revenue over expenditure amounting to £1,347,548. This compares with £1,403,513 for 1926-27 and £1,308,236 for 1925-26. The sum remaining to be carried to the balance sheet was £591,399. The undertaking occupies a very strong financial position. There are various reserve funds, including a general reserve fund, separately invested, of £1,000,000, which together make a substantial total. The comparative stability of the earnings of the Authority, and the fact that they are likely to increase rather than decline, lend interest to the Authority's stocks for those investors who cannot afford to take risks. The yields, it is true, are correspondingly modest, but virtually gilt-edged security is not accompanied by generous returns. At any rate, the yields are appreciably above those given by British Government securities. Taking the long-dated stocks the 4 per cent. inscribed stock, redeemable 1940-60, gives a return of £5 2s. per cent. This is also the yield given by the 4 per cent. inscribed stock of which the years of redemption are likewise 1940-60.

TENDERS INVITED.

EGYPT.

Tools, Etc.—The Office of the Principal, Royal School of Engineering, Giza, invites tenders for the supply of small workshop tools and accessories, accumulator battery, switchboard, etc. October 4. Generator Set.—The Ministry of the Interior invites tenders for the supply and delivery of the material required for an additional D.C. generator set for the Beni Mazar Power Station. October 20.

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Motors and Motoring.

By G. B. B.

New Bean Car.

The name of Hadfield, of Sheffield steel fame, has been given to a 75-mile-an-hour sports model produced by Bean Cars, Ltd., Tipton, England, which is under the control of the firm of which Sir Robert Hadfield is head. The car has been built in response to representations from overseas countries where the lively performance of the 14/45 horse-power touring model led users to believe that it would lend itself to "hotting up." Speed is combined with safety equipment, including splinterless glass, four-wheel brakes, and headlights that give a 200-yard beam.

Two types of bodywork are fitted—a light fabric saloon and a smart fabric open body, both equipped with pneumatic upholstery. All essential parts are made with Hadfield's steel, and the tyres, on wire wheels, are reinforced Dunlop cords.

The chassis weighs 16 cwt.; ground clearance is nine inches, with clean design underneath; and the track four feet, nine inches. The chassis will be known as the "Hadfield" Bean 14/70 sports model. The 14/45 horse-power model continues to be made.

New Motor Roads Scheme.

The suggestion that has been made so frequently that big motor roads should be constructed from London to other centres, privately owned and kept in condition by tolls levied on the users, seems to be taking tangible shape at last. I have heard many arguments in favour of the scheme, and private car owners generally welcome the prospect of being able, in the near future, to drive their cars at full speed. Personally, I shall need convincing, and a good deal of convincing at that, before I favour the proposal. If the use of such roads is to be confined to trained racing drivers, well and good. If they are to be open to all who care to pay the toll, then I have no hesitation in saying that before they have been open for any length of time, we shall be appalled by the number of accidents, and serious accidents at that, which will take place. It is not every driver who wants to drive fast and knows how to drive fast, and we shall therefore always be exposed, on such roads, to the risk of meeting or of being overtaken by a driver who dashes along at from 70 to 80 m.p.h. and then loses control!

I see Mr. Shrapnel-Smith, who is president of the Commercial Motor Users' Association, is not in agreement with the proposal. He said the other day that after looking into the question carefully, he had arrived at the conclusion that speed roads such as those proposed were not desirable from an economic point of view. He added: "The Commercial Motor Users' Association does not want them. It is of no use making comparisons with Italy. The standard of our own road construction is vastly superior. Further, the motorist already pays large sums in road taxation and I do not think that he would be willing to pay more. Consider the proposed road from London to Brighton. The suggestion is that this would start at the Kingston by-pass. It would take a motorist half an hour to reach that point from Pall Mall. By that time he would be getting into the country, and it is just at this point that he is to be asked to pay more or less heavily just for the pleasure of being allowed to go on a speed road for about 30 miles. Then, just as he was nearing Brighton, he would have to leave the track and take to the ordinary public roads again. I doubt if he would find the saving of time worth while. If he could start on his speed road in the centre of London it would be a different thing. So it would if he could follow it to the centre of the town to which he was going. I am of opinion that our present roads have not reached saturation point."

Mr. J. H. Lowe, of the Motor Drivers' Association, is also not in favour of the speed roads. His view is that

if there be no speed limit imposed, they will develop into mere racing tracks, an opinion which is held by most people. He added: "I cannot imagine what such a road would be like without speed restrictions. I do not think any motor-coach owners would care to send their vehicles on these roads."

A further point is that if such roads are to be a financial success, they would have to be well patronised by commercial transport firms. But heavily laden lorries are not the speediest of vehicles, and their presence would add considerably to the risks of fast driving by other vehicles. An accident to one of these, in the shape of a broken axle, or a bad skid resulting in an overturn would cause bad congestion and it might easily be found, in practice, that these speed roads were such only in name and not in fact.

NEWS FROM ALL SOURCES.

The National Bank of Egypt has declared an interim dividend of 8s. per share (4 per cent.) on account of the profits for 1928.

The number of new motor cars registered in Iraq during May was 47 and that of motor trucks and omnibuses 11.

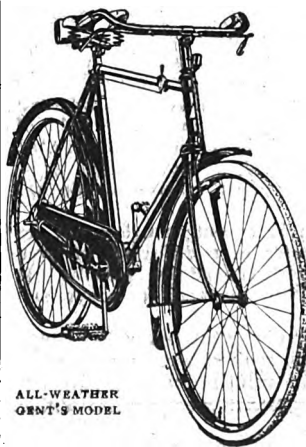
The Bombay, Baroda, and Central India Railway Company has given a contract to the Sentinel Waggon Works, Shrewsbury, for three "Sentinel-Cammell" steam rail cars.

The Sudan Government Railways have awarded contracts for 75 30-ton bogie covered goods waggons to the Gloucester Railway Carriage and Wagon Company, and for 50 30-ton open bogie goods waggons to Cammell, Laird, and Co., Nottingham.

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THE LIVERPOOL COTTON MARKET.

Messrs. Reynolds and Gibson report as follows for the week ended August 15:—

Egyptian Futures.—Sakel Contract.—This contract jumped 50 points (November) after the publication of last Wednesday's Bureau report and then reacted sharply in sympathy with the weakness in the American market. Not for a long time past has our market presented such a demoralised appearance as it did during the two days immediately following the report, but by midday on the Friday a generally sold out feeling prevailed and the tone was much quieter.

Outside speculative interests were temporarily scared away and the professional traders had apparently closed their books in disgust. At this, the first sign of steadiness, with the November contract quoted at about 17.10d., legitimate trade began to show signs of revival. A fair amount of "Fixing" of cotton took place and inquiries for actual poured in. No great weight of business resulted, but it was a welcome change after a long period of inactivity. Further weakness in New York and the American market here failed to choke the demand entirely, and it has become increasingly evident during the last few days that the current levels for Egyptian cotton are considered a commercial proposition.

Fluctuations have latterly been restricted within comparatively narrow limits and November contracts have shown a considerable amount of resistance in the neighbourhood of 17d. It would be folly to prophesy a speedy recovery at this stage, but we would again remind our readers that the statistical position is a strong one and any sustained revival in trade demand is likely to be reflected in our market to no uncertain degree, even allowing for the fact that the present premium of 750 points over American contracts looks an ample one at the rates ruling.

We doubt if there is much of a short interest open after the recent heavy drop, and as the weight of a possibly huge American crop still hangs over the market it is unlikely that the prospects of a "bull" campaign will offer much attraction to outside interests for the time being. We are rather inclined to look for a period of comparative steadiness (provided, of course, that there is no further collapse in American cotton) with possibly an upward tendency sustained by an improved offtake for actual cotton.

Our market has widened out again with Alexandria, the discount ruling at the moment being approximately 30 points, but this probably will be only a temporary movement and we expect to see the difference close in again.

Upper Contract.—More activity has been witnessed in this contract. After the Bureau figures were received November was quoted at 13.10d. (a jump of 55 points), but two days later, in sympathy with the marked weakness in American contracts, a relapse took place, at one time to as low as 12d. At this period it was possible to engage in the Upper/American straddle at a difference of 225 points—a very reasonable-looking proposition, of which advantage was taken by many traders. This straddle buying, together with trade support, caused a recovery of some 35 points, but renewed weakness in American cotton and heavy selling on Continental and Alexandria account, induced by "bearish" crop cables, caused a further decline, and November broke through the 12d. level. At the lowest, trading in this month took place at 11.74d.; that was on Monday, the 12th inst., and since then a much improved tone has developed as a result of trade support and stronger American markets. As we write, the November delivery is very firm in the neighbourhood of 12.50d. per lb., or practically unchanged from when we last wrote just prior to the Bureau report.

Egyptian Spot.—The excitement which followed the Bureau announcement, and the fluctuations which took place, were not calculated to inspire confidence amongst traders, and it was only on Friday last, when prices had had a chance to find a level (more or less), that trade interest began to make itself felt. About mid-day inquiries poured into the market, and although no great weight of business was put through at first, a much better tone has resulted in the Egyptian section in consequence, and we are pleased to be able to record that up to date the improvement in the demand has been fully maintained.

Sakel cotton at 750 points over American contracts does not, to our mind, look unreasonable, and Uppers at a difference of from 225 to 235 over look cheap compared with competitive growths. It is evident from what has occurred during the past few days that the trade is much of the same mind.

The local inquiry has been principally concerned with Upper cotton at from pass to 50 on contracts, with a certain amount of attention also paid to the lower grades, at from 10 off to 75 off. The

top qualities, though not much in request, are very hard to find. Sakel cotton at from pass to 100 on has been in good request and quite a brisk inquiry for the lower quality at from 15d. to 16½d. has sprung up to-day. The best Sakels have been in only moderate request. Pillion, White, and Nahda have all come in for a share of attention. Pillion, of course, has become very scarce. The grade of White cotton in demand at the moment appears to be about Good Fair to Strict Good Fair. A steady improvement in the demand for Sudan Sakel has been witnessed, but Tokar Sakel still remains very neglected. Inferior qualities of all growths have, generally speaking, been in moderate request only. America has again been in the market both for Uppers and Sakel.

C.i.f. business has been quiet, which is hardly surprising when one realises the tightness of the Alexandria spot market. Forwardings to spinners for the week ending the 10th inst. were returned as 6,555 bales Egyptian and 1,195 bales Sudan. Estimated spot sales, 2,300 bales Egyptian and 1,150 bales Sudan. Quotations of Sakel are reduced 20 points and those of Upper 10 points on the week. F.G.F. Sakel to-day, 18.30d. F.G.F. Upper to-day, 12.80d. F.G.F. Pillion to-day, 14.20d.

THE EGYPTIAN MARKET.

The Alexandria Commercial Company, in their report for the week ended August 9, state:—

The futures market during the week under review has been fairly active, but prices have fluctuated rather wildly; the tone at the close to-day was barely steady. The week's summary of price movements is as follows:—Sakellaridis: November, 36.78 dollars, 0.56 dollars down; January, 36.98 dollars, 0.57 dollars down. Ashmouni: August, 23.92 dollars, 0.36 dollars down; October, 24.45 dollars, 0.45 dollars down; December, 24.87 dollars, 0.40 dollars down.

Sakellaridis.—The event of the week was the publication on Friday last, towards the close of the market, of the Government estimate of the acreage planted in cotton in Egypt this year. The estimate was much above expectations, showing, as it did, an all-round increase of about 15 per cent. The Sakellaridis acreage is given as 799,523 against 795,740, the Government figure last year, and as the market had been expecting a reduction of about 60,000 feddans, prices rapidly declined until, in the space of about an hour, they were down a dollar and a half from the previous close.

The appearance of the American Bureau report last evening was reflected in a rise to-day of about 75 points, but the market is not at all enthusiastic. Sentiment is distinctly bearish, and the bullish nature of the Bureau report is ignored.

No new factor has appeared in our market. The demand is as poor as ever and the drop has not brought in any inquiry. Spinners just buy their immediate requirements and no more; their abstention from new crop purchases has certainly been profitable this year, but it is as well to remember that prices are now 7 dollars down from those of two months ago.

The Sakellaridis-Ashmouni straddle stands at about the same as last week.

Uppers.—This market has shared in the general movement of prices and the loss on the week is about 40 points. The acreage estimated for Ashmouni and Zagora shows a very large increase over last year, as much as 28 per cent. We are inclined to think that the increase indicated is on the top side; certainly, in addition to the general increase in Upper Egypt more land has been given over to Zagora in the Delta, but we do not think that the increase is as much as shown in the Government report.

Demand in Uppers has been fair, but, as usual, restricted to the grades in small supply. The American-Ashmouni straddle has narrowed in considerably, Uppers have lost about 40 points, while Americans have gained about 50 points, so that the straddle stands at 433 points against 525 points last week.

General.—Exports during the week have been quite good, being nearly 100,000 kantars, and it looks as if we shall finish the season with a stock of about 1,200,000 kantars.

Spot.—Total sales this week amount to about 6,100 bales, of which we estimate 2,000 bales Sakellaridis, 4,000 bales Ashmouni and Zagora, and 100 bales other varieties.

Sakellaridis. The week started with a fairly good demand for all grades, but towards the later part of the week business fell off. Spot differences are well maintained. Sellers are not anxious to part with what small stocks they hold, and exporters thus find themselves in the position of being unable to offer abroad.

Ashmouni and Zagora. There has been a very good demand for all grades up to Good and high premiums have been paid for Good Fair and Fully Good Fair. As mentioned in previous reports, this cotton is getting daily scarcer and Fully Good Fair and below is now practically non-existent.

Other Varieties. A small business has been done in White. Spot differences for this variety have eased considerably, holders being anxious to dispose of their stocks before the arrival of the new crop.

Crop, 1928.—The crop is progressing normally under favourable climatic conditions. Temperature has been high and humidity fairly intense. One hears of damage from excessive humidity, but we do not find that this is serious. Boll worm damage is increasing, as is natural, but the attack, for the time being, is light. Picking has already commenced in Upper Egypt, and within a few days cotton will be arriving in the ginning factories. There has been a little shedding of bolls, but it is not serious.

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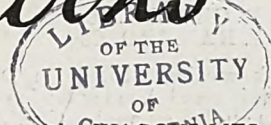
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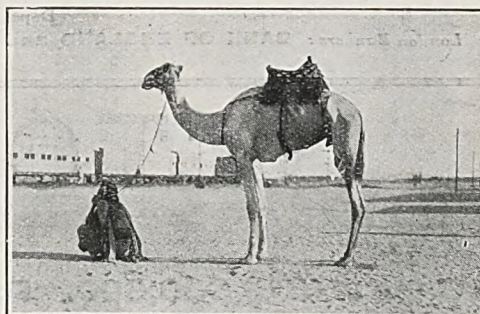
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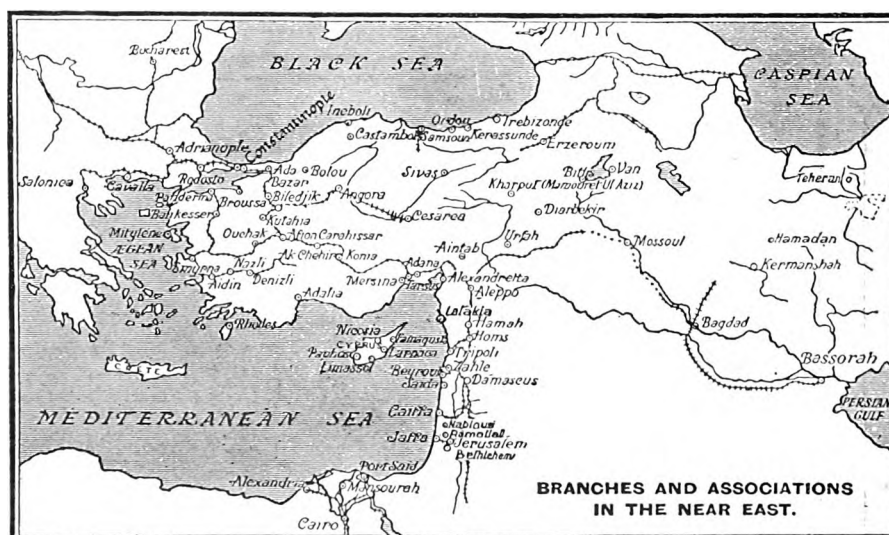
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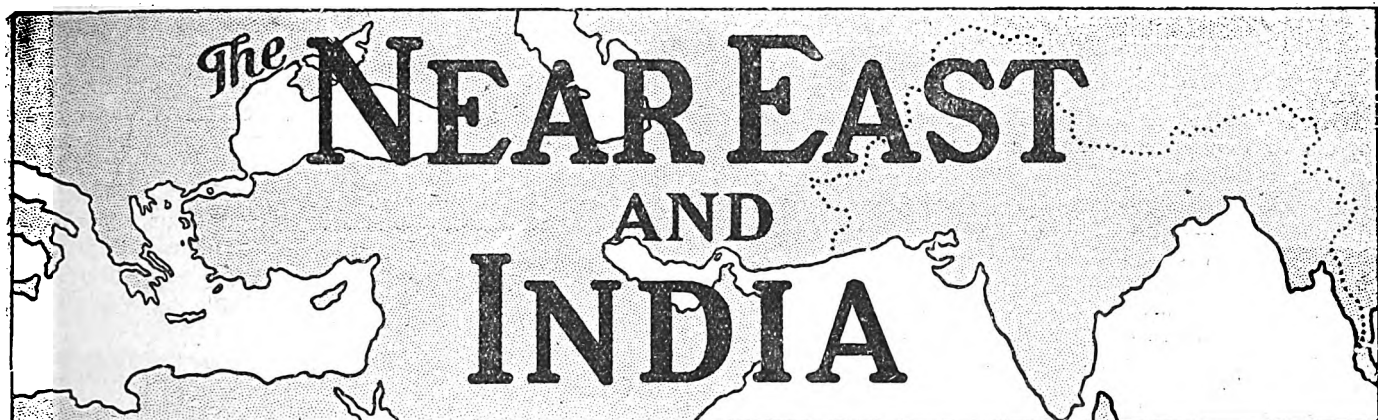
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Notes of the Week.

The Kingdom of Albania.

An Albanian republic was as much an anomaly in practice as it was in theory. Ahmed Bey Zogu can, therefore claim to be doing no violence to the Albanian conscience in arranging to put an end to it. Any hesitation on his part probably had reference to the effect that was likely to be produced abroad rather than to uncertainty regarding the way in which the step would be received in the country itself. As soon as he was assured that no complications with foreign Powers were to be feared, the ground was prepared with characteristic confidence for the necessary action. A wave of monarchical enthusiasm swept over the whole country, terminating in a demonstration in Tirana, which in the name of the whole Albanian people called upon the President of the Republic to accept the crown of Skanderbeg. The resultant formalities follow this week, when Ahmed Zogu is to be crowned as King Skanderbeg III. By styling her new monarch the third of that name, Albania pays him and herself the subtle compliment of recalling in his person the country's link with Alexander the Great. The new King differs from his medieval predecessor in that he mounts the throne as a Muslim; not the least part of Skanderbeg's fame rests on the fact that, before being proclaimed Chief of the League of the Albanian Peoples, he had abjured Islam, the religion of his country's enemies, and had returned to the faith of his race. If there is to be opposition to the new order in Albania, the religion of the sovereign may form a convenient rallying cry for some of the malcontents. It is more likely, however, that, if King Skanderbeg III is to encounter obstacles from within the country, they will spring from the inherent reluctance of Albanian chieftains to subscribe to their own permanent inferiority to one of their number, with which religious questions have nothing in common. Ahmed Bey Zogu has maintained his position as President of the Republic mainly by the strength of his own right hand, and he will have to rely on the same agency for the maintenance of his throne.

His personal rule has not been unattended by success, but whether it has lasted long enough to have become broad-based upon the people's will and gratitude must still remain an open question.

A Rival Claimant.

It was not to be expected that Prince William of Wied would allow the occasion of the accession of King Skanderbeg III to pass without a formal protest against the new monarch's assumption of power. The Albanians were royalist enough at heart to welcome anyone selected for them as their sovereign, but it may be doubted whether their Mpret of six months' standing fourteen years ago was cast in a sufficiently heroic mould to make any real and lasting impression on a naturally warlike people. If Prince William had wished to show himself suitably endowed with the qualifications for his difficult post, he would have left the country less precipitately in 1914, and would have asserted his claims at an earlier date after the War. In a less troubled State he might have proved a wise and able ruler; but the situation in Albania in 1928 no less than in 1914 calls for a monarch who knows his own mind and is able to act with decision. If the enthusiasm with which the conversion of the Republic into a Monarchy has been hailed in Albania is regarded as spontaneous and genuine, it may be that the section of Albanians which Ahmed Bey Zogu has disappointed most of all—the political refugees from his régime—will seek to profit by the monarchical sentiment of the people by adopting Prince William of Wied as their nominee for the throne. To-day their chances of success are not bright, and it is doubtful whether they would be improved by an attempt to support the candidature of one who has been tried and found wanting.

Serbs and Croats.

It is human nature to air grievances, and the wider the audience the greater as a rule the satisfaction derived. From their representative character international congresses provide an ideal arena for the broadcasting of

protests. Hence the conference of the Inter-Parliamentary Union now being held in Berlin supplies an attractive medium for submitting complaints bearing on matters affecting parliaments in different countries. Among the seven hundred delegates assembled at this year's conference it is natural to find some at least who are more anxious to denounce conditions in their own countries than to contribute to the general cause of parliamentarism. Mr. de Valera from Ireland will criticize Great Britain, Egyptians will inveigh against the actions of their present Prime Minister, and Italians will lament the eclipse of the Italian Parliament under the régime of Signor Mussolini. It has been left to the Croats to send a deputation of their own, in order to challenge the right of the official delegates from the Yugoslav Skupshtina to appear. The incident is not calculated to trouble the Congress much, as it will have no difficulty in admitting the legitimacy of the official Yugoslav delegation. Nor will the majority of the countries that are denounced before the Congress take the matter much to heart. Yugoslavia, however, promises to be an exception. Here the Belgrade Government is credited with the intention of regarding the action of the Croat malcontents as treasonable and of taking proceedings against them. Lack of humour, imagination and commonsense will never have served the Serbs a worse turn than if they attempt to take notice of the letting off of Croat steam in Berlin. The Inter-Parliamentary Union has no status for sitting in judgment on the Skupshtina; all the world knows what the Croats think of Belgrade, and they cannot add anything to that knowledge by sending telegrams or delegates to the Congress. If on the other hand the Yugoslav Government shows itself so intolerant of criticism as to goad the Croats further into desperation, the world, apart from any Inter-Parliamentary Union, will decide that conditions in Yugoslavia are such that no other section of the Southern Slavs can be blamed for being unable to co-operate with Serbs.

The Macedonian Problem in Bulgaria.

The reception accorded in Bulgaria to the Anglo-French *démarche* regarding the position of the Macedonian Revolutionary Organization is another proof of the level-headedness of the people and its Government. In the face of the insistence of the press in close touch with the Cabinet that the representations made were inspired by feelings of the greatest benevolence towards Bulgaria, it is evident that Italy's attempt to make capital out of the *démarche* has misfired, and the Italian press is left to inveigh generally against Anglo-French diplomatic co-

operation. The only sphere in which the incident, as far as Bulgaria was concerned, promised to find a repercussion was in that of home politics. The details of what took place are not clear, but it is understood that M. Bouroff, Minister for Foreign Affairs, had decided that the presence in the Cabinet of General Volkoff as Minister of War was an obstacle to Bulgaria's giving suitable effect to the Anglo-French representations. M. Buroff has since denied that there was any dispute between him and General Volkoff; but the matter was serious enough to cause a large number of Ministerialist Deputies to protest to the Prime Minister against any attempt to draw the Ministry of War into the arena of politics. Whatever may lie behind these alarms and excursions, the trouble seems to have been adjusted for the present, and the Cabinet is able to resume the appearance of a united front. Differences of opinion in a Bulgarian Ministry are almost inevitable when it is a question of coming to close grips with the Macedonian Organization; but it would be unfortunate if Bulgaria were to lose her opportunity of ridding herself of a national nightmare owing to a serious Ministerial crisis. The Macedonian cause may be as sound as ever in principle; the trouble is the conduct of a body of men who are abusing Macedonian patriotism as a cloak for terrorism and assassination.

The Nettuno Conventions.

The omission on the part of the Yugoslav Government to publish the text of the Nettuno Conventions and the political opposition in Yugoslavia to their ratification have, not unnaturally, given rise to the general impression that their terms must be wholly unfavourable to the Yugoslavs. It is of interest, therefore, to find that from a purely commercial point of view something is being said in favour of the Conventions by Yugoslav business men. According to the opinion of one of the latter the ratification presents endless economic possibilities for Yugoslavia. As a small Power, she is now offered by Italy, a Great and largely industrialised Power, access to her ports and her means of transport, as well as facilities for trade, including transit trade, which tend to make of Italy for British merchants a convenient *pied-à-terre* for closer touch with the Yugoslav market. The Nettuno Conventions, so it is declared, open up fresh routes for Yugoslav products, mainly agricultural, and at the same time place within reach of the Yugoslav consumer the products of Italian industry. At the same time they can assist the growth of new industries in Yugoslavia, especially in connexion with the export of such goods as leather, wooden products, fruit juices, wines and spirits, vinegar, tannin, cement and bauxite.

Anglo-Iraqi Agreements.

The Military and Financial Subsidiary Agreements to the Anglo-Iraqi Treaty were postponed last year, when King Faisal of Iraq and his Prime Minister, then Jaafar Pasha, visited London, and when a new Treaty was signed, for settlement during the present year. It was always realised, however, that these Agreements were very thorny subjects of discussion. On the military side, there was the attitude of the majority of Cabinet members in Baghdad that the present voluntary Arab Army is far too expensive for the resources of a poor country, and on the financial side there was the attitude of Iraqis in general that the value set by the British Government upon certain assets which it had introduced into the country was too high. Already, in the opinion of the Baghdad Majlis, an indication has been given of the feelings of the Cabinet of Sir Abdul Muhsin Beg as Saadun on these military and financial matters. The Iraqi Prime Minister maintains that if the political and economic interests of Great Britain are so considerable as to necessitate her keeping troops in the country, she should pay for them herself; he, at any rate, will have none of the proposal that the Iraqi Government should make good the differ-

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ence between the pay of the Royal Air Force on service at home and on service abroad. It is to be presumed that the Iraqi Prime Minister, like all other Iraqi Prime Ministers, is in favour of conscription for his country. Such an attitude is known to have the support of King Faisal. It is not unnatural, then, that any compromise with it should fail to include a tacit consent to the desirability of the combination of the voluntary Arab Army and the Royal Air Force which at the present time serves to maintain internal security in Iraq and the defence of the country from external aggression. The probabilities are that much more will be heard on this subject of the defence of Iraq before the end of the present year.

The Iraq Railways.

But if the composition of the military forces in Iraq is a matter of some doubt or anxiety, no happier is the position—as yet, at any rate—in regard to the Iraq Railways, which play, of course, a prominent part in the Financial Agreement. According to Article 8 of that Agreement, the Iraq Railways should, by next December, be transferred wholly to the Iraq Government, provided that no prior sale of them be made. Now the Iraqis want these Railways as a free gift. If the generosity of the British Government is not so elastic as that, then they are prepared to pay for them; but only at a reasonable rate. So far, however, no agreement has been found possible on the rate of evaluation. The general Iraqi estimate seems to indicate something round about half a million pounds: it is all a question of by how much the original expense of constructing the lines should be reduced. But the experts who have gone out to advise the Colonial Office on this matter of the future of the Railways have advocated the retention by the British Government of its interests in the Railways; it remains to be seen whether that advice will be accepted. It seems fairly obvious that, if a loan had to be raised for the Railways—for new locomotives, for repairing the permanent way, for the extension to Mosul, and so on, it could be more easily obtained on the security of the British Government than on the security of the Iraq Government, which at the moment is unusually pressed for money. The other alternative is that the Railways be sold to a private group of concessionaires. In this event, the Iraqis would probably try to ensure that the existing railways were not accorded to the same concessionaire as ultimately obtains the privilege of building a line from Baghdad to the Mediterranean.

The Syrian Impasse.

Between the present time and October the French Government has to solve the very delicate problem in which it has been placed as a result of the drafting of a Constitution by a Commission of the Damascus Constituent Assembly. As we have already recorded, M. Henri Ponsot, High Commissioner, was forced, as a consequence of the inclusion in the Draft Constitution of certain Articles which were held to conflict with France's obligations as Mandatory Power in Syria, to suspend the Assembly for three months. The Articles to which the High Commissioner in vain took exception referred to the President of the Republic's right of pardoning in individual cases (although general amnesty cannot be granted except by special legislation), to the President's right to conclude international treaties, to his choosing the Prime Minister, approving the nomination of other Ministers, appointing diplomatic agents abroad, appointing civil officials and judges, and so on, to the organisation of the Army by special legislation, and to the President's right to proclaim martial law in accordance with the Ministry's demand. Apparently the Nationalists were quite willing to admit that these conditions interfered with the duties of the Mandatory Power, but since it is stated that their consent has been gained to three months' suspension of Parliament, all may yet be well. It is, at any rate, a welcome fact that France interfered in no way with the drafting of the Constitution: M. Ponsot's concili-

atory yet firm attitude appears to be one eminently suited to the necessities of the situation.

Persians and Arabs in the Gulf.

There is a certain obscurity surrounding the situation which has arisen through the seizure, a short time ago, by Persian authorities of an Arab boat in the Gulf containing sugar. On this dhow, which, according to the Persian version, was carrying on a contraband trade, were some Arab men and women. These people were seized by the Persian Customs officers, as well as their belongings and the cargo. On the representation of the British Minister at Teheran, it is stated, the Persian authorities were persuaded to release the Arab prisoners; and from the Persian point of view the matter was then at an end. Apparently, however, neither the Government of India nor the Arabs in the Gulf are yet satisfied that justice has been done. It has been obvious for some time past that the Persian Government are resolved upon a more vigorous policy in the Gulf, which may or may not be in the best interests of the Shah—their recent futile protest in regard to the ownership of Bahrain was a prominent feature of this policy. The delicacy of this present affair appears to lie in the disposition of the Arabs plying their craft between Abu Musa, the Tanb Islands and other centres to demand the privileges of being British subjects. There is, of course, little love lost between Arabs and Persians in this part of the world. As we have said, the issue is still too obscure to say where the precise rights and wrongs lie in this affair; it is probable, however, that more light will be thrown on the affair, for such feelings as the Government of India seems to entertain on this matter will consort ill with the sentiments engendered and the accomplishments achieved recently by Sir Robert Clive on the major question of Anglo-Prussian relations. Incidentally, illumination may be provided upon the force which is impelling the Persians repeatedly to appear to match their authority against the authority which alone secured the peace of the Persian Gulf, that is, the British.

An Orientalist Congress.

England is proud, and Oxford particularly happy, at the opportunity given this week to entertain the most distinguished visitors who have come from overseas to contribute their wisdom to the first international Congress of Orientalists held since 1912. One has only to compare this Congress, which started on August 27, with that at Athens sixteen years ago, to realise the immense accession to the world's knowledge of the East which has come about consequent upon the Great War. Alike in the Far East, in India, in Central Asia, Persia, the Middle East, Arabia, Asia Minor, Africa, and elsewhere, this passion for the discovery of how men lived and thought and spoke and acted in the East in centuries gone by has been steadily indulged and with most gratifying results. The quest is, of course, abundantly worth the labour for its own sake, but it undoubtedly tends to lead to conclusions which are far from lacking an influence upon the life of the East to-day. It should not be supposed, therefore, that this Oxford Congress holds interest for the professed scholar only, for scholars' discoveries have sometimes profound effect upon hodiernal tendencies. The religions, philosophies, civilisations of the East, when refashioned by the hands of the Orientalist, are seen very clearly to possess threads which often are woven deep into the very existence of living peoples. Of the East perhaps more than anywhere else in the world is it true that men cannot escape from their past, and the study of that past, particularly to-day, when such endeavours are being made, in certain countries, in part to disown it, or at least to turn their back upon it, should be the object of every observer of the East. It is to be hoped that the representatives of all countries who are this week enlightening the world on various aspects of human life as it has been between the Pacific and the Atlantic will be as content in Oxford as Oxford is pleased to welcome them.

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THURSDAY, AUGUST 30, 1928.

THE NEW REGIME IN GREECE.

The overwhelming character of M. Venizelos's victory in the Greek elections has materially facilitated the task that he has set himself. His political opponents have not been given even an opportunity of pretending to deceive themselves, for their defeat has been too complete for any specious explanations. They accepted the challenge thrown down to them, and a fair appeal was made to the Greek electorate. That body has decided against the Monarchists with no uncertain voice, with the result that no one can claim that the question whether Greece be a Monarchy or a Republic remains to-day a live issue. Before the recent elections the general Monarchist character of the Peloponnese would have been conceded by the most confirmed Venizelists, as readily as their opponents would have admitted the devotion of the refugee population to M. Venizelos. At Patras, however, the Royalist stronghold *par excellence*, all the Monarchist candidates were rejected and five Liberal deputies chosen in their place. The only interpretation that can be put upon this *volte face* of the Greek electorate is that the Monarchist parties, or more especially their leaders, have been weighed in the balance and found wanting. As all the Republican parties, apart from the Liberals whom M. Venizelos himself leads, have fared more or less in the same way, it is not unreasonable to argue that the Greek people have given expression to their distrust of all the ordinary politicians and have turned to M. Venizelos as the only man in Greece who is able to raise the country out of the political quagmire into which it had been forced by self-seeking politicians. To this extent the Monarchy-Republic issue may be said not to have been raised at the elections, however decisively it has been settled by the results. The electorate was called upon to choose between continued political chaos with maladministration on the one hand, and the probability of good government on the other. It has recorded its choice with unmistakable emphasis, and the country stands to gain by knowing its own mind and thus simplifying the task of the new Administration.

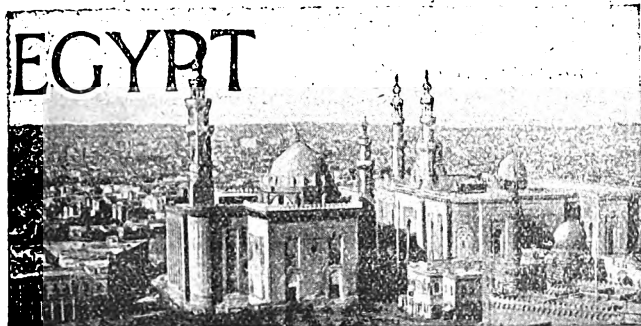
M. Venizelos has never shown greater wisdom and statesmanship than in forbidding his followers to indulge in celebrations of their victory at the polls. The mischief that has been done in Greece during the last ten years has arisen mainly from the tendency of the hostile camps into which the nation has been divided to acclaim their respective leaders—M. Venizelos and King Constantine—as demi-gods. It was a rôle which neither would have claimed for himself, and it is essential for the future welfare of Greece that the practice in regard to M. Venizelos should be discontinued. There is, indeed, less likelihood of its indulgence in Greece itself than among M. Venizelos's admirers abroad. In his own country it has been impossible to ignore the fact that against all the earlier achievements which rightly won for him the position of a national hero has to be set the signal disservice of splitting the country into two bitterly antagonistic factions—a state of affairs which for the

greater part of ten years has reduced Greece to a condition of marking time in her material development. The mistakes and shortcomings of his political opponents have played into M. Venizelos's hands; he has bided his time in a masterly way, and the country has now turned to him with a degree of unanimity that could not have been anticipated a few months ago to free it from the stagnation, political, moral and economic, into which it had fallen. His staunchest supporters will do well to avoid any attempt to prove to-day that M. Venizelos has always been right and that everything that he has ever done has always been Heaven-inspired. It is the future and not the past that matters to-day, and nothing should be done to stir latent bitterness. The elimination of the Republic-Monarchy controversy is due to the good sense or to the exhaustion of the Greek people. M. Venizelos came once before to their help, finding no obstacle in the existence of the Monarchy; he returns under a Republic, and again the form of government is beside the point. Certain it is that mere flair for leadership will be of little use to Greece at the present time. What the country needs is the practical application of good and enlightened administration in the routine of everyday life and in all departments of public affairs.

There is every reason to suppose that M. Venizelos appreciates the seriousness of the responsibility now laid upon him. In the face of determined opposition it is always possible to attribute the failure of administrative reforms to the perversity of opponents. For all practical purposes M. Venizelos, with a compact, two-thirds majority over all possible combinations in the Chamber, has no opposition to contend with, and the record of his achievements will rest on the merits of his programme and on the ability of his Government to give effect to it. That programme, as he outlined it at Salonika before the elections, touches all the important aspects of Greek national life to-day. In the forefront he placed economy in public expenditure, in particular by means of reducing the number of State officials. There could be no immediate reduction of taxation, but he hoped to introduce certain modifications which would tend to make the distribution of the burden more equitable. The administrative and judicial machinery is to be overhauled, and the vexed question of the rival forces of the gendarmerie and the police is to be regulated. In no direction, perhaps, has the country suffered more from the administrative stagnation of recent years than in regard to public health. M. Venizelos had already placed the subject high up on his programme of reforms; the outbreak of a serious epidemic of dengue fever will make its consideration even more urgent, for coming, as it does, on the top of such widespread maladies as malaria and tuberculosis, and a high infantile mortality rate, it suggests that the administration of public health in Greece has much ground to make up in the immediate future. Linked up with the general problem of the material developments of the country is the carrying out of public works. As to the ideal programme there is general agreement; differences of opinion arise only in connexion with the priority of urgency of the individual undertakings. M. Venizelos enters upon office committed to a certain number of these undertakings, construction of roads and reclamation of lands by drainage, and can hope to enlarge the country's commitments only after having obtained the necessary funds by economies in the first place. Finally, he is pledged to the reform of education with the object of giving Young Greece more practical help in the way of earning its living than it has received hitherto. In all departments of the Administration the principle of decentralisation is to be gradually introduced, as the system of directing everything, down to the smallest item, from Athens, is not only pernicious, but has been proved unworkable. The success of such a programme depends on the Government's capacity for attention to details, and in particular on the constant presence at the centre of M. Venizelos himself, who will have to deny himself indulgence in long absences from the country.

*The Near and Middle East

From Our Own Correspondents.



(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, August 19.

The Nile Water.

Two main questions have interested the public and the Arabic Press during the last week; first, the visit of Ibrahim Fahmy Bey, Minister of Public Works, to London, and secondly the Arbitration Treaty which is being negotiated between the United States of America and Egypt. Of the latter, however, nothing authoritative is as yet known here.

The visit of Fahmy Bey to England, in order to discuss irrigation questions with Lord Lloyd, the Governor of Uganda and others, has been the subject of agitated comment in the local Press. The Opposition papers have been virulent in their attacks, saying that they had had suspicions that Ibrahim Fahmy Bey was "playing the game of the British," when he held the same post in the Nahas Cabinet, and now these suspicions have been confirmed by the fact that he has rushed over to England at the first opportunity under the new Cabinet, with the object, so it is alleged, of letting the British have their way and get control of the waters of Egypt. This sort of propaganda is intended to be effective among the fellahen, who naturally are dependent on the water supply, and it is probably for this reason that these very stupid things have been said or written. As a matter of fact, it is the English experts who have taken a long view of Egypt's wants for the future, recommending the building of a new barrage at Gebel Aulia; whereas many Egyptians have tried to argue that it is sufficient to heighten the Assuan Dam and in this way to save themselves expense. They forget, however, when it is convenient for them to do so, that Egypt's population is supposed to be increasing by from two to three thousand annually and that, whereas the Assuan Dam cost £5,000,000, the annual value of the crops from the lands it irrigates is worth considerably more. The execution of these various projects has been suspended far too long, and it is sincerely hoped that a satisfactory agreement will be arrived at among the various experts concerned in London.

The Fellah's Friend.

It is not only the fellah of the country districts whose condition Mohamed Mahmoud Pasha, Prime Minister, wishes to improve, but also the labourer of the town. As I said last week, there is a comprehensive scheme on foot in Alexandria by which the Municipality, with Dr. Hamdi Bey as the prime mover, intends to rebuild the slum areas, where in some quarters the infant mortality is as high as half the total number of births; figures which appal a European are given in Dr. Hamdi Bey's extensive and very thorough report. The scheme for the new buildings, which are going to be on a very big scale, have almost

now been approved; but it needed much patience and a hard fight against various members of the Municipality and a section of the Press, and it has really been due to the insistence of the present Government that the reforms are, as far as one can see, going to be put through. So interested has the Government been in the scheme that one or two of the Ministers have been taken round some of the worst quarters by Dr. Hamdi Bey, and they intend to apply the principles drawn up by him in the reform of Cairo's insanitary districts.

The Cutting of the Khalig.

The ceremony of cutting the Khalig was held in Old Cairo on August 17 with its usual paraphernalia of celebration. Formerly the ceremony consisted in cutting the dam which separates the Nile from the surrounding irrigation canals. This is no longer done; but it remains an important ceremony, because it is the sign that the Nile has reached its full height and will spread its life-giving flood throughout the land of Egypt, thus making her one of the richest countries in the world. The celebrations are also coloured by the fact that the Khalig was the precursor of the Suez Canal and that on this day, not only did the fellahen rejoice, but also the trader, merchant and sailor, for the waterway provided means of transport from the Mediterranean to the Red Sea.

The "Nationality" Treaties.

Two important treaties have been concluded recently between Italy and Egypt and between Persia and Egypt concerning the question of nationality. The first concerned the status of the inhabitants of the Dodecanese, which Italy took from Turkey in the war of 1911. The inhabitants remained Ottoman subjects until the Treaty of Lausanne was concluded in 1923, and Italy's right to the islands was definitely settled. Egypt, however, was not a party to this treaty and, therefore, as far as she was concerned, the inhabitants of the islands remained Ottoman subjects and were not included in the privileges of the Capitulations. By the present treaty, however, they have been recognised as Italian subjects and will be judged for any offence by their Consular Courts instead of by the Native Courts.

With regard to the treaty with Persia, it became necessary for various Powers to conclude separate treaties with that country after she abolished the Capitulations. This treaty with Egypt has, therefore, as its object the regularising of the position of Egyptians in Persia and of Persians in Egypt.

Diplomatic Changes.

The Opposition Press have worked up rumours about dissensions in the Cabinet, stating that Mohamed Suliman Pasha, Minister of Communications, was going to resign and that Nashat Pasha was going to be recalled from Teheran and given a post in the Cabinet. This, it was alleged, was infuriating Mohamed Mahmoud Pasha, who feared that the King was going to obtain too much power. Indeed, rumour suggested that Egypt was going to succumb to a particularly virulent and interesting

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intrigue with the possible entry into the political arena once more of Hassan Nashat Pasha. None of these rumours had any foundation, however, the Cabinet is working perfectly well together and Hassan Nashat Pasha is going to Berlin, in the place of Seifullah Yusri Pasha, who resigned recently.

Other changes in the Diplomatic Corps of Egypt are Hamid Khulussi Bey, Governor of the Suez Canal District, who will succeed Nashat Pasha at Teheran; and Sadek Wahba Pasha, now Egyptian Minister in Athens, is being transferred to Brussels.

CYPRUS.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

August 15.

Forest Fires.

Almost every summer forest fires, more or less serious in extent, occur in the large range of Mt. Troodos. In past years widespread destruction has occasionally been caused. There have been some recent outbreaks, and villagers have had to be summoned in considerable numbers to fight the flames. As a consequence, some of the papers once again repeat their complaints that these calamities are due to the exclusion of goats from the State forests, under the stringent Woods and Forests Laws; being caused by goatherds who thus seek to retaliate for their grievances.

On the other hand, it is satisfactory to learn that villagers are becoming in increasing numbers alive to the value of the forests, and to the need of protective measures, which include the exclusion of that deadly enemy the goat. Among the draft laws to be submitted to the Legislative Council, is one—to be introduced by an elected Greek member—which provides that, should a majority of property-owners of a village so decide, a portion of the village lands, not exceeding one-fifth, may be set apart for the planting of trees, and for strict preservation against the grazing of any animals whatsoever. Should this measure become law, it will be another proof of an awakening to the great benefits of re-forestation and arboriculture.

Exportation of Fruit.

Large shipments of various fruits have been, and are being, made from the districts of Papho and Limassol, especially to Egypt, by sailing vessels; and grapes are now being sent to Port Said and Alexandria. Boats from Egypt, with their latine sails, are to be seen in the roadsteads. Grapes find a ready sale in a country where the fruit was once grown abundantly. In Cyprus many fruits, including the apricot and pomegranate, should be far more largely grown. Attention, however, is being rightly given to the production of the excellent island oranges, including the Jaffa variety, for winter export.

"The Cypriot Brotherhood" in London.

Reports regarding the establishment of this Society, to which Sir Ronald Storrs was invited and promised his

support, have evoked considerable interest. It numbers over 300 members. Amongst the projects which it supports is that of a School in London, in which free instruction is given in Greek and English. It is considered that the association may be able to afford considerable help towards the effort now being made to promote the interests and progress of the island.

"Union with Greece."

The Greek Archbishop and leaders have received a reply, dated August 1, from the Colonial Office, to the memorial which they, yet again, submitted in June, asking for union with Greece. They are informed that, the matter being definitely closed, Mr. Amery has nothing to add to the communication published in the official *Cyprus Gazette* of February 26, 1926.

New Health and Summer Resorts.

The large and now important village of Platres retains its pre-eminence as a summer abode for visitors. But a few other places are coming into favour. In a district called Marathasa, on the northerly slopes of Troodos, there are several villages along the course of a stream which finds its way down to the North Coast, near the large and fertile village of Lefka. At some of these places are hot springs with medicinal waters, which are visited, in increasing numbers, not only by patients suffering from rheumatic and other complaints, but by ordinary tourists, who seek rest and quiet in picturesque retreats. Hotels have sprung up, and good accommodation is offered. At a village called Moutoula a new hotel has been opened. A ride to these villages will repay sojourners at Platres and Troodos.

THE LATE STEPHEN SKOULLOUDIS.

M. Stephen Skouloudis, the veteran of Greek politics, died in Athens on August 19 at the age of 90 years. Born in Constantinople in 1838, he remained an Ottoman subject until he was nearly forty, when he retired from business (he was one of the founders of the Banque de Constantinople) and repaired to Greece. With a short interval during which he represented Greece in Madrid, he devoted himself to politics, and in 1892 became Minister of Marine under M. Tricoupis. After the disastrous war with Turkey in 1897 he withdrew from politics and remained in private life until in 1912, at the urgent bidding of M. Venizelos, he headed the Greek Delegation which came to London to negotiate peace terms with the Turks. In 1915 he accepted office as Prime Minister under King Constantine, and had a troubled term of power until June, 1916. M. Skouloudis was a man of considerable wealth, and when his Government made way for M. Venizelos, his political enemies sought to impeach him for treasonable dealings with the Central Powers, but, failing in their attempt, were content to loot his house in Constitution Square, Athens. His estate is reported to have been valued at a thousand million drachmæ (approximately £2,600,000).

Major Alfred Arakiel Agabeg, V.D. (67), of The Hall, Pinner, and Joga House, Calcutta, left (estate in England) £40,014.

In addition to the ££30,000 already provided for in the Budget to fight malaria and other epidemics, the Egyptian Government has by decree earmarked a further ££20,000 for the same purpose.

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THE LATE STEPAN RADITCH.

(From Our Liubliana Correspondent.)

With unprecedented pomp, with a following that numbered hundreds of thousands, the Croatian people accompanied Stepan Raditch to his last rest. His funeral was so great that it became a political event and a mighty demonstration, proclaiming plainly and unequivocally that the Croats would remain faithful to their leader also after his death and would continue to fight for his ideals. Thus the last journey of the Croat peasant leader was also his final victory.

This triumph was well deserved, for the love Stepan Raditch bore his people was staunch and true. Always and at any time he was prepared with word and deed to fight and to suffer for his people. He was ever in the forefront of its battles, as a schoolboy no less than in manhood's riper years. Ten years of his eventful life Stepan Raditch spent in terms of imprisonment, to which he was sentenced in turn by Hungarian, Austrian, and finally Yugoslav authorities. But no persecution could break his pugnacious spirit, and from prison he would go straight to work again for his people and for Croatia. Herein lies the principal reason for Raditch's immense success with his peasants. They could see that he was at all times prepared to enter the lists on their behalf; that politics were not a mere business with him; but that he lived solely for their common ideals. So they clung to him without reserve and became his own for good and all. For this reason too, Raditch's most glaring inconsistencies could do him no harm. The Croat peasants followed him to a man, no matter whether it was a case of swearing allegiance to a very nebulous pacifist and wonder-working republic, or of protesting their fidelity to the Serbian dynasty of the Karageorgevitch.

There was another notable reason for Raditch's exceptional position among his people. Stepan Raditch was the first political leader of note to go among the people and to get to know the Croatian village. For twenty years Raditch waded the mud of Croatian villages, and during this time he laid the foundations of his subsequent eminence and made sure of his electorate. Furthermore, Raditch possessed brilliant gifts to qualify him for popular leadership. He had a stupendous memory, and it was sufficient for him to have spoken but once to one of his electors in order to recognize him years afterwards. He spoke ten languages fluently, travelled through almost the whole of Europe, and came in contact with large numbers of leading political men. All this endowed him with such a halo of authority in the eyes of his all but illiterate electors, that all other politicians seemed colourless by contrast.

Besides this, his style of oratory was well calculated to win the peasantry. His speeches were saturated with popular idioms—or, perhaps, he habitually used such popular terms and turns of speech that they became idiomatic. His parables, too, were famous and strikingly effective. To quote but one example. At a certain meeting, Raditch wished to warn his hearers against exaggerated animosity against the educated classes, and, therefore, gave them the parable of the hand and its fingers. He said:—A people is like unto a hand. As the human hand cannot work efficiently, unless all its fingers work in harmony, even so a people cannot endure unless all classes labour in harmony with one another. But the fingers are not all equal in importance, and the same applies to the classes.

The thumb is the peasant; the greatest part of the work is his due, and the greatest say also. The working man is the first finger, because he comes second in numbers and importance. The artisan is the middle finger; the merchant is the third, the ring-wearing finger, because he turns the labours of the others into gold. The little finger is the intellectual class. Without it the hand is not complete. This finger, too, is necessary; but it is the least in importance, and therefore the intellectual class should have the smallest say, and not the greatest, in the affairs of a people.

As I said before, Raditch was often inconsistent, but only over questions which he deemed of minor importance. He was always true to the main line of his policy, and Croatian nationalism and the Peasant Idea always found a loyal champion in him.

Raditch was a Croatian nationalist from conviction, and his chief aim was to restore the complete sovereignty of Croatia. To this ideal he subordinated all other matters and for the sake of this ideal he was prepared to accept every compromise. It was the reason for his travels to London and to Moscow; it was the reason for his cordiality towards everybody of whom he hoped that he was able and willing to further his ideal. Despite the great animosity which prevails between Croats and Italians, Raditch could see his way to giving extravagant praise even to Signor Mussolini, were the latter to display, even half-way, serious sympathy for Raditch's Croatian ideals.

Yes, Raditch was a Croatian nationalist by conviction, but not in the accepted sense as nationalism was understood by the Croat petty middle class, which was the only exponent of the nationalist idea in the days of Raditch's youth. When Stepan Raditch embarked upon his public career, Croat political life was limited to the towns and hamlets, and, even there, to the educated and half-educated elements; the mass of the people were shut out from all political activity. At that time the suffrage was very limited. It was not until after the constitution of Yugoslavia, in 1920, that the Croats for the first time went to the polls under a law of universal and equal suffrage. The programme of former Croatian politics was very meagre. It oscillated between Vienna and Budapest, and State constitutional questions took precedence of matters of general interest, whereby dreams and aspirations came to be taken more seriously than the actual state of affairs. Liberal phrases were ostentatiously paraded; but this petty middle class liberalism was only a terribly imperfect copy of modern European liberalism, with which it had nothing in common but the name. In the meantime, personal profit was not forgotten, and the Croat peasant was often worse exploited by his co-nationals than by the national enemy.

But it is the Croat peasant who is really the Croatian people, the Croat nation! That was Raditch's axiom. To that he owed his victories, and it was this that placed him in sharp opposition to all bourgeois parties. Without mercy he attacked the wordmongers, and within a short time the catchword of the corrupt and degenerate policy of the gentry took such firm root in the Croatian villages, that adherents of this policy dared not show their faces in any of them, and to this day it is made impossible for them to canvass the Croat peasantry.

Thus Raditch's chief merit may be summed up thus:—*He won the Croat peasant for the Croatian national idea; he widened the extremely narrow horizon of Croatian politics and got the entire Croat people to take part in the*

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country's political life. This great achievement gave Raditch his position of undisputed leadership, and the bourgeois parties had to acknowledge him, willy-nilly, as leader of the Croats; because he alone was backed by the peasant masses, and without the latter all struggle against Belgrade was foredoomed to failure.

No success, however, attended Raditch in his second aim, viz., to deliver the Croatian peasant out of the hands of the money-lender, by the methods successfully employed by the Slovene People's Party in Slovenia. Thanks to the efforts of the Slovene educated classes, and especially of the clergy, the Slovene peasant is altogether out of the hands of the usurer, and pays only five or seven per cent. to his co-operative, whereas the Croatian peasant pays twenty per cent., and in Bosnia and Dalmatia interest exceeds forty per cent. Raditch tried to introduce the Slovene system, and was even given funds for this purpose by the great Slovene leader, the Rev. Dr. Krek, but without success. The devoted voluntary services of the country clergy were lacking: as regards ordinary practical enlightenment, the Slovene peasant is far ahead of his Croatian kinsman, and finally Raditch himself was not sufficiently heart and soul in this task, being almost exclusively taken up with political questions of the day. Hence he could not achieve the social emancipation of the Croat peasant, and this great task still awaits its expert. In the meantime there are no signs that this expert is likely to appear shortly, and, therefore, we cannot venture to forecast who will be the future leader of the Croats. Croatian politics are only in process of formation. The bases of their future development are as yet quite unknown. Hence the many surprises provided by Yugoslav internal politics.

Raditch was above all an impulsive politician, reacting passionately to every event, often without sufficient consideration. This was specially noticeable in his dealings with Belgrade. Did a Belgrade politician utter a word in praise of Raditch or his Croats, Raditch would positively revel in expressions of profoundest appreciation—and then change his mind within a week. In other matters, too, he was quite incalculable. To-day he would be for the Republic; to-morrow he would extol the Dynasty; one day he hoped everything from Britain; next day from Moscow. In his youth he was a pronounced Yugoslav nationalist, spoke enthusiastically of the union of the three Yugoslav peoples, and as far back as in 1903 hailed King Peter of Serbia as the future King of Yugoslavia. During the World War he composed poems in praise of the Habsburg Emperor; and later on became the Croatian separatist, who stigmatised the doctrine of Yugoslav unity as treason to Croatia.

It is likewise quite impossible to say what notions Raditch entertained regarding the practical construction of Yugoslavia. When asked what practical solution of the agrarian question he contemplated, Raditch replied: "When our party comes into power, it will solve this question also as it ought to be solved." Of course, his electorate accepted this reply; for every one of Raditch's utterances was received as truth unalloyed, without criticism.

There is also no unfairness to Stepan Raditch in claiming that he was by no means clear in his own mind as to what way he should take. And Croatian politics as a whole have been equally aimless since the constitution of Yugoslavia. In 1918, straight after the Revolution, the Croats surrendered all power to Belgrade, without compulsion and of their own accord. Even the territorial force as it existed under Austria-Hungary, was demobilised. At a stroke the Croats stood there empty-handed, save for the hope that Belgrade would prove an ideal brother. Disappointed in this hope and sobered, the Croats made their second mistake and fell into the other extreme. They shone by their non-appearance in the Skupshtina—and the natural result of this was the passing of a thoroughly centralist Constitution. Then came the revulsion and Pavle Raditch read his famous speech in the Skupshtina, accepting the Constitution and

recognising the Dynasty and the *de facto* existing state of affairs. The grand slogan of a republic was to be dropped; the Raditch Party entered the Government in the secret hope that it would succeed in breaking up the Serbian parties, and—thanks to the cultural superiority of the Croats—obtain the decisive say in the Government. But these speculations were based on false premises. Most certainly Serbia was both economically and educationally backward, having suffered for hundreds of years under Turkish maladministration. But for fifty years she had already led an independent life as a sovereign State, and her politicians were, therefore, far superior to their Croat colleagues in the technique of statecraft and of politics. Moreover, the Serbian politicians, Radicals of many years' experience, were men of action, whereas the Croats were men of words. And therefore Raditch's activities in the Government failed to lead to any weakening of the Serbian parties. On the contrary, it was the Raditch Party that was weakened by the secession of the two Ministers, Nikitch and Shuperin, who with their partisans remained faithful to the Government and seceded from the Raditch Party.

After his exit from the Government, Raditch intensified his opposition tactics. He formed a coalition with his former bitterest enemy, Svetozar Pribitchevitch, who had twice got him into prison. Both together founded the Coalition of the Peasant Democracy (KDK), with the mission to unite all *prechani* (Yugoslavs of former Austro-Hungarian territory) in a grand struggle against the hegemony of Belgrade. In this, however, they failed, because the Slovene People's Party under Dr. Koroshetz and the Bosnian Muslims under Dr. Spaho joined the Government, as they feared that at the decisive moment Raditch might leave them in the lurch as he did in 1924.

All the same the Peasant-Democrat Coalition is justified in claiming to-day that it represents all Croatia, the Slovene Liberals, and the greater part of the former Austro-Hungarian Serbs. But it is doubtful whether it will continue to do so for long, because even in regard to the most important questions it is without a well-defined programme. There are good grounds for assuming that the whole Coalition is based in truth upon the negative programme of turning out the Government. And that is why those prognostications, that the shots in the Skupshtina and the death of Stepan Raditch would be followed by disturbances and bloodshed in Yugoslavia, were quite unfounded. On the contrary, all remained quiet, and will continue to do so, despite all newspaper protests and electoral meetings. All this talk of a State crisis is quite premature. It must not be forgotten that the forces which created Yugoslavia are still the same, and that, for reasons of foreign policy, even the most perfervid adherents of the Raditch Party are for Yugoslavia. If, nevertheless, big words are bandied about, it is only because Yugoslavia is young in politics, and her politics naturally bear a youthful character. This applies particularly to Croatian politics—and only in a political atmosphere of this type was the amazing career of Stepan Raditch possible.

Stepan Raditch worked hard and with great devotion for his people, and won his leadership of it by two great achievements: He organised the Croat peasantry, won it for the Croatian national idea, and so united the whole of the Croat people. Hereby he laid the foundation for a positive Croatian policy, whose chief aim is not the outcry against Belgrade, but sound, though irksome, work for the economic and cultural rise of Croatia and the social emancipation of her populace. Only it is to be feared that her present leaders do not realise the pressing need for such a programme, but will continue yet awhile to be ruled by sentimental considerations and historic dreams.

The fever epidemic which has been raging for some time past in certain parts of Greece has assumed alarming proportions. Up to August 27 there had been nearly 200,000 cases, and of these many proved fatal.

TURKISH IN LATIN CHARACTERS.

Writing forty-eight years ago, Dr. Charles Wells, a distinguished Turkish scholar, at one time Professor at the Imperial Naval College, Constantinople, declared that the adoption of Roman characters for Turkish, which many had advocated before his time, was as improbable as the employment of the phonetic system in England. He was of opinion that the Roman letters were quite unfitted for the purpose and that the change would lead to utter confusion. Dr. Wells reckoned without an infant born the same year at Salonika, who, as the Ghazi Mustapha Kemal Pasha, President of the Turkish Republic, has ordained that henceforth Turkish is to be written in Latin characters. The change, moreover, has been effected with a despatch thoroughly characteristic of the new order in Turkey. As soon as the decision to adopt Latin letters had been taken, a Commission was appointed to draw up the correct equivalents of the Arabic characters. Its proceedings were sufficiently leisurely to allow various unofficial Turkish alphabets to appear, especially since August 10, when Mustapha Kemal Pasha delivered a speech to an open-air gathering of the Popular Party, in which he urged all Turks to learn quickly "the new Turkish characters." Accordingly the Commission found itself obliged on August 16 to issue a statement declaring all the new Turkish alphabets that had been published to be "completely false and contrary to the decisions taken so far by the Commission." The official alphabet was promised within a few days, but at the same time the press was careful to point out that the new alphabet could not be regarded as official until it had been formally adopted by the Grand National Assembly, which would not be meeting until November.

This deliberate mode of procedure, however, does not appear to have been to the liking of the Ghazi; for a day or two later, it has to be inferred from an article in the *Jumhuriyet*, the new alphabet was either drawn up by, or received its *imprimatur* from, the President and a handful of his advisers. Yunus Nady Bey, Deputy of the National Assembly and proprietor of the *Jumhuriyet*, was anxious to take leave of the President before proceeding abroad and was ushered in to this important gathering. He was immediately required by the Ghazi to submit himself to an examination in the new alphabet, which took the form of writing down a passage dictated to him by "le Grand Homme." Although Yunus Nady Bey confesses himself to have been, in spite of his fourteen stone, "as nervous as a small schoolboy," he appears to have acquitted himself well in his ordeal, to judge from his effort as reproduced in facsimile in his newspaper, with the Ghazi's nine corrections in thirteen lines.

From this moment onwards Turkey has been all agog over the new "alphabet." Everybody who is anybody, it must be supposed, is engaged in learning the twenty-nine letters or in teaching them to someone else, and the whole nation is astounded at the rapidity with which it is acquiring the requisite knowledge. Ministers, it is recorded, are now signing their names in Latin characters, some of the public services have already begun to use them instead of the Arabic script, a start is being made in the newspapers, and an open-air lecture on the subject has been delivered with the aid of loud-speakers in Stamboul University. The most elaborate steps are being taken to spread as rapidly as possible a knowledge of the Latin equivalents of the Old Arabic characters.

These latter are in the meantime coming in for general denunciation. They were adopted "by pure historical chance," they have prevented the development of the Turkish language, and by reason of them that language has "lost a large part of its moral force." Doctors dare not draw up a single prescription in Arabic characters. Moreover, "to-day in banks, in commerce, in all the domains of science and above all in the case of all technical terms, the new characters are essential, and we can no longer tolerate that the intelligence of our children should be restricted by these Arabic characters which

constitute a real obstacle to the development of our language." The passages quoted are taken from the speech delivered at the conference at Stamboul University.

No time is being lost in using the new characters for public purposes. The vessels of the Seiri Sefain Shipping Company are having their names painted in both scripts, and foreign travellers on Turkish railways lacking a knowledge of Arabic will appreciate being able to read in future the names of stations.

In spite of Dr. Wells' pessimism, there would seem to be no reason why the adoption of Latin characters should present insuperable difficulties, as Turkish, unlike Arabic, has clearly defined vowel sounds. The new alphabet comprises 29 letters, of which eight are vowels, *o* and *u* being duplicated with a diaeresis and a distinction being made between *i* with a dot and without one. The addition of a cedilla to *s* gives the sound *sh*, and to *c*, which is the equivalent of *j*, that of *ch*; *g* with a diacritical mark has the sound of *gh*; *j* seems to have been retained, but as the alphabet also has *y*, it is not clear at present how it is distinguished from *c*. In the case of a number of words the precise equivalent in Latin characters will be a matter of argument, until something in the nature of an official pronouncing dictionary has been compiled. The reform, therefore, once started, should be carried to its logical conclusion, and in due course modifications in the grammar may be expected, which will materially simplify the present difficult task of learning the Turkish language.

For the benefit of English students of Turkish it may be pointed out that an English-Turkish Dictionary with the Turkish words in Arabic and in Latin characters was issued as recently as 1924 by Commander A. Vahid Bey, of the Turkish Navy.

THE SALONIKA RE-UNION ASSOCIATION.

The fourth annual muster of the Salonika Re-union Association, of which Field-Marshal Sir George Milne, Chief of the Imperial General Staff, is patron, will be held on the Horse Guards' Parade at 10.30 a.m. on September 30. Brigadier-General H. E. T. Kelly, C.B., C.M.G., Chairman of the Association, will be in charge, assisted by the chief marshal, Mr. C. E. Evans, and branch representatives. The parade will be formed up by 11 a.m. for inspection by Field-Marshal Sir George Milne, and afterwards a short service will be conducted by the Chaplain-General. Members will then march to the Cenotaph in column of route *via* the Park road, Great George Street, Parliament Street, and Whitehall. After passing the Cenotaph the parade will be dismissed on the Horse Guards' Parade, and members will then proceed to Lyons' Corner House, Coventry Street, W.1, where the dinner will be held at 1 p.m. sharp.

According to *The Times*, Dame Louisa Paget, wife of Sir Ralph Paget, who during the War was at the head of a Red Cross Hospital in Serbia, and there made the acquaintance of a Hungarian, Captain Halasz, late manager of the domains of Prince Louis Windischgratz, to whom she was deeply obliged for work done to her hospital in the War, arrived in Budapest on August 23 by aeroplane from Munich for the purpose of placing a wreath on the grave of Captain Halasz.

The acting Yugoslav Minister for Foreign Affairs, M. Shumenkovitch, on August 22 handed to the Italian Chargé d'Affaires in Belgrade the written answer to the Italian Note about the episode at Split (Spalato) on August 15, when the Italian Consul was insulted and assaulted. This gives an assurance that the compensation demanded by Italy will be forthcoming and that the Yugoslav authorities on their own initiative have made an inquiry into the incident and have already punished the people who caused the disorder.

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THE NETTUNO CONVENTIONS.

To the Editor of THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA.

Sir,—Surely the writer of your Notes of the Week in the issue of THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA for August 23 was in error in stating that the strongest argument in favour of the ratification of the Nettuno Convention was "that Yugoslavia had already received her share in the bargain, the evacuation by Italy of the last Dalmatian ports and islands."

These ports and islands should have been handed over in accordance with the Treaty of Rapallo, ratified by Italy on November 27, 1920. In May, 1922 (*vide e.g. The Times*, May 20, 1922) was negotiated the Convention of S. Margherita which "settled" anew the status of Fiume, and provided *inter alia* for the evacuation of the "third zone" in Dalmatia. The Convention was ratified by Italy in February, 1923, and by the following week the third zone was evacuated (*vide the Morning Post*, March 14, 1923, correspondence from Belgrade). In January, 1924, were negotiated a treaty concerning Fiume, which again settled the status of that town, and the Pact of Rome, or Treaty of Friendship between Italy and Yugoslavia. The Convention of Nettuno was negotiated in July, 1925, two years after the evacuation of the "third zone," for the purpose of settling economic relationships in Dalmatia.

I think that perhaps the writer was for the moment confusing the Nettuno with the S. Margherita Convention—it is hard to keep count of these conventions and pacts. The evacuation of the third zone was carried out in accordance with the latter and was hardly a *quid pro quo* for stipulations negotiated in another regard two years later with two treaties intervening. I should not have called attention to what I take to be a slip of memory were a consideration of honour not involved. The Skupshtina was free to reject the Convention, as would be Parliament in the case of treaties submitted to it in accordance with an undertaking of the present Government. Reference to Parliament would otherwise be a farce. Italy's real

grievance was that Dr. Nintchitch did not himself present the Convention earlier to the Skupshtina. The delay was due to his fear of rejection.—I am, etc.,
Liphook, August 27. A. H. E. TAYLOR.

[The numerous technical agreements between Italy and Yugoslavia signed during 1924 and 1925, terminating in the Nettuno Conventions, were an essential part of the settlement of the relations between the two countries, and were foreshadowed by any Treaty settling the general lines of friendship. It would not seem, therefore, to be straining a point to describe the Nettuno Conventions as part of Yugoslavia's *quid pro quo* for her share in the comprehensive bargain which covered a score or more of subjects, including the establishment of friendship, evacuation of the Third Zone and—veterinary regulations. This, in any case, was the view expressed by the Yugoslav Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs in commending their ratification to the Skupshtina.—Ed.]

THE GREEK ELECTIONS.

The final returns of the Greek election held on August 19 give the following distribution of seats in the new Chamber:—

Government Parties—			
Liberal Party (M. Venizelos) ...	...	...	184
Democratic Union (M. Papanastasiou) ...	...	...	17
Nationalists (General Kondylis) ...	...	...	8
M. Zavitsianos ...	...	...	5
M. Michalakopoulos ...	...	...	4
Independents ...	...	...	5
			223
Opposition—			
Popular Party (M. Tsaldaris) ...	...	...	20
Progressives (M. Kaphandaris) ...	...	...	4
Anti-Venizelist Republicans (ex-Pangalists) ...	...	...	3
			27

NEWS IN BRIEF.

The new Greek Chamber will meet on September 17.

Mustapha Kemal Pasha, President of the Turkish Republic, is making a tour of the ports of the Sea of Marmora.

The death occurred in Paris last week of M. Charles Vergé, Vice-President of the Suez Canal Company, in his 79th year.

Tewfik Rushdi Bey, Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs, returned to Turkey last week after a six weeks' holiday in Austria.

It is stated from Athens that it is reported from the Vodina district of Macedonia that two men, who had been captured by brigands and were held to ransom for 100,000 drachmæ (about £270), have been put to death because the ransom money was not paid.

According to *The Times* aeronautical correspondent an experimental air survey in Egypt was recently carried out by the Aircraft Operating Company, who photographed a small area in the Fayum Province at the request of Hussein Sirry Bey, Surveyor-General of Egypt, in order to exemplify the uses of air survey in mapping and revision. The work was completely successful, according to *The Times*, which adds that its main interest lies in the indication it gives of the modern and enterprising methods of the Surveyor-General of Egypt which made it possible. Through the sympathetic support of King Fuad, who is himself an eminent geographer, and the technical oversight of Hussein Sirry Bey, a remarkably complete atlas of Egypt has been produced on a scale far beyond that of ordinary atlases. This atlas was exhibited at the International Geographical Congress at Cambridge, where Hussein Sirry Bey read a paper on its preparation and on surveying in Egypt generally.

The funeral of M. Elie M. Elliadi took place on August 24 at the Greek Cemetery, Norwood. Archbishop Thyateira and Dr. Germanos officiated, assisted by Archimandrite Agathangelos Moschovakis. The principal mourners were the Greek Minister, Captain and Mme. Demetrius Papalexopoulos, Sir Arthur and Lady Crossfield, M. Collas, M. and Mme. Romanos, Miss Schilizzi, and Mr. Philip Argenti.



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PERSONAL AND GENERAL

TO-DAY

August 30, 1928 (New Style).

August 17, 1928 (Old Style).

Rabia I, 13, 1347 A.H., of the Muslim Calendar.

Ellul 14, 5689, of the Jewish Calendar.

Sir Lucas and Lady Ralli have arrived in London from the Continent, and are staying at Claridge's Hotel.

Dr. Juritch, Minister of the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes, returned to London from the Continent last week.

Lord Allenby has accepted an invitation to attend the national convention of the American Legion, which is to be held at San Antonio, Texas, from October 8 to 12.

Marshal Pilsudski arrived on August 20 in Roumania, where he was to be the guest of Dr. Skupiewski, a former Deputy. After about a month's stay the Marshal will pay an official visit to Bucharest.

Sultan Taimur bin Faisal of Muscat and Oman has undergone a successful operation at the hands of Colonel Lessel Stephens, late Civil Surgeon of Karachi. The Sultan becomes the official guest of the nation for a month as from September 15.

Dr. Taha Hussein, the Egyptian scholar whose researches into Islamic and pre-Islamic literature have caused considerable stir in Egypt, is among the delegates at the Congress of Orientalists which is being held this week at Oxford. The papers which he will submit to the Congress are, "Remarques sur l'emploi du pronom dans le Coran," "Quelques rapprochements curieux entre Leibnitz et les Motazilites musulmans," and "Influence des discussions théologiques aux deux premiers siècles de l'hégire sur la formation de la rhétorique arabe."

The funeral of Mr. Pandeli Ralli, who died on August 21, took place on August 24 at the Greek Cemetery, Norwood, the service being held in the Ralli Memorial Chapel. Archimandrite Agathangelos Moschovakis officiated. The principal mourners were Lady Moreton, Viscount and Viscountess Byng of Vimy, Sir Lucas and Lady Ralli, Lady Grey, Mr. Ronald Hamilton (representing Lady George Hamilton), Mr. and Mrs. Eumorfopoulos, Mrs. Julia Dilberoglu, Mr. H. Walrond, Mr. W. B. Cooper, Captain Stephen Ralli, and members of the household.

THE ORIENTALIST CONGRESS.

The Seventeenth International Congress of Orientalists opened at Oxford on August 27 with the general inaugural meeting of the Delegates in the Examination School. The President, Lord Chalmers, received the guests, and made a short speech of welcome.

During the week some papers of exceptional interest to readers of THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA are being read. These include: "The Archæological Service in Transjordan and its Works," by Mr. G. Horsfield; "The Human Khil'at," by Prof. F. W. Buckler; "Excavations at Jerash," by Mr. J. W. Crowfoot; "Beliefs of the People of the Gilgit region regarding supernaturally endowed beings and supernatural phenomena," by Lt.-Col. D. L. R. Lorimer; various papers on Assyriology and kindred subjects by Prof. A. H. Sayce, Prof. E. Chiera, Dr. A. E. Speiser, Prof. S. H. Langdon, Mr. C. L. Woolley; papers on Egypt and Africa by Mr. C. M. Firth, Prof. J. H. V. Breasted, Mons. J. Capart; papers on Central and Northern Asia, by Prof. A. Foucher, Prof. E. J. Rapson; papers on Iran, Armenia, and the Caucasus, by Dr. E. Herzfeld, Mons. B. Nikitine, Mr. A. Safrastian, Prof. H. Lommel, Prof. A. V. Williams Jackson; papers on Hebrew and Aramaic, by Prof. A. S. A. Yahuda, Dr.

S. A. Cook, Mr. P. L. O. Guy; papers on Islam and Turkey, by Mirza Muhammad Khan, Prof. T. Kowalski, Mons. V. Minorsky, Dr. J. H. Kramers, Dr. C. Rathjens, Dr. T. Hussein, Prof. Z. Smogorzewski, Prof. M. Abdur-Rahman, Mr. B. Thomas, Prof. D. S. Margoliouth, Dr. A. Haq, M. A. Gad el-Mawla Bey, Mrs. M. Hasluck; and papers on Oriental Art.

Among the Governments and Institutions represented at the Congress are those of Egypt (Mohamad Gad el-Mawla Bey), Cyprus (Sir Ronald Storrs), Palestine (Dr. L. A. Mayer), Ethiopia (Mr. G. Herui), France (Prof. A. Moret, Prof. H. Maspera), Republic of Lebanon (Mons. F. Hourani), Netherlands (Prof. C. Snouck Hurgronje), Turkey (Prof. K. Z. M. Fouad), Bristol (Dr. de L. O'Leary), Cambridge (Prof. R. A. Nicholson, Prof. E. J. Rapson, Prof. A. A. Bevan), Durham (Prof. A. Guillaume), Liverpool (Prof. T. E. Peet), Victoria University of Manchester (Prof. M. A. Canney), Dublin (Lt.-Col. E. G. Hart), Syria (Rev. H. Lammens, Rev. M. Bouyges, Rev. L. Jalabert), Yugoslavia (Dr. F. Bayraktarevitch), Central Asian Society (Sir T. Wolseley Haig, Col. H. Stevens), Egypt Exploration Society (Mr. H. I. Bell, D. H. R. Hall), India Society (Sir Francis Young-husband, Mr. F. J. P. Richter, Mr. E. B. Havell), Royal Asiatic Society (Sir J. H. Stewart Lockhart, Mr. A. G. Ellis, Mr. E. S. M. Perowone, Dr. M. Gaster), School of Oriental Studies (Sir E. Denison Ross, Prof. R. L. Turner), Palestine (Mr. J. W. Crowfoot, Rev. Prof. H. L. Vincent, Rev. Prof. A. B. Carrière), Egypt (Mr. R. J. Ellis, Mr. E. S. M. Perowne, Dr. M. Gaster), School of Archæology: Mlle. M. Baud—Institut Français d'Archéologie Orientale der Caire), Persia (Prof. P. V. Serebriakov-el Boursky—Institut Scientifique de Recherches Géographiques, Teheran), and Russia (Prof. A. S. Fedorovsky, Prof. F. Petrunne, Prof. M. F. Boltenko, Prof. S. M. Dimanskein, Prof. S. D. Ashpendiarov, Prof. I. N. Borosdin, and Prof. L. S. Mserianz).

Among members who were expected to be present, other than those already mentioned, were Shaikh Abdur-Rahman, Mr. A. Abd-al-Razig, Prof. W. F. Allwright, Mr. W. F. D. Allen, Mr. A. Y. Ali, Prof. C. H. Becker, Prof. F. C. Burkit, Capt. K. A. C. Cresswell, Sir John C. Cumming, M. A. Delawer Bey, Mr. G. R. Driver, Col. R. G. Elgood, Mr. H. A. R. Gibb, Dr. A. Haq, Mr. S. M. Husain, Mr. Y. Husain, (Mr. N. Ibscu, Prof. T. Jordanescu, Prof. D. M. Kay, Dr. A. R. S. Kennedy, Lord Lamington, Dr. A. Mingana, Prof. E. H. Minns, Bahadur Mirza Muhammad Khan, Prof. C. A. Nallino, Dr. A. Probsthain, Mr. C. N. Seddon, and Mr. M. G. Zubaid-Ahmad.

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THE WEEK AT HOME

London, Tuesday Morning.

"Dolce Far Niente."

What does happen in London in August? Nothing. The world is still. The machines of the newspapers revolve indeed, but to what end? There is no news. There are no meetings, no speakers, no exhibitions: the time is an eventless truce.

There are, of course, innumerable visitors to London, but they create nothing but curious sound and sight. Business men are away; social celebrities are away; the whole period belongs to the *fainéants*. As the *Manchester Guardian* has aptly said: "We are left alone, the six million of us, listening pleasantly to the fall of the plane-tree leaf." But really, for those who would learn, this newsless time is an incomparable opportunity for studying London.

Unemployment and the Premier.

It is a measure both of the seriousness of the problem created by increasing unemployment and of the difficulty of alleviating it by any artificial means that the Prime Minister should have appealed directly to employers, if possible, to employ more men, and at least not to "sack" those already in employment. But the mode of pious exhortation can effect little by itself, for the rightly sentimental temper towards the unemployed which was created by the War is now considerably dissipated, and the tendency for capitalists now is to consider everything in terms of returns.

But the Government is attempting to do something, particularly in the transference of young miners to regions where employment is to be found. The most considerable problem is still that which arises from the number of older miners, who, rooted to the spots in which they have lived their hard lives, can yet entertain no prospect at all of finding work there. For the revival of the industry of mining is unpredictable. During the second quarter of the year, output dropped $11\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., the numbers of miners unemployed (now more than 300,000) increased by three per cent., and the average debit balance to the colliery owners on the coal brought up during this quarter was fifteen pence a ton. What, then, is to be the future? The Government's rating relief does not come into operation until the autumn of next year—and in the meantime, as far as one can now foresee, pit after pit will close down. The distress involved will be terrible.

Swimming Women.

Although the swimming of the Channel is now a common enough performance, it is still a very considerable accomplishment. But the remarkable thing is that, of the ten swimmers who have crossed the Channel during the last three summers, six have been women—two of whom are not yet out of their teens. The girl who swam it last week was a "slip of a thing" of eighteen years.

This is most certainly a feather in the cap of our young women, who, despite the pessimistic utterances in regard to the effect of certain vain fashions upon their physique, are undoubtedly showing that the times are not so out of joint as certain ageing misogynists would suggest. One does not necessarily imply that Channel swimmers, tennis champions, sprinters, and the rest, would make the best wives and mothers, but one must admit the reality of feminine achievement in this post-War generation.

Railway Accidents.

The safety of the British railway carriage has become proverbial, but one is reminded, by a reading of the Report by the Minister of Transport on last year's railway accidents, that this safety has nothing of the mechanical or inevitable about it. It is procured, like so many other things, only at the cost of eternal vigilance.

Last year actually there was recorded a higher death-roll—27 passengers—than in any year since the War; and

this number exceeded the average for the generation before the War. But nowadays, of course, more people travel by train: the actual proportion of passengers killed was one to sixty-one millions.

Most of the accidents occurred at level crossings—194 cases were in fact so reported. Level crossings are of three kinds: crossings on public roads, occupation or private level crossings, and footpath crossings. It is the first only that have to be guarded by gate-keepers provided by the railway companies, and it is significant that it was on them that fewest deaths occurred.

The "Push-Bike."

One of the few pre-War institutions which has not only survived but also increased in popularity is the ordinary "push-bicycle." Of course, the motor traffic has largely driven the devotees of this form of transport off the main roads, but no observer of our countryside can fail to have been struck by the faithfulness with which bands of men—now supplemented by young women attired in masculine garb—turn out each week-end for "a spin with the Club."

Last Saturday the Cyclists' Touring Club, whose name may still be seen on many an inn far in the country, celebrated its jubilee; and it will be long before cycling as a pastime dies out. Personally I am all in favour of it, although the organised form is possibly a matter of cultivation. One is, unlike certain motorists, a nuisance to nobody—provided that one carries a rear light as a shield from the so superior motorist; one sees and breathes and enjoys the country much better than is possible in a machine doing all the work; and, of course, one is getting excellent exercise.

The Speed-Limit.

A new order has been issued raising the speed-limit of pneumatic-tyred vehicles from twelve to twenty miles an hour. Whether this is a boon to the motor-companies, or whether it implies that drivers doing more than twenty miles an hour will be fined, is as yet unknown. The motor-coach companies have been trying to get the Ministry of Transport to raise the limit to thirty miles an hour—which would be more in accordance with actual fact and it is said that there will be strong protests from both the companies and the goods transport interests.

The argument used is that the rigid enforcement of twenty miles an hour would inevitably mean greater congestion, owing to the general slowing down involved.

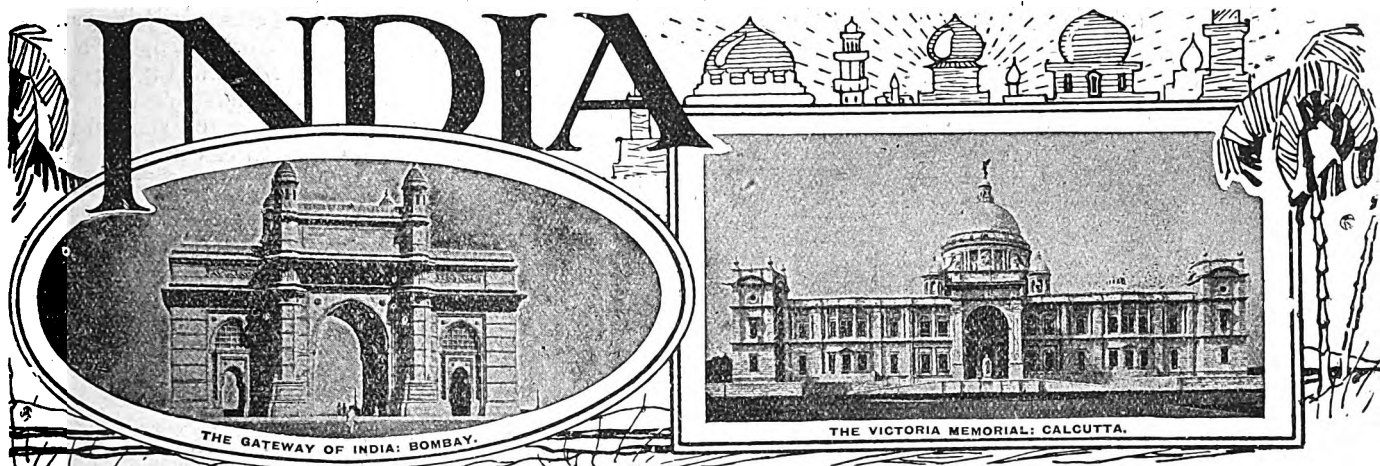
Cricket and Football.

There is no more ominous, more depressing sound to the cricketer than the thud of a football in the near or far distance. And yet that, so early as the end of August, is what he is forced, through the professionalism in Association which indulges in commercial theft at the expense of both ends of the Cricket season, to hear. Drips of rain from the Pavilion roof on a day in mid-June are whispers of joy compared with the melancholy boom of the distant inflated ball.

There are, however, still places inviolate from the winter games, wherein one may yet enjoy the incomparable sight of "flannelled fools" on a green field. And there, please Heaven, much gaiety will be until the end of September.

In the County Championship this year Lancashire are the unpopular, unworthy, yet wholly deserving champions once again. Theirs has been a triumph, not of the spirit, but rather of the temper. Primarily they owe their position to the fast bowling of Macdonald, who is peerless, and with slips worthy of him would have had amazing results; secondarily they owe it to stubbornness of their first few batsmen, whose knowledge of the "game" of playing for "keeps" is, happily, unsurpassed. And lastly, they owe it to the absurdly mathematical system of reckoning Championship points—a system which puts a premium upon the sporting spirit.

ALTER EGO.



COMMUNISM IN INDIA.

One of the greatest difficulties inherent in the working of the reformed Constitution is the necessity for the Executive to avoid as far as possible any appearance of moving in advance of public opinion. The outstanding example to which this applies is, of course, interference in matters concerning the religious observances and social customs of the people. The news that the Government of India has decided at last to grapple with the increasing menace presented by Communist agitation and Bolshevik agents has been received with feelings of widespread relief and satisfaction in this country. And we have little doubt that the action contemplated in the Public Safety (Removal from India) Bill, published last week, prior to its introduction at the forthcoming session of the Central Legislature, will command general approval in India as well. The provisions of the Bill are drastic and far-reaching, but not more so than appears to be warranted by the extent of the evil which is sought to be combatted. According to the telegraphic summaries the primary object of the measure is to empower the Governor-General-in-Council to order the removal of any Communist agents, other than British-Indian subjects or subjects of Indian States, within such time and in such a manner and by such route and means as the Order may specify. Hitherto the Government has been unable to deal with such persons if of British nationality—as so many unfortunately are—unless they break the common law, and this they have generally been too astute to do. The accused in the famous Cawnpore conspiracy case, although their complicity in an extensive Communistic organisation of a revolutionary character was proved, were condemned not on that account but as participants in a conspiracy “to wage war against the King-Emperor.” Such agents, if the Bill is passed, will in future be required to execute a bond giving security for good behaviour until their removal from British India, failing which they will be taken into custody. In the event of disobedience to a bond the accused will be liable to arrest without a warrant, a maximum term of imprisonment of twelve months and also a fine, subject to the proviso that the prosecuting authority shall be the Governor-General-in-Council only. The masters of all ships leaving British India ports shall receive such persons under order of removal when required to do so by a competent authority, the expenses of such removal being paid by the Government of India. No removal order can be called in question by any Court, and officers acting under the proposed law will be protected against legal proceedings for actions performed in good faith.

Whether the causes responsible for the present unprecedented labour unrest are entirely economic or not there can be no doubt that the avowedly Communistic aims of many of the self-constituted leaders of the workers and the clearly proved complicity of outside agencies known to be hostile to our rule in India have not only prolonged the disputes but go far to explain the violence and

“direct action” tactics which distinguish the present strikes from the majority of disturbances of a similar nature in the past. “It will probably be taken by them as a compliment, but it is a fact, nevertheless,” remarked the official organ of the Indian labour movement in a recent issue “that in almost every strike or labour trouble of recent date—at Bombay, Kharagpur, Calcutta, Madras, Negapatan—the Communists, with their general strike slogan, have been well in it.” At the last meeting of the All-India Trade Union Congress the Communists were sufficiently numerous to inspire and carry a number of the more militant resolutions. Again at the subsequent meeting of the Executive Council they succeeded in securing the rejection of a proposal to affiliate the Congress with the International Federation of Trade Unions at Amsterdam. Under the auspices of the Congress they have also managed to get a Council of Action appointed with representatives in each province, their idea being to organise a mass movement of the workers and peasants of India. “In one way,” the same journal pertinently observes, “it may be said that they have a right to call the tune seeing that they, that is Moscow, pay so much to the paper. One donation alone from the Council of Trades Unions, Moscow, amounts to Rs.13,625, or nearly 80 per cent. of the All-India Trade Union Congress income for last year.” Calling upon the accredited leaders of the movement “to bestir themselves and grapple vigorously with this enemy, disguised at present as a friend,” the journal points out that in India, where trade unionism is still in its infancy and the political situation tends to encourage revolutionary ideas, the “Red” menace is a very real one.

The relationship between the present industrial unrest and the activities of Bolshevik agitators was still more clearly brought out in the long letter made public in India recently from Mr. M. N. Roy, who ever since his flight from India's justice has been active in furthering of the aims of the U.S.S.R. from a distance. Addressing himself to the new workers and peasants' party he shows in familiar language how industrial mischief-making may be combined with nationalist agitation to destroy the foundations of the social and political order in India. And at the Communist International Congress in Riga last week the delegates, it will be recalled, were advised that the scene of the next revolutionary outburst would probably be India and frankly informed of the measures in hand for the realisation of that prospect. To suggest that advanced political leaders like Pandit Motilal Nehru or Sir Tej Bahadur Sapru would deliberately lend their support to such designs is, of course, unthinkable, but that some of their less experienced followers, in their anxiety to exercise the utmost possible pressure upon the Executive Government have fallen an easy prey to the Communist agents' machinations is not so improbable. The Communists' method, as Mr. Roy's letter clearly revealed, is to utilize ordinary political, as well as purely industrial, organizations for their own purpose by cleverly insinuating Communist propaganda into their pro-

grammes. in the hope subsequently of seizing the whole of the organization. And evidence has been steadily accumulating to show that the subversive intentions and activities of the Third International generally, and, of the intensive efforts it is directing against India in particular, are achieving a substantial measure of success.

CURRENT TOPICS.

The Lessons of Bihar and Orissa.

A variety of factors serve to confirm our belief that the political situation in India has undergone a progressive improvement during the last few months. There can be little doubt that the results of the recent debates in, first, the Bengal and then the Bombay Council have materially weakened the position of the supporters of the boycott movement, who received a further shock last week in the news that Bihar and Orissa Council, after a protracted discussion, had also agreed to the appointment of a provincial Committee to co-operate with the Statutory Commission. The usual Swarajist amendment in favour of a round talk Conference was apparently proposed but rejected, and the substantive proposition carried by fifty votes to forty-four. In the Central Provinces the issue is still in doubt, but, as we have previously remarked, now that Bombay and Bengal have come to a favourable decision it will not be easy for either the Central Provinces, Madras or the United Provinces to refuse to consider their previous adverse verdicts. Addressing the former Council at the beginning of the session, Sir Montagu Butler advised the members strongly in favour of such a course. At present, he admitted, there was no sign that the Council would pass the requisite motion, so none has been put before that body. But Sir Montagu made it plain that he would continue to hope, up to the last minute, that the Council would change its attitude, and that he would personally be greatly disappointed if he did not obtain a mandate to ask for more reforms for the Central Provinces. Without such a mandate, he emphasised, he would be crippled from the outset.

And anything approaching to unanimity in the Provinces ought to lead the Legislative Assembly to rescind its own resolution—which was carried by only a small majority—and co-operate with the Commission. Certainly, assuming, as we may, that there will be another discussion on the subject during the forthcoming Simla Session, there is no confidence on the part of the members of the boycotting parties that they will be able to effect a second defeat of the Government, and several Simla correspondents are of opinion that among the more moderate wing of the boycotters, that is to say the "responsive co-operators" and certain of Mr. Jinrah's Muslim followers an appreciable change of front is noticeable. "I am willing to venture the prediction," a particularly well-informed correspondent observes, "that if the Commission issue is again brought up before the Assembly the Government will win."

A Question of Education.

At a recent meeting of the East India Association the author of an interesting paper on "The Problem of the Domiciled Community in India," emphasised that the salvation of the Anglo-Indian Community is to be sought in education, academical as well as vocational. The community has shown in the most practical way that it fully accepts the position. Nearly all, if not all, the Anglo-Indian Associations maintain scholarship funds for the assistance of poor scholars. And as the last quinquennial report on education pointed out, the bulk of the cost of European education (about 65 per cent.) is met from school fees and private sources, the corresponding figure for Indian education being only 35 per cent. The balance of the cost of European education, about 35 per cent., is met from Government funds, and if the somewhat fairer basis of the actual amount per child expended from Government

sources is taken the comparison is still marked. Particular credit is due in this respect to the European Schools in India Improvement Association which has always recognised that members of the Anglo-Indian and Domiciled Community in India, owing largely to the reformed Constitution and the advance in education of the Indians themselves, are faced with special problems, chief among which is the difficulty in obtaining suitable employment such as was readily open to them in the past. We can conceive few objects worthier of the support of the mercantile community in this country than this enlightened and progressive organisation, with its notable record of achievement in the most deserving of all fields of social service.

CALCUTTA LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Calcutta, August 9.

India and Dominion Status.

A pronouncement of some importance, on the subject of Dominion status for India, was made by Sir Malcolm Hailey at a banquet in Simla given in his honour by the Executive Councillors and Ministers. He said: "Our ambition for India is the same. We are at one in our determination that she shall reach the goal she seeks. It should be no cause of bitterness or animosity that we differ as to the exact path by which we shall reach our journey's ending. There are those of us who believe that the goal must be attained, not by short and risky paths over dangerous ground, but by the surer path of progress through educational and social development, by training in political consciousness and the fostering of political responsibility, by consolidating what we have gained and building on that foundation a structure which will guarantee a fresh advance. There are those of us who have worked wholeheartedly with that purpose and for that end, honestly believing that only by this means can India gain a political status which will ensure her achieving her proper place among her sister Dominions of the Empire. We may be wrong, we may be unduly cautious in our view of the capacity of India for the rapid assimilation of modern political institutions, but we are not on that account enemies of India's aspirations or traitors to the salt we have eaten."

That may be accepted as an intelligent anticipation of the finding of the Statutory Commission. "Yes," it will say, "go on, but for mercy sake go slowly."

The Bengal Council.

After a debate that began on Tuesday, and was continued for three hours yesterday, the Bengal Council accepted the Bengal Tenancy Act Amendment Bill for consideration, which is the equivalent of a Second Reading in the House of Commons. Sir P. C. Mitter, the new member of the Executive Council, in introducing the Bill, described it as the most important piece of legislation that the reconstituted Council had been asked to consider. The first day the zemindars of the Province came in for a good deal of criticism, but yesterday the Maharaja of Nattore, speaking in their defence, maintained that a close study of the history of the Province would prove beyond all possible doubt that the zemindars as a class had been a boon and a blessing to the country. That may be; still, the ryots are admitted on all sides to have undoubted grievances. There would otherwise be no thought of legislation.

The Council last mail day refused the demand for Rs. 5,37,000 to cover the cost of raising the pay of the constables, sergeants, and sub-inspectors of the Calcutta and Bengal police. The majority was only nine votes. As Mr. Prentice, who moved the demand, had given figures, revealing a serious decline in the number and quality of the recruits of the last few years, the Council's decision is not thought to have done it much credit. Ex-Army men, Mr. Prentice stated, are no longer offering

themselves as sergeants because of the totally inadequate pay.

The Statutory Commission.

Two of the many memoranda that the Statutory Commission will have to consider, and report on, have been published during the week; those, namely, of the Marwari Association of Calcutta and the British Indian Association. It all looks less and less like a boycott, some will think. The Marwari Association considers that dyarchy should be replaced by provincial autonomy, but that law and order should be in charge of a special officer. Adequate financial provision should be made to enable the Ministers to administer their departments satisfactorily. That is to say, there must be a settlement very different from the Meston one. All Bengal is agreed on that score. The British Indian Association also advocates full provisional autonomy, but subject to the safeguard of a Second Chamber, one with the constitution and powers of the Council of State. The Association maintains that the rural interests of Bengal require that the zemindars and the ryots should be more adequately represented in the legislature.

Indian Cinematograph Committee.

The report of the Indian Cinematograph Committee has been published. The main proposals are:—

- (1) The formation of a Central Advisory Committee and Bureau, to be attached to the Commerce Department;
- (2) Financial aid to the producer;
- (3) Building of more cinemas;
- (4) Compulsory quota of Indian films; and
- (5) A Central Board of censors for the whole of British India, to be located at Bombay.

Budhist Bronzes.

At the Asiatic Society of Bengal, on Monday, the best and most important of the Buddhist bronzes recently discovered at Chittagong were on view, when Mr. Rakshit of the Archaeological Survey drew the attention of the members present to the features of most interest. The bronzes (the writer was present) are very fine works of art, one or two are especially beautiful, and they throw some light on points other than artistic. One will look forward to a monograph from the Asiatic Society on their subject. Before coming to the bronzes Mr. Rakshit spoke of an inscription of philological and other interest not long ago discovered near Katmandu in Nepal. The greater activity of the Society under the secretaryship of Mr. Van Manen is a thing that should be signalled.

BOMBAY LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Bombay, August 11.

The Bardoli Settlement.

The Bardoli dispute, which at one time threatened to culminate in bloodshed, has at last been settled amicably. What adds to the success of the settlement is the fact that each party believes that it has gained its point and that the other has had to climb down. All the parties have to be congratulated on the spirit in which they approached the problem of settlement. The Surat members of the Legislative Council have spared no pains to bring about peace and it is doubtful whether, without their efforts, anything could have been achieved through the negotiations. Among the Surat members, while all of them were anxious to do their share, Rao Bahadur Bhimabhai Naik deserves a large share of the credit. Mr. Vallabhai Patel must be congratulated on having accepted Government terms with a good grace and on stopping the Satyagraha movement after he had proved his strength, for it is useless to deny that Mr. Patel had it in his power to give the Government a troublesome time had he chosen to prolong the struggle. To Sir Leslie Wilson, however,

must be conceded the greatest share of the credit for the settlement; he has shown admirable patience and statesmanship in refraining from repressive measures.

It is well known in this Presidency that hard as was the task of persuading the Bardoli agitators to compromise undertaken by the Surat members, Sir Leslie had a still harder one—that of persuading his own colleagues of the wisdom of his policy. The Surat negotiations began on Sunday morning and lasted till ten in the night. Mr. Patel having told the Surat members of the Council what terms he was willing to accept, left for Bardoli at five o'clock on Sunday evening, leaving the Councillors to settle the question unhindered. Every point had been settled except the question of returning the forfeited lands sold by Government to other individuals, chief among them being Mr. Garda, a Sardar of Navsari, who had bought lands for a syndicate consisting of his son, his nephew and two or three others. Mr. Garda was willing to part with his lands at cost price—on certain conditions; a public apology from Mr. Patel for the incessant annoyance he had received at the hands of the Satyagrahis, compensation for material to the extent of Rs. 12,000 and an undertaking from the Satyagraha headquarters that the boycott imposed on him would not be continued in any form. It took the Collector and Mr. Naik several hours to talk Mr. Garda round. Mr. Cooverji, another of the purchasers of forfeited lands, was willing to give up his land at cost price provided he was given a piece of Government waste land in exchange! Sitting till ten o'clock that night, the Sub-Registrar effected the registration of the sale deeds, all of which have been executed in the name of Mr. Naik. The other conditions are: On the part of the Government the reinstatement of the patels and talatis who had resigned, that the *Satyagraha* prisoners should be released and a full, open and independent inquiry into the question of the reassessment be instituted; and, on the part of the Bardoli peasants, that the civil disobedience campaign be dropped.

The Trade Disputes Bill.

Now that Bardoli has been settled satisfactorily the unrest which has for the last three and a half months paralysed the industries not only in Bombay but all over the country has come to the foreground again. In the next session of the Assembly Government propose to introduce a Bill to prevent industrial disputes. The Trades Disputes Bill will set up Conciliation Boards and Courts of Inquiry. The Court of Inquiry shall consist of a Chairman and such other members as the appointing authority may think fit or may consist of only one person. The Board of Conciliation differs from the Court of Inquiry in two important points. Whilst in both cases the appointing authority is the Local Government or the Governor-General-in-Council, it is expressly stated that the members of the Conciliation Board will be appointed "on the recommendation of the parties concerned, provided that if any party fails to make the necessary recommendation within the prescribed time the appointing authority shall select and appoint such persons as it thinks fit to represent that party." Or if the Board is not composed of representatives of the parties in equal numbers, it will consist of *independent* persons—the Chairman in both cases being an *independent* person. The Court of Inquiry and the Conciliation Board is to have the same powers vested in them as other courts under the Civil Procedure Code, 1908, in (a) compelling the production of documents and other material objects, (b) enforcing the attendance of any person and examining him on oath, (c) and issuing commissions for the examination of witnesses. Every inquiry by such bodies shall be deemed a judicial proceeding under the sections of the Indian Penal Code regarding public utility services.

Making Strikes and Lock-outs Illegal.

Any person who is employed on a monthly wage basis in a public utility service—e.g., the railways, the telegraphs, the postal department or any other industry which

supplies light or water—shall be punishable with one month's imprisonment or with a fine of Rs.50, or with both, for voluntarily withdrawing from the duties of his office without leave or without giving his employers a month's notice. The abettor of such an offence is liable to imprisonment for three months or a fine extending to Rs.500, or both. Only the Court of a Presidency Magistrate or of a Magistrate with first-class powers can try such offences and that too solely on a complaint made by or under authority of the Governor-General-in-Council or the Local Government. There are special provisions for strikes and lock-outs. If the strike or lock-out has any object beyond the furtherance of a trade dispute within the trade or industry in which the strikers or employers are engaged or is calculated to coerce the Government by inflicting hardship on the public or directly, it shall become illegal. The instigator of a strike is liable to the same penalty as the person who abets another in withdrawing from the duties of his office without leave or notice. A person who refuses to take part in an illegal strike shall not be expelled from a trade union nor can he in any other way be deprived of a right or benefit which he or his legal representatives would otherwise have enjoyed. The Court has the power to order the person expelled to be restored to membership or award him compensation out of the funds of the union or society.

The Bill has long been overdue and it is assured of an easy passage in the Assembly. It is true that the fact that the abettor of an offence should receive a greater penalty than the offender himself may seem anomalous, but this is largely due to the belief prevalent here that most strikes arise not from the grievances of the workers but that the responsibility lies on the shoulders of outsiders who incite the workers of an industry to strike.

Tatas' Ultimatum.

Seeing that the workers have not availed themselves of the offer made on July 28 of liberal terms for the resumption of work by the required number of men and of valuable concessions to the men to be sent away as a measure of retrenchment, the Chairman of the Tata Iron and Steel Company has issued an announcement of policy to the Press. From Tuesday, August 14, the firm will commence filling up the vacancies. The posts will be filled up in the order in which the applications are received and as soon as the vacancies are filled it will not employ any man even if his name is not on the reduction list. If by the 20th the firm find that the strikers has not applied for the jobs it will commence filling them up with new men. Any man who applies not later than the 20th and to whom the company is unable to give employment on account of the place having been filled will receive in addition to his ordinary dues the full amount of his provident fund, including the company's share, a railway ticket to the station nearest his home and a month's salary for every year's service subject to a maximum of four months' pay. The company repeats its offer of the ten lakhs' bonus scheme.

THE WORKING OF DYARCHY IN INDIA.

In a little book published in Bombay, and entitled "The Working of Dyarchy in India 1919-1928" a writer styling himself "Kerala Putra" analyses the working of the reformed system of government with the object of ascertaining how far it has been successful as a first instalment of representative institutions in India. He begins with a sketch of the constitution of the Government of India before the Reforms, and he then gives an outline of the reformed constitution, and a more or less detailed analysis of its working. He writes from the Nationalist standpoint, but he is moderate in tone. He is of the opinion that the Montagu-Chelmsford Act fundamentally altered

the character of British rule in India. And he gives the Government the credit of adopting a policy designed increasingly to change British rule from an alien administration into an Indian government based on the British connexion, but nevertheless Indian in its outlook, and to a large extent Indian in its personnel. He attributes the apparent failure of the system of dyarchy to the unfavourable political atmosphere in which the scheme was launched. The Rowlatt Act, Amritsar, Regulation III. of 1818, and the Turkish treaty had, he maintains, created such an atmosphere of distrust and suspicion as to jeopardise the scheme from the very start. He is not, however, of the opinion that the scheme is an absolute failure. As a method of administration it has not, he thinks, achieved the success that its advocates hoped for; but it has been eminently successful in its fundamental object, which was that it should be a transitional method of familiarising the Councils with political responsibility. The political capacity of the new Councils has been proved, "Kerala Putra" thinks; and we agree that they have firmly established themselves. This would seem to be also the view of the European community in India, as is clear from the recommendation which the Associated Chambers of Commerce have made for the establishment of full provincial autonomy.

Regarding the future, "Kerala Putra" likewise favours the immediate establishment of provincial autonomy. But he would maintain a strong central government. "The powers of the central government must," he says, "remain unimpaired over a vast variety of subjects in view of India's peculiar social, political and racial structure." And again, "the most essential thing, if political unity is to be preserved, is to maintain a powerful central government." As to the nature of the central government, he would largely free the Government of India from the control of Whitehall. But he is under no illusion as to the Indian States. On the contrary he is perfectly clear that the Government of India, in its capacity as the paramount Power, cannot be made responsible to a legislature elected only for British India. He would bifurcate the functions of the Government of India. In relation to the Indian States the Governor General would continue to be the representative of the Crown, and would be responsible to Parliament. But in his capacity as chief governing agent of British India he would be responsible to the Indian legislature. In matters affecting imperial and foreign policy, defence, and vital constitutional changes, the Secretary of State would still possess effective authority. But he would cease to control the internal policy of the Government of India, and would no longer intervene in details of administration. In another important matter also "Kerala Putra" is more cautious than the Committee of the All Parties Conference. He holds that illiteracy must restrict the franchise, and he would not therefore rashly establish universal suffrage. In his view Indians must be content to accept the principle that universal adult suffrage is not immediately practicable. A restricted franchise based on a small property or minimum educational, or administrative, qualification will be a necessity for some time to come.

On the whole the book is a useful contribution to the discussion of a difficult question. It is, we think, a little unfortunate that the author should regard the Executive as being solely responsible for the difficulties, troubles, and failures that have occurred in connection with the working of dyarchy. The Ministers must surely have been sometimes in the wrong, but according to "Kerala Putra" no blame seems to attach to any of them for the defective working of the system. This weakness for blaming the Executive for every difficulty is, however, common to most Indian writers, and it seems to have become almost a part of their mental equipment. In other respects the book contains much that is of value; it is, moreover, clearly and carefully written; and the matter is well arranged.

"The Working of Dyarchy in India. By "Kerala Putra," D. B. Taraporeala Sons and Co. Rs.4 (6s. 6d.)

Commercial and Financial Section.

NOTES AND NEWS

170, Strand, London, W.C.2,
Tuesday Morning.

Shipping Conditions in Turkey.

The view is taken in business circles here interested in trade with Turkey that shipping conditions generally at Constantinople at the present time are by no means as unsatisfactory as might be imagined from a perusal of the recent report of Colonel Woods, O.B.E., on the position in 1927. Of course the natural tendency in Turkey is for things to improve, but it is maintained that the recital of the various difficulties which arose in the past year is only one side of the picture, and that it is necessary to bear in mind the strenuous efforts that Angora is making to create a new Turkey and to give to the Turkish authorities due credit for such progress as they have made in the face of very serious obstacles. It hardly needs emphasis, of course, that the task of creating an economic system *de novo* is bound to be a lengthy process and also an uncomfortable one both for the country itself and for those who trade with it. There is a growing recognition in the English business world that the Turks are really trying to do all they can now to further the work of development, and there is a tendency rather to praise what they have so far accomplished than to lay too much stress on the inevitable shortcomings.

Traders' Difficulties.

In saying this I must not be taken as inferring that the voice of criticism is stilled. There are several points which cause considerable annoyance to British traders. One is the growth of formalities at Turkish ports, not only with regard to visitors to the country, but also with regard to goods. An example of the first is the fact that the numerous particulars demanded now include the name of the passenger's grandfather, a development which may possibly make Western travellers wonder whether Angora was the original house of Mr. Nosey Parker, but which is perhaps intelligible when the composite nature of the Turkish population is taken into consideration. As regards the latter one may cite the number of signatures required before goods are delivered over to the consignees. I was given an instance of this which is worth mentioning. A bale was a little short in weight, and before the Turkish officials would release it more than a dozen signatures had to be obtained, the process of getting them, needless to say, occupying a very considerable time. The difficulties which arise, however, are by no means wholly the fault of the Turks. For example, goods are described on bills of lading in the usual Western terms for the various classes of manufactures, but when these terms are translated by means of a dictionary into Turkish the result is not infrequently far from what it should be, and confusion ensues. The fault here is with the exporter, who ought to use the very simplest terms for describing his goods. Now that Turkey is adopting Latin characters it may simplify matters for traders who will be able to learn the correct Turkish expressions for their goods, and thus will avoid errors due to mistranslation at the other end.

The New Turkey Ideal.

Those difficulties I have referred to above may be termed of the administrative order; there are others and more serious ones which arise directly from the ambition of Angora to create a new Turkey. I propose to give two examples of this. The establishment of the Turkish

Republic was received with little confidence by the wealthy classes, and most of the rich Turks followed the Sultan out of the country, many of them going to Egypt and a few to Palestine. The effect of this on the Turkish market has been to reduce its purchasing power very appreciably, and there is no doubt that the long-drawn-out depression at Constantinople is due to some extent to this factor. If only the present Turkish régime could inspire sufficient confidence many of these emigrants would doubtless return, to the great advantage of the country, and it may be taken for granted, I imagine, that this important aspect has not been overlooked by the Angora authorities. The other example is of a different character. In common with other countries Turkey is endeavouring to develop new industries and to manufacture locally goods which were formerly imported, and recourse is being had to the imposition of heavy—one might say prohibitive—import duties to stimulate home enterprise. Unfortunately that policy is being carried out in an unthinking manner. Thus an article of poor quality is produced by the Turks and is "safeguarded" by an import duty of 80 per cent., but the said duty also applies to the same article of the best quality which the Turks are incapable of producing. The result is that the trade in the best quality article is killed. Admittedly this kind of thing arises purely from inexperience, but that is small consolation to traders who find the market gone while the Turks are learning the business of administration.

Imperial Airways.

A very marked improvement in results is shown in the preliminary figures of the Imperial Airways, Ltd., for the year ended March 31 last, and the directors have found it possible to propose an initial dividend of five per cent. For the period the net profits were £72,567, as compared with £11,461 for the previous year, figures which indicate very plainly the development of the company's services and the growing realisation by the public of the facilities offered by aviation as a means of transport. Even now flying is only in its infancy, but already business men here are anticipating the time when it will give them a more rapid and certain means of dispatching goods to overseas markets. I was talking the other day to someone interested in trade with the Near East, and he assured me that he was looking forward keenly to aviation as an aid to business development, as he found that speed in supplying customers is becoming more and more a factor

BANK OF ROUMANIA LIMITED

(FOUNDED 1866).

Head Office: 123, OLD BROAD STREET,
LONDON, E.C.2.

Branch—11, CALEA VICTORIEI BUCAREST.

Directors :

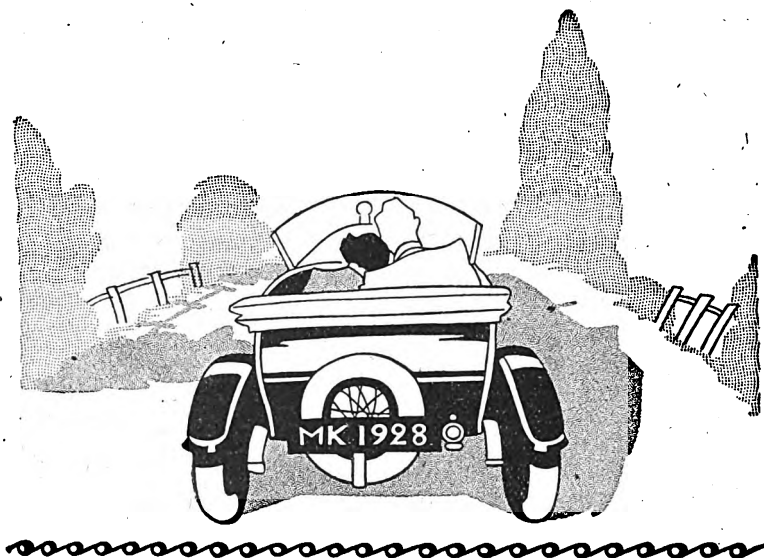
E. W. H. BARRY, Esq.
C. De CERJAT, Esq.
SIR JOHN P. HEWETT, G.C.S.I., K.B.E., C.I.E.
General The Hon. SIR H. A. LAWRENCE, G.C.B.
Lieut-Col. SIR ALBERT STERN, K.B.E., C.M.G.

Bankers :

BANK OF ENGLAND. Messrs. GLYN, MILLS & CO.

A general banking business with Roumania is conducted and correspondence from those having interests in that country is invited

"BP" Proverbs No. 3



"IT'S A LONG LANE THAT HAS NO TURNING"

**BUT EVEN THE LONGEST
LANE IS NEVER MONOTO-
NOUS WHEN TRAVELLING
WITH THE RIGHT SPIRIT
-USE**

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ANGLO-PERSIAN OIL CO. LTD
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Distributing Organization

in the markets in that region. It is an unfortunate fact that so far Great Britain has not made the same progress in air services as some other countries, but the development of Imperial Airways, Ltd., which is essentially a national company, holds out every hope that before long British flying services will loom as prominently in world communications as those of any other country.

Sudan Trade.

The figures for the trade of the Sudan for the first five months of this year show a considerable improvement on the corresponding totals for 1927. The volume of trade at £E6,562,568 shows an increase of £E375,662, and with the exception of Government imports, which have decreased by £E90,297, the increase in the trade is general. The most satisfactory feature is the rise in imports from £E1,529,860 to £E1,682,805, which points to the gradual improvement in the economic position. As I have pointed out before, while rapid progress in the Sudan is not to be hoped for, the market is one which will gradually expand, and as the crops are good this year the general outlook for next year is distinctly promising.

COMMENTATOR.

Engineering Topics.

By G. B. B.

Plant Replacement.

The subject of depreciation and obsolescence is receiving rather greater attention amongst engineers to-day, a revival due to the somewhat intensive methods of production we have adopted in the majority of our works. Only a few years ago it was the practice to work valuable machines well within their capacity so that their life was as long as possible. The fallacy of this was so frequently pointed out that at length it became recognised, and the modern practice consequently is to work such machines up to the limit of their capacities, so that they turn out their maximum of production. This means that they wear out much more quickly.

I see that this practice of over-running machines is now carried out in the United States to such an extent that the Government, always keenly alive to matters of engineering production, have taken a further step forward by organising a survey of factory equipment, with a view to ascertaining how much is obsolete and how much is not. The idea is that this should be followed by an analysis which should enable the authorities to ascertain what effect this has upon the productive and competitive powers of the nation. We have always spoken, as though it were a proved fact, of the American readiness to scrap obsolete plant, but one rather doubts, after reading of this new Government move, whether the policy was carried, in that country, quite so far as we imagined.

Obviously plant scrapping may be rendered desirable for reasons other than those of mere depreciation; patterns may change, more efficient machines may be introduced, or some alteration in the character of the required products may put an almost new machine on the scrapheap. At the same time, the machinery thus condemned may possess years of useful life, and it would seem that it would be a financially sound policy to re-condition such plant, alter its design, or modify its features if necessary and put it to work again in some industry where the competition was not so fierce nor the conditions so exacting. The American survey may give us some valuable data for cost accounting and for estimating, as well as other information, and the published results will be awaited with interest.

Trade Stagnation.

Engineering circles acknowledge a certain stagnation in home markets, particularly in the motor industry, a stagnation probably due to intensive production during recent months. Renewed attention is being given to overseas markets, but as these, to British manufacturers, seem to consist of those cockpits of commerce in which the business-getters of all nations are conducting a tooth-and-nail war, it is unlikely that their somewhat belated efforts will meet with success. The great overseas markets that are filled with prospective buyers, such as India and the Middle East, have been largely neglected; although a brisk, well-devised business campaign would bring not only immediate but extensive results. There is a great increase in the demand for motor vehicles in India, and the engineers of the country are not only busily engaged in constructing new roads and bridges, but are bringing existing roads into a condition that will render them suitable for extremely heavy traffic. British motor engineers and manufacturers should keep themselves acquainted with road development schemes in India and should pay particular attention to the new districts thus opened up. The Indian market for light cars is rapidly expanding, and British makers should not allow the Americans to get the first foothold. The reduction of the import duty on motor cars to 20 per cent. *ad valorem*, instead of 30 per cent., has had a stimulating effect, and this, combined with the natural good will, should place the British light car maker in an unassailable position.

Need for Publicity.

Excellence of product is not everything in the Indian market, although our home manufacturers seem to think it is. The chief thing is to make certain that the prospective purchaser knows about that excellence. Hence the need for publicity. I am informed that the leading Canadian and American makers of cars are commencing an extensive publicity campaign in British India, a campaign which will be carried further than anything previously embarked upon. The only way to counteract this is to engage in a similar campaign and, in addition, to appoint efficient distributing agents in cities like Madras, Allahabad, Lahore, etc., as well as in Bombay and Calcutta. The distributors should be appointed on a generous commission on sales, a commission at least equal to that given by foreign manufacturers. Spare parts should be stocked and the Indian buyer should be impressed with the fact that if he purchases a British car he will not only be buying something superior to the American vehicle, but he will, in addition, be buying adequate service.

Locomotives for the Sudan.

An order has been placed with Robert Stephenson and Co., Ltd., by the Sudan Government for six locomotives and tenders. Five are heavy "Mikado" (2.8.2 type) superheated and weighing (light) 69 tons; and the other is a "Prairie" (2.6.2 type) superheated and weighing (light) 64 tons. The tenders in each case are of the double bogie type and weigh 23 tons (light). The total weights in working order of each type are respectively 131 tons and 127 tons, the gauge being 3 ft. 6 in. Both types have been built by the company for the Sudan Government on previous occasions.

Steel Industry Reviving.

Inquiries go to show that there is a slight revival in the British steel industry and the wave of depression appears to have receded. There is an increased demand for miscellaneous steel and some of the mills in the Black Country have had to curtail the annual holidays to get on with production. The chief trouble at present is the smallness and wide variety of the orders, which adds greatly to the cost of production. Sheffield is fairly busy on small steel goods, especially those of stainless steel. In the Middlesbrough district prospects for the autumn are better than usual, but orders are badly wanted to enable the present rate of production to be maintained.

SMYRNA FRUIT MARKET.

Messrs. C. J. Giraud and Co., of Smyrna, report under date August 18, that the arrivals of sultanias since the opening of the season are estimated at 600 tons, the sales to date being put at 520 tons.

The market is quiet but steady. Prices opened at a moderate level, and have remained practically stationary throughout the week. The range of qualities represented by first arrivals is restricted to an assortment of medium grades, but the general standard for the season promises to be considerably better than last year. Drying operations are being carried out under ideal atmospheric conditions and, failing any rains over the next three weeks, we should have an abundant supply of good, sound fruit. Prices likewise should ease off from the present level in the course of September.

The first arrivals of figs came to the market to-day totalling about 400 tons. The quality is poor and indicates prematurely gathered fruit. The crop is late this year, and it will not be until the course of next week that properly matured, sound fruit will be available.

COMPANY NOTES AND REPORTS.

NATIONAL BANK OF EGYPT.

Position at June 30, 1928, published in conformity with Article 8 of the Statutes. Banking Department.—Liabilities: Share capital (300,000 fully paid shares of £10 each), £E2,925,000. Reserve Fund: Statutory reserve, £E1,462,500; special reserve, £E1,243,125; current, deposit, and other accounts, £E14,018,003; Egyptian Government, £E19,215,349; Sudan Government £E181,435; Mixed Tribunals, £E2,024,456; bankers' accounts, £E353,114; cheques and bills payable, £E286,817; sundry other accounts, £E1,809,148—£E25,100,000. Assets: Government securities and securities guaranteed by the Egyptian Government, £E22,526,412; sundry securities, £E479,288; advances on merchandise, £E2,397,688; advances on securities, £E4,212,138; advances otherwise secured, £E1,323,532; sundry other advances, £E1,046,228; bills of exchange, £E4,119,770; local bills discounted, £E740,719; buildings and furniture, £E236,356; money at call and at short notice, £E1,170,000; bankers' accounts, £E1,876,572; sundry other accounts, £E1,158,856. Cash: Notes, £E1,451,245; gold, £E446,519; silver, nickel, etc., £E333,624—£E2,231,388—£E43,518,947. Issue Department.—Notes issued, £E25,100,000—£E25,100,000. Gold, £E3,339,570; *British Treasury Bills, £E9,210,430—£E12,550,000. Securities: Egyptian Government securities and securities guaranteed by Egyptian Government, £E1,500,000; British Treasury Bills, National War Bonds, and British War Loan, £E11,050,000—£E12,550,000—£E25,100,000.

* By authority of the Egyptian Government these Treasury Bills are deposited in lieu of gold (See *Journal Officiel* of October 30, 1916.)

According to figures issued by the Bulgarian Bureau of Statistics, the population of Bulgaria in January was 5,596,800. Of this total 2,806,700 were males and 2,790,100 females.

TENDERS INVITED.

Tenders are invited for the following contracts, and must be made by the dates mentioned.

(Particulars of tenders marked D.O.T. are to be obtained from the Department of Overseas Trade, 55, Old Queen Street, S.W.1).

EGYPT.

Motor Cars, Trucks, Etc.—The Tanzim Department, Ministry of Public Works, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of sweeping cars, sprinkling and flushing cars, refuse collectors, tractors, trailer chassis, asphalt trailers, required during the year 1928/1929. September 15. (D.O.T.)

Stone Crushers, Etc.—The Public Works Ministry, the Tanzim Department, invites tenders for the supply of two stone crushers and one plant for pulverising limestone. September 29. (D.O.T.)

Filters.—The "Municipalities and Local Commissions Section" of the Egyptian Ministry of the Interior invites tenders for the supply and installation of two mechanical filters and accessories for the water-supply works at Aboukir. October 1. (D.O.T.)

INDIA.

Boring Plant.—The Indian Stores Department, Simla, invites tenders for the supply and delivery of boring plant, hand, or alternatively driven by I.C. engine. September 4. (D.O.T.)

Radial Gates.—The Indian Stores Department invites tenders for the supply of radial gates for the head and cross regulators for main canals and branches. November 6. (D.O.T.)

THE SUDAN.

Steam Launches.—The Inspector-General of Irrigation, Sudan, Khartoum, invites tenders for the supply of three steam launches for use on the Upper Nile. September 1.

TURKEY.

Road Rollers.—Tenders are invited for the supply of 30 road rollers to be driven by mazout, which are required by the Ministry of Public Works. September 17. (D.O.T.)

Lead.—The Direction Générale des Fabriques Militaires at Angora invites tenders for the supply of 252 tons of lead. September 26. (D.O.T.)

Zinc Sheets.—The Direction Générale des Fabriques Militaires, Angora, invites tenders for the supply of 124,525 kgs. of zinc sheets. September 26. (D.O.T.)

FORTHCOMING SAILINGS.

The following are the sailings for the Near East and India, the ports of departure and closing dates for cargo being given in parentheses:—

Anchor Line.—S.s. Circassia for Bombay (Birkenhead, September 8). (For passenger sailings and dates see advertisement).

Anchor Brocklebank Line.—S.s. Mahanada for Calcutta (Birkenhead, August 30); s.s. Manipur for Calcutta (Birkenhead, September 6).

Bibby Line.—S.s. Oxfordshire for Port Said, Port Sudan, Colombo, and Rangoon (Birkenhead, September 5).

British India Line.—S.s. Mulbera for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, September 8); s.s. Golconda for Bombay and Karachi (London, September 8).

Cunard Line.—S.s. Bactria for Gibraltar, Malta, Patras, Piræus, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, and Constantza (Liverpool, Glasgow, and Swansea, September 29); s.s. Bantria for Gibraltar, Genoa, Leghorn, Naples, Palermo, Messina, Catania, Corfu, Bari, Venice, Trieste, and Fiume (Liverpool September 15, and Swansea September 18).

Johnston Line.—S.s. Kenmore for Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, September 1); s.s. Jessmore for Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, September 29).

P. and O. Line.—S.s. Kaisar-i-Hind for Bombay (London, August 31); s.s. Nagoya for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, September 1); s.s. Rawalpindi for Bombay (London, September 5).

Prince Line.—S.s. Sailor Prince for Tunis, Malta, Alexandria, Jaffa, Haifa, Beyrout, Tripoli, Alexandretta, Mersina, and Cyprus (London, September 1); s.s. Algerian Prince for Tunis, Malta, Alexandria, Jaffa, Haifa, Beyrout, and Cyprus (Manchester, September 1).

Ellerman and Papayanni Lines.—S.s. Gerano for Genoa, Leghorn, Naples, Palermo, Messina, Catania, Bari, Gruz, Ancona*, Venice, Trieste, and Fiume (Liverpool September 1, Swansea September 6); s.s. Dido for Malta, Alexandria, Jaffa*, and Haifa* (Liverpool, September 8); A steamer for Malta, Alexandria, Jaffa*, and Haifa* (Glasgow, September 8); s.s. Algerian for Gibraltar, Patras, Piræus, Volo*, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, and Constantza (Liverpool, September 8); s.s. Serbino for Gibraltar, Malta, Alexandria, Jaffa*, and Haifa* (Liverpool, September 15); s.s. Lesbian for Oran*, Algiers*, Piræus, Volo*, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, and Constantza (Liverpool, September 22). * Subject to sufficient inducement. Cargo taken on through Bill of Lading to:—Algerian ports via Algiers; Moroccan ports via Gibraltar; Tripoli (Barbary) via Malta; Syria and Cyprus via Alexandria; Greek outports via Piræus or other convenient port.

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KARACHI via Bombay, calling at Gibraltar and Egypt.

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MODERATE FARES.

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Indian Government Vouchers accepted.

Passenger sailing dates:—

*CASTALIA ...	Aug. 28	*BRITANNIA ...	Oct. 9
*CIRCASSIA ...	Sept. 14	*CALIFORNIA ...	Oct. 24
*ASSYRIA ...	Sept. 28	*FELYSIA ...	Nov. 9

*First class passengers only. †First and Third Class Passengers. Specially low fares. ‡Calls Port Sudan.

SPECIAL NOTICE.

NEW T.S.S. CALIFORNIA, 17,000 TONS, carrying 1st, 2nd and 3rd class passengers, sails from LIVERPOOL, October 24; MARSEILLES, October 30. All 1st and 2nd class state rooms are fitted with Punka Louvers and with Fans.

This vessel has exceptionally fine 3rd class accommodation.

ANCHOR LINE.

48, FENCHURCH STREET, LONDON, E.C.3.

THE WEEK'S FINANCE.

(By Our Financial Expert.)

London, August 28.

Considering the time of year and in view of the approach of the end of the fortnightly account the tone of the stock markets has been good, and quite a fair business has been done in the industrial section, Imperial Chemicals being perhaps the most prominent feature. The gramophone group, too, has been firm, having been supported by some American buying, though the actual volume of business passing is, of course, small. The result of the tenders for £45 millions of Treasury Bonds on Thursday was slightly below market expectations, but the gilt-edged market remained very steady and Five per cent. War Loan improved slightly. Home rails were better in the early part of the week on the companies' latest effort to meet road competition by reducing week-end fares, but there was some reaction later in the absence of any public support for the market. Oil shares have again been attracting attention in view of the improvement in the statistical position, and rubber shares, though very quiet, have been inclined to harden.

Singer and Co.'s Prosperity.

Singer and Company, the motor manufacturers, continues upon its career of remarkable prosperity, the profits for the year ended July 31 last being well maintained. Though the capital has rapidly increased in recent years, it is clear that it has been profitably employed. For the past year profits were £171,222, compared with £140,364 for 1926-27 and £131,953 for 1925-26. The dividend is again 12½ per cent., and in addition the directors announce a cash bonus of 7½ per cent. The cash bonus last year was 12½ per cent., but the present distribution requires £133,352, against £104,181, owing to the larger amount of capital ranking for a full year's distribution. Moreover, in accordance with the intimation of last June, it is proposed to make a bonus distribution out of reserves of

one Seven per Cent. Cumulative Preference share for every two Ordinary shares. As the present Ordinary capital is £666,760, this will involve the capitalisation of £333,380 of the reserves. Singer and Company is one of the most consistently prosperous companies in the motor industry. Indeed, its record offers a striking contrast to those of many other companies, and the investor should certainly not assume that the Singer report is indicative of conditions in the motor industry as a whole.

Imperial Airways: The Maiden Dividend.

The preliminary figures of Imperial Airways Ltd., for the year ended March 31, indicate a conspicuous improvement in the company's fortunes. The net profits for the period amounted to £72,567, as compared with £11,461 for 1926-27. This enables the directors to declare their first dividend—namely, 5 per cent. A debit balance of £24,171 was brought forward from 1926-27, and this has, of course, been extinguished before declaring the dividend. The board also propose to write off one-half of the preliminary expenses and underwriting commission. This will absorb £20,663, the preliminary expenses having stood at £23,032, and the under-writing commission at £18,295. Any benefit which the company may derive from the new agreement with the British Government, under which the Government subsidy now amounts to £2,760,600 spread over 11 years from April 1 last, will, of course, affect the results of the current and future years. The full report has not yet been issued and until this is available it is impossible to tell what factors are chiefly responsible for the improvement. The previous report, however, showed distinct progress, the better trading results then disclosed being attributed mainly to the board's policy of aiming at the creation of a goodwill based on safety and reliability and the employment of multi-engined aeroplanes in pursuit of this policy.

The New Nitrate Selling Scheme.

The scheme for the centralisation of Chilean nitrate sales, according to advices published this week, has now been carried into effect. At a meeting recently held in Valparaiso, at which all producers except the Anglo-Chilean Consolidated Nitrate Corporation and the Grace Nitrate Company (representing together about 15½ per cent. of the existing production) were present, it was unanimously agreed to form a nitrate selling corporation for the period August 15, 1928, to June 30, 1930, on the basis of the plans drawn up by the committee appointed last month. A condition of the agreement, it is stated, was that the special concessions which the Chilean Government has promised to make will only be available to members of the corporation and not to those outside. It is announced that prices have now been fixed for Europe and Egypt with the approval of the Chilean Government and are being published in each country separately. Production is now on a considerably larger scale than a year ago, the total for July being 260,000 tons, against 125,000 tons in 1927 and 157,000 tons in 1926. It is hoped among nitrate producers that the centralisation of sales will lead to a stabilisation of prices in consuming markets and an increase in consumption. It remains to be seen, however, whether the scheme succeeds. Government activity in this direction has not always been successful in the past, while clearly the scheme does not command the undivided support of producers.

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To BEIRA, DELAGOA BAY, DURBAN, EAST LONDON
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DELAGOA BAY—John T.
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DURBAN—Andrew Weir & Co.
EAST LONDON—Messrs. Dunn
& Co.
PT. ELIZABETH—Mackie, Dunn
& Co.

MOSSEL BAY—Messrs. E.
Searle & Co.
CAPE TOWN—Thomson,
Watson & Co.
HONG KONG—The Bank Line,
Ltd.
BANGKOK—Siam Forest Co.,
Ltd.
SINGAPORE—Hattenbach Bros
& Co.
MAURITIUS—Adam & Co.

LONDON—ANDREW WEIR & CO., 21, Bury Street, E.C.3

Arrivals at the port of Salonika during July comprised 124 steamers and 160 sailing ships.

An interim dividend at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum, less tax, is announced by the directors of the Commercial Bank of the Near East.

The exports of gum from the Sudan in June via Port Sudan amounted to 91 tons of bleached of the value of £E4,070, 2,137 tons of hashab of the value of £E62,834, and 155 tons of talh of the value of £E3,292.

THE IMPERIAL BANK OF PERSIA.

(Incorporated by Royal Charter, 1889.)

CAPITAL (fully paid) - £650,000 | RESERVE - £570,000
Reserve Liability of Shareholders, £1,000,000.

Branches in Persia:—
 Abadan, Ahwaz, Barfursh, Birjand, Bunder Abbas, Burajird, Bushire, Dazdab, Hamadan, Isfahan, Kazvin, Kerman, Kermanshah, Masjed-Saleiman, Meshed, Mohammerah, Nasratabad, (Seistan), Tehran, Pehlevi, Resht, Shiraz, Saltanabad, Tabriz, Yazd.

Branches in Iraq (Mesopotamia):—Bagdad, Basra, Khanaqin, Kirkuk.
 Branch in India:—Bombay.
 The Bank is prepared to transact Banking business of every description in and connected with Persia and Mesopotamia; and in London grants Drafts, Telegraphic Transfers and Letters of Credit, and negotiates or collects Bills on Persia and the Near East.

Head Office: 33-36, KING WILLIAM ST., E.C.4; Chief Office in Persia, TEHERAN.

IONIAN BANK, Ltd.

Established 1839.

Capital Authorised - £1,000,000
 Capital Paid up - £600,000
 Reserve Fund - £250,000
 Total Assets - £6,115,400

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 TURKEY. CONSTANTINOPLE (Stamboul, with Sub Branch at Galata.)

Representative for the United States of America:
 Mr. R. C. CARIDIA 120 Broadway, New York.

Complete Banking Facilities for the Near East

The Only British Bank in Greece.

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CALCUTTA, BOMBAY, MADRAS.

Managing Governors in India:—

Sir N. M. Murray
 O. A. Smith, Esq.

Manager in London:—

Sir S. A. H. SITWELL

Authorised Capital Rs. 11.25.00.000
 Paid-up Capital - Rs. 5.62.50.000
 Reserve - Rs. 5.12.50.000

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Branches in all Principal Towns in India.
 London Branch 22 Old Broad Street, E.C.2.

NATIONAL BANK OF INDIA, LIMITED.

Registered in London under the Companies Act of 1862, on the 23rd March, 1866.

Established in Calcutta, 29th September, 1863.

BANKERS TO THE GOVERNMENT IN KENYA COLONY AND UGANDA.

AUTHORISED CAPITAL ... £4,000,000 | Paid-up Capital ... £2,000,000
 Subscribed Capital ... £4,000,000 | Reserve Fund ... £2,950,000

HEAD OFFICE: 26, BISHOPSGATE, LONDON, E.C.2.

BRANCHES.

Aden	Calcutta	Colombo	Lahore	Rangoon	Eldoret	Kenya Colony	Entebbe
Aden, Steamer Point	Cawnpore	Delhi	Madras	Tuticorin	Kisumu	(Brit. E. Africa)	Jinja
Amritsar	Chittagong	Kandy	Mandalay	Zanzibar	Mombasa		Kampala
Bombay	Cochin (S. India)	Karachi	Newera Eliya		Nairobi, Nakuru		Uganda

TANGANYIKA TERRITORY—Dar-es-Salaam, Tanga

The Bank purchases grants, advances against or collects Bills payable in India, Burma, Ceylon, Aden, Zanzibar, British East Africa, Uganda, etc., on current terms.
 The Bank issues Drafts on its Branches, as well as on its Agents in the principal towns of India and Burma, Africa and elsewhere, and also sells Telegraphic Transfers on all its Branches, at the exchange of the day.

The Bank, on behalf of its Constituents, undertakes the collection of Furlough Pay and Pension from the India and Colonial Offices, the Custody of Government and other Securities, and the receipt of interest and Dividends thereon.

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British Consular Reports

IV.—YUGOSLAVIA.

(Continued from page 206).

Trade with Great Britain.

Great Britain usually occupies fifth place in the list of countries supplying Yugoslavia's imports; while she has been in most years tenth among those to which Yugoslavia's export trade is directed. While Great Britain supplies an average of approximately 7 per cent. of Yugoslavia's imports she in return takes only about 1 per cent. of Yugoslavia's exports.

The great development which, fostered by the high customs tariff, is taking place in Yugoslavia's textile industry is sure to lead to reductions in imports of British cottons and woollens; but it is encouraging to know that some of the machinery with which the new factories are equipped is bought in the United Kingdom. Sales of British agricultural machinery are at present disappointing; the poor harvest of last year is one obstacle to trade in this direction. Moreover, the delivery from Germany of machinery ordered by private persons having claims on reparations has an effect on the market. A few stationary (oil and gas) engines for industrial use have been disposed of lately. Little headway is being made in the sale of British automobiles in this country, the majority of the new cars sold being of American origin; but there are indications of growing interest on the part of British manufacturers. It is probable that more business could be done in this direction if the low petrol consumption of British motor cars were better known, as motor spirit is subjected both to import duty and a high consumption tax, as a result of which its price is very high. Several different makes of British motor-cycles are to be seen on the roads, but of late the competition of a well-known German motor bicycle has been very strong. British motor tyres are well known on this market.

Such articles as jams, sauces, whiskies, biscuits, etc., of well known British brands are to be found in the best grocers' shops. Owing, however, to the high customs duties and other charges imported jams, biscuits and the like are sold at prices from four to five times as high as those ruling in the United Kingdom, and it is, therefore, only the foreigner who buys them.

It has lately been noticeable that the number of representatives of British business houses visiting Yugoslavia has tended to fall off, although it is constantly visited by the travellers of the industrial countries of Central Europe. This can no doubt be attributed partly to the economic depression which has been particularly felt in those branches of commerce in which Lancashire and Yorkshire are chiefly interested; and is probably not unconnected with the long delayed settlement of certain pre-war commercial debts. The circumstance that so many professional and technical men receive their training in France, Germany and Austria must influence the trend of trade; and arising out of this there is the language difficulty. While most business men know at least one foreign language, usually German or French, very few have any acquaintance with English, which is not taught in any schools in this country. The few who understand English are usually emigrants returned from the United States of America, or students who were educated in England during the War.

Customs tariff, high freight rates and the dearness of money. Further, as the bulk of the population is of the agricultural class, the number of actual purchasers is limited; and the trader perforce looks for his living to a high percentage of profit on a comparatively small turnover rather than to a large volume of trade. Most of the manufactured goods retailed are of low quality, although their prices are high, and the majority of the population at present neither appreciates the high quality of British manufactured goods nor can afford to buy them.

It is rather, as has already been indicated, in the direc-

tion of machinery and technical material that improvement in the British export trade to Yugoslavia is to be looked for.

Railways.

In 1926 there were in Yugoslavia 6,481 kilometres of normal gauge and 1,737 kilometres of narrow gauge railway in operation; but work on new lines is constantly proceeding, as funds for the purpose become available, so that the above figures have already been exceeded. The direction in which new railway construction proceeds is the linking up of existing lines and replacing the vertical lines built under the dual empire by the lateral ones so much needed to connect provinces formerly separated; the construction of new routes to give access to the Adriatic from the interior, and the doubling of the existing main east to west line running through Belgrade and Zagreb, which at present has only a single track for most of its length.

A number of sections of new railway were commenced in 1927, and many others are scheduled for commencement during 1928. Among the most important of the works now in hand or about to be done are the section of 40 kilometres of narrow gauge line Belgrade-Obrenovatz, which is nearing completion and will, when finished, give direct narrow-gauge communication between the capital and the Adriatic at Dubrovnik (Ragusa) via Uzitze, Vardishte and Sarajevo; the doubling of the track on the Zagreb-Novska section of the main Belgrade-Zagreb line which has been commenced; the doubling of the track on the Belgrade-Ripanye section of the main lateral railway; and the railway to connect Belgrade with Panchevo via the new bridge to be built across the Danube below Belgrade, work on which was commenced in March, 1927. The railway over the river Tissa (Theiss) which connects the fertile provinces of the Banat and Bachka was completed and opened to traffic in July. The route to be taken by the main Belgrade-Adriatic railway to be built out of the proceeds of the Blair loan, which under the terms of the loan agreement it was necessary to define, has now been fixed, its sea terminus will be on the Boka Kotorska (Gulf of Cattaro) and it will take the line Belgrade-Ripanye-Lazarevatz - Topola - Kraguyevatz - Kosovska - Mitrovitza-Podgoritza-Kotor.

In order to improve the working of the railways and it is hoped, to increase the revenue derived from them, it has been decided to "commercialise" the whole of the state railways undertaking, and the necessary authority to effect this change was included in the financial law for 1928-1929. While the plans for commercialisation were being prepared Yugoslav railway experts were sent to examine the methods by which the change in the management of certain other countries, such as Germany, had been carried out; but it was eventually decided that it was impossible to relinquish state control to such an extent as has been possible elsewhere. In effect the State Railways' Organisation has been converted into an autonomous body which, although always strictly under State control, will have its own working capital and be able to transact its affairs without, for instance, following the bureaucratic procedure, laid down by the law of government accounting, which at present is said to cause so much delay in purchasing the smallest urgently needed supplies.

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THE LIVERPOOL COTTON MARKET.

Messrs. Reynolds and Gibson report as follows for the week ended August 22:—

Egyptian Futures.—Sakel Contract.—Whilst some recovery in values has taken place during the past week, the undertone of the market continues to show a nervous and unsettled tendency; recent events have led to local spinners and operators practically adopting a watching attitude, so that the appreciation witnessed has been exclusively due to speculative purchases for Alexandria and Continental account.

Trade reports from the fine count section continue to be disappointing and consumers generally regard the present level with distrust; with these combined circumstances operating, it is not surprising that so little legitimate business is coming into the market; similar conditions hold sway in overseas consuming centres and little if any interest in new crop offers is being shown. Only minor alterations in the Liverpool-Alexandria straddle have taken place, but an appreciable widening in the Sakel premium over the American contract has occurred. With most of the buying coming into the market concentrating on the November position, this month at one time went to a premium over January, subsequently the transference of a limited amount of old straddle contracts quickly caused a readjustment to the previous difference.

Upper Contract.—Only a moderate business has transpired in this contract during the past week; in the earlier days values were depressed owing to further straddle operations against purchases of Sakel. More recently some hardening has taken place, due to the firmer tendency of the American departments and reports of damage to the crop. A fairly consistent spot demand has been experienced, orders coming to hand from United States consumers.

The announcement that the Egyptian Government are willing to finance growers on special terms has latterly contributed to establish a healthier undertone and the market is beginning to show more power of resistance.

Egyptian Spot.—The inquiry for spot Egyptian has been, on the whole, well maintained. Mistrust in current values is still prevalent, however, and on any signs of weakness in the American markets there has been a general tendency on the part of spinners to "hold off" and to await further developments. Reports from up-country have latterly been more optimistic and many good judges are of the opinion that we are on the eve of a buying movement, provided there is no further slump in prices. We are so near to the new crop now in any case, that probably many spinners will prefer to keep

going on the hand-to-mouth system until they are better able to judge the quality of the crop, rather than search the depleted stocks which remain in Liverpool or Alexandria for their requirements in the immediate future. There is no doubt that the demand is broadening steadily, and considerable difficulty is being experienced in finding certain qualities. Very little actual inquiry for new crop cotton has as yet appeared.

In Sakel, practically all qualities have been in request at one time or another, but cotton from 12d. to 15d., and from "pass" to 100 "on contracts" has received by far the largest share of attention. Good Sakel at about 200 "on" has been very difficult to find. A revival in the very low and "inferior" qualities at from 8d. to 10d. has been witnessed. The brisk demand for Uppers at from 15 to 30 on November contracts has continued, and probably it has been this cotton which has accounted for the bulk of the sales. The local selection (which a few weeks ago was a plentiful one) is being rapidly thinned out, and the basis has been hardening steadily. Needless to say, it is only the cotton which has some pretensions to staple which meets with a ready offtake. The demand for the best Uppers has been quietly maintained, and it has been rather in the nature of a surprise to find what a small stock of this quality exists here. Pilon has been rather neglected this week. Fancy growths, such as Nahda, Maarad, Fuadi, etc., have been but little in request. Sudan growths (Sakel) have been in moderate request only, and not an inquiry for Tokar Sakel has been received.

C.i.f. business has been very quiet. Alexandria shippers are loth to offer outright owing to the poor selection available over there, and business has been difficult to arrange even with bids in hand. Forwardings to spinners for the week ending the 17th inst. were returned as 3,652 bales Egyptian and 1,122 bales Sudan. Estimated sales for the week, 2,900 bales Egyptian and 250 bales Sudan. Quotations of Sakel show a rise of 35 points. Uppers and Pilon have been unusually steady and show no change on the week. F.G.F. Sakel to-day, 18.65d. F.G.F. Upper to-day, 12.80d. F.G.F. Pilon to-day, 14.25d.

THE EGYPTIAN MARKET.

The Alexandria Commercial Company, in their report for the week ended August 16, state:—

The market during the past week has been rather less active; the tone at the close to-day was undecided. The week's summary of price movements is as follows:—Sakellaridis: November, 35.39 dollars, 1.39 dollars down; January, 35.50 dollars, 1.68 dollars down. Ashmouni: August, 22.75 dollars, 1.17 dollars down; October, 23.01 dollars, 1.44 dollars down; December, 23.30 dollars, 1.57 dollars down.

Sakellaridis.—The loss on the week is about a dollar and a half correspondingly with the drop in New York; there is no new local factor and speculative operations have not been so pronounced this week, operators contenting themselves with a moderate turn. The demand has continued to be poor. New crop business is hardly spoken of and there are, as yet, no indications that spinners are contemplating purchases, in spite of the recent heavy decline. It rather looks as if the reports that artificial silk has displaced a considerable portion of the Sakellaridis consumption, are more than mere talk. A feature, however, which reflects a belief that a demand will spring up and that the early arrivals will be well taken care of, is the improvement of November over January; from a discount last week of 20 points, November now stands at a premium over January of 9 points. The Sakellaridis-Ashmouni straddle stands at 1,238 points against 1,233 points a week ago.

Uppers.—This variety has enjoyed a rather better demand than Sakellaridis, but, nevertheless, shows about the same decline on the week. There has been less disposition on the part of speculators to sell, but the market is still influenced by the very large increase in the acreage shown by the Government estimate. The Ashmouni/American straddle stands at 410 points against 433 points last week, a further loss on the week of 23 points. Uppers at present prices do not seem unreasonable; the supply of Ashmouni and Zagora will be larger than last year, but we do not think that it will attain the 4,000,000 kantars generally expected, and, with mill stocks down to a very low point, a crop of anything below this figure will not be excessively difficult to absorb.

Spot.—Total sales this week amount to about 4,900 bales, of which we estimate 2,100 bales Sakellaridis, 2,700 bales Ashmouni and Zagora, and 100 bales other varieties.

Sakellaridis: There has been some demand for Fully Good Fair to Good and Good without much change in premiums. Good Fair/Fully Good Fair and Fully Good Fair are still in constant demand and there is keen competition for any lots appearing in the market.

Crop, 1928.—Crop news continues satisfactory, but reports are not quite so confidently optimistic as they have been up to now; with reports so monotonously satisfactory, the tendency has been to ignore worm and nadua damage, and it is a rude awakening to all but the most careful observers to find now that these pests are present and increasing, and reports show a tendency to swing round. Worm damage is still light, but the damp weather at present prevailing is not ideal for keeping down the ravages of this pest; in the meantime, however, the plant is maturing and the longer the attack is delayed the less dangerous it must be. Picking is becoming general in Upper Egypt and cotton is entering the ginning factories; indeed, in one or two of the factories farthest South ginning has already commenced.



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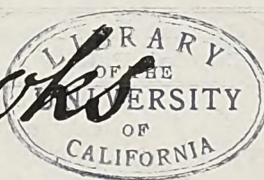
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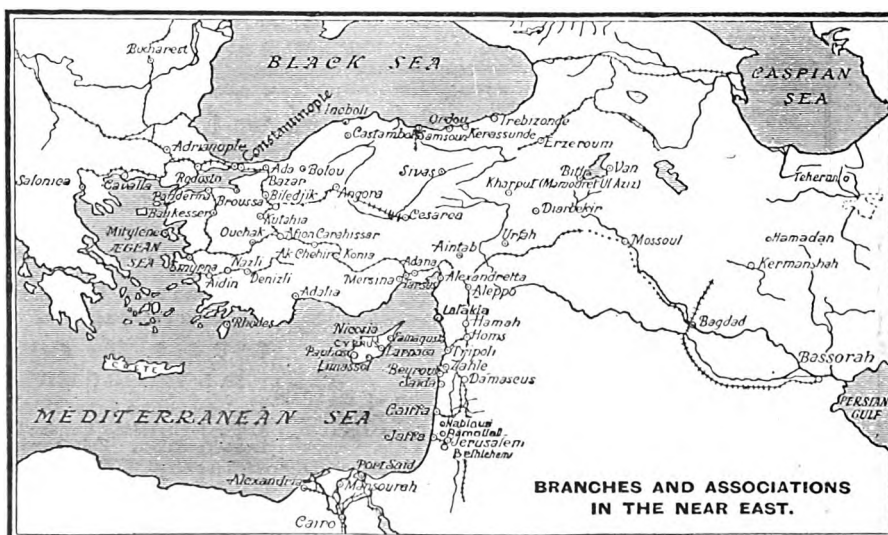
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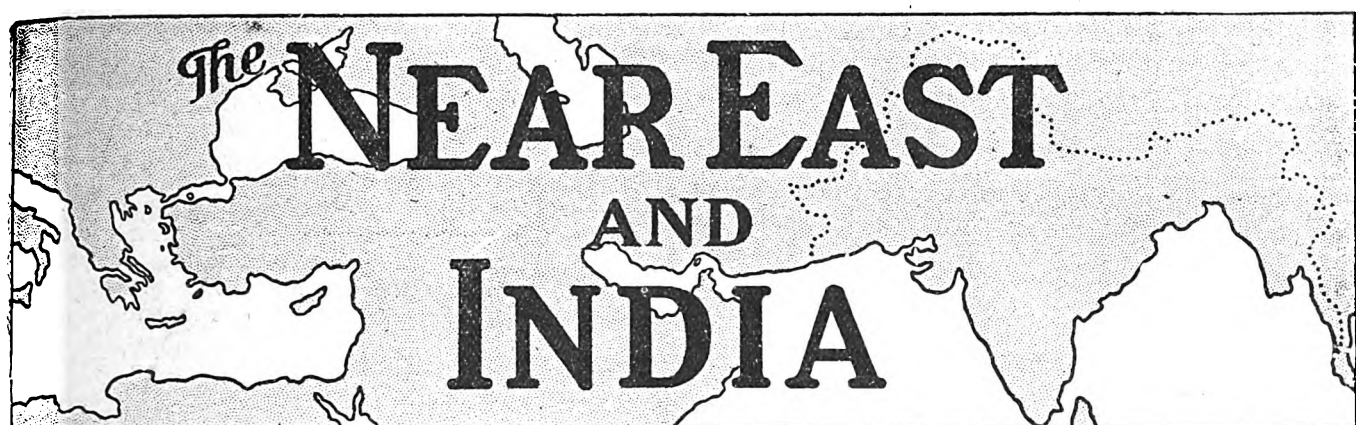
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Notes of the Week.

The Kingdom of Albania.

The change from a Republic to a Monarchy has been effected by Albania with all due regard for constitutional niceties. A vote by acclamation on the part of the Constituent Assembly in Tirana was not considered to meet the requirements of the situation. That vote was given on August 25 and was designed to serve as an indication of the spontaneous unanimity of the Albanian people. The Assembly then settled down to a more constitutional procedure. First of all, the election of each member had to be scrutinised and ratified; it was then decided to treat the redrafting of the Constitution as urgent business, in order that it might have priority of place on the agenda. A committee was subsequently appointed to draw up the text of the necessary amendments. By the end of the week these formalities were concluded. The Constituent Assembly on September 1 voted the amendments and proclaimed Ahmed Beg Zogu King of the Albanians; in the afternoon King Zogu I. was escorted to the Parliament House, where the oath to the revised Constitution was duly taken by his Majesty. It is difficult to determine the real attitude of the Albanian people as a whole to the events of the last few weeks. The participation of the Catholic Mirdites in the popular demonstrations suggests that there is some measure of conviction behind these in spite of the disciplined character that has been given to the proceedings leading up to the constitutional change. The precautions taken on Saturday at Tirana for the new King's personal safety do not indicate much reliance on the genuineness of popular support; but conditions in Albania are different from those in other European countries. Certainly, King Zogu's troubles are more likely to come from within than from without. The Yugoslav Government has been unwise enough to betray its pique over the new status of Albania, and has thereby helped to consolidate still further Italy's hold on the country. A greater degree of statesmanship in Belgrade would have prompted the Government to welcome the change in Albania as a means of placing the relations between the two countries on a more satisfac-

tory basis. If the affairs of the Balkan Peninsula are to take on the complexion that the interests of all the countries require, it is essential that Albania should be weaned from Italian tutelage in order to be able to play her part as an independent member in a Balkan federation. The diplomatic bungling of Belgrade in regard to Albania is likely to be responsible for the retarding of this desirable consummation.

The Roumano-Hungarian Dispute.

Proposal and counter-proposal have succeeded one another over such a long period in the interminable dispute between the Roumanian and Hungarian Governments in regard to the question of the so-called Optants that the long-suffering onlooker finds it difficult to decide to which party belongs the blame for the major degree of obstinacy and intransigence. It is, therefore, a discreet move on the part of Hungary to bring the matter back again to its original base, by calling upon that all too back-boneless body, the Council of the League of Nations, to act in accordance with the Treaty which is responsible for the state of affairs that has given rise to the dispute. The Roumanian Government would seem to have only itself to blame for the shifting of the controversy on to untenable ground. Its main concern is that Roumania should not have the Hungarian Optants exempted from the provisions of her Agrarian Laws in such a way as would involve the country in an expenditure that it ought not to be called upon to meet. On this point there is much to be said on Roumania's behalf, and it is difficult to believe that, even if a mixed Arbitral Tribunal decided against her, a wholly impartial body of opinion would confirm the decision on appeal. Unfortunately, instead of relying on the justice of its case the Roumanian Government has adopted the attitude that it will not allow the Mixed Arbitral Tribunal—appointed for the very purpose under the Treaty of Trianon—to consider the question to all, and to clinch the matter it withdrew its representative from the Tribunal, and thereby put the latter out of action. The possibility that such a device might

be resorted to in order to defeat the Peace Settlement had been foreseen by the Allied Powers, and provision was made in the Treaty that in such circumstances the League of Nations would have to appoint a substitute member for the one withdrawn from the Tribunal, to enable the latter to continue its functions. The failure of the Council of the League to carry out this simple provision has been responsible for all the pother and the long-drawn-out controversy. As things are, Roumania, instead of merely refusing to obey an order of a Mixed Tribunal, has chosen to defy the Treaty of Trianon, which in the same breath she makes out to be so sacrosanct as to require the formation of a Little Entente in order to uphold it. Little wonder that Hungary, with her tongue in her cheek, goes to the League of Nations and asks whether, as the League has declared Article 239 null and void, she may infer that the whole Treaty has been scrapped. The Council may again refuse to act as it ought to act, but a good deal of cant about the League of Nations will have to be thrown overboard, if it does.

Serbs and Croats.

The cause of Yugoslav unity has not been furthered by the fire at the headquarters of the Croat Peasant Party. It was the house where the body of the late Stepan Raditch lay in state before the funeral, and it had been converted into a temporary museum of souvenirs associated with the Croat leader. The verdict has gone forth that the house took fire in two places simultaneously, and it will, therefore, be believed for all time in Croatia that the incendiarism was the work of Serb agents. In the meantime the authorities of the Peasant-Democrat group are reiterating their determination not to return to the Skupshtina, and to be content with nothing less than a separate Parliament. When the psychological moment arrives, however, it will probably be found that the antagonism is directed against the present "blood-stained" Skupshtina and against the over-centralisation of the existing Constitution. The tragedy is that Serbia would seem to have produced no one who is statesman enough to bring about a round-table conference of representatives of all the sections of the Kingdom. At the time of its creation Yugoslavia was like a large lump of putty; carefully and slowly worked in the hands, it was capable of being moulded into a firm compact mass. In the place of this treatment, however, it was subjected to sudden and violent pressure in Serbia's hands, and the putty has oozed out through all the fingers.

The "Brith Shalom."

As our Jerusalem Correspondent says in his letter published elsewhere in this issue, the policy advocated by those Zionist Jews who belong to the Society called "Brith Shalom" is the policy which appeals most strongly to the impartial observer of affairs in Palestine. In such a country as the Holy Land there must, of course, always be dreams, visions even: the mind were insensible that was not moved there to thoughts that may have little contact with reality. But to make of such a thing as a "Jewish National Home" in Palestine it is in our view, as in the view of the "Brith Shalom," absolutely essential, while gazing at the mountain tops, to have one's feet firmly on the earth; in other words, to face facts. It is largely true that a great mass of Jewish thought is still clinging to impossible fancies, as if a modification of the first great dream were now to be deemed as cowardice. With this perambulation in a world of imagination the Jews associated with the "Brith Shalom" will have nothing to do. The Arabs of Palestine do exist, and must always exist—probably in preponderating numbers. What boots it, in the opinion of these thoughtful Jews, persistently to pretend the contrary? If Palestine is to develop, there must, as we have always insisted, be the fullest measure of Arab-Jewish co-operation. Whether the time is ripe, as the supporters of "Brith Shalom" appear to think, for the supersession of Crown Colony Government in Palestine by a Parliament in which both Arab and Jew should be represented is, however, another

matter. In any case, it is obvious that the policy advocated by the "Brith Shalom" is as yet a highly unpopular policy among Jews in Palestine; nor have the Arab leaders so forgotten their former fears of Zionist domination to welcome the new proposals with much effusiveness.

Conscription and Iraq.

No fresh light has been thrown by recent events in Iraq upon the possibility of introducing compulsory military service into the State of King Faisal. Last week the tribal members of the Majlis and the Kurdish deputies reiterated their objections to conscription, and the matter is left much where it was when Jaafar Pasha resigned—a Conscription Bill has been circulated for members to decide whether it is worth bringing before Parliament or not. As far as can now be seen, it is highly improbable that the British Government will take any definite step in the direction of supporting conscription in Iraq: which to all intents and purposes is, in Iraqi eyes, identical with declaring opposition to it. Those Iraqis who favour the introduction of compulsory military service into their country, whether on the grounds of the expense of the present voluntary system, or of its general educative benefit to the youth of the State, or of its assistance in the fostering of a truly national spirit, have recently been given a lead by Nouri Pasha, the very astute Iraqi soldier who has never disguised his advocacy of conscription. Whether he and enthusiasts like him can contrive to gain considerable support outside the towns of Iraq it is difficult to say. Had the Iraq Government, or any Iraq Government, complete authority, there seems to be little doubt that the attempt would have been made ere now to introduce conscription. It is, of course, upon the results of such an attempt that there is such a difference between educated Iraqis, on the one hand, and the British Government and the tribes on the other.

The Mandate for Trans-Jordan.

The recent criticism by the Permanent Mandates Commission of the way in which the Anglo-Trans-Jordan Treaty was signed and published before the consent of the League of Nations had been obtained appears to have been largely a matter of formality. In any case, the Council of the League itself had little difficulty, on September 1, in accepting Lord Cushendun's explanation that, because Great Britain remained fully responsible to the Council for the proper application in Trans-Jordan of all the provisions of the Palestine Mandate, in spite of the delegation of legislative and administrative powers to the Amir Abdullah, the formal consent by the Council to the Anglo-Trans-Jordan Treaty was unnecessary. In the British Memorandum of September 16, 1922, which the Council had approved, a delegation of powers was foreshadowed, and was certainly compatible, in the opinion of the British Government, with the terms of the Palestine Mandate. It is interesting here to recall, by the way, that certain people in Trans-Jordan (for instance, those of Ajlun) are claiming that they were promised direct treatment at the hands of the British, and deny the right by which power has been delegated to the present Amir Abdullah. But it will be long before there really arises in Trans-Jordan a "political question," for apart from a few vexatious things, such as Customs dues, the country is exceedingly well administered. And, of course, the better the country is administered the less probable is the growth of politicians therein.

The Orientalist Congress.

The labours of the Congress of Orientalists at Oxford ended on September 1, and already considerable benefits are visible. For, apart from the accession of knowledge, which was possible to all those who had ears to hear, what the President, Lord Chalmers, called "the right hand of fellowship" was held out in such a way that friendships between peoples of various nationalities were not only renewed but were begun in the happiest circumstances. When one considers the fact, for example, that

but a few years ago Frenchmen could not be persuaded to take part in an Orientalist conference with Germans, the easy feeling which obviously characterised all the Delegates and members present last week in Oxford may justly be regarded as something of creative value. From the general point of view, then, all was well. In the particular aspect, it was to be regretted that Oriental institutions did not send more representatives to the Congress. Turkey, for example, sent but one Delegate; Egypt, two; Syria, one Arab; Persia, one; and so on. Those who did attend, however, will surely have learned the immense, even incalculable benefit which almost the whole world may derive from such Congresses, and it is to be hoped that when they return to their native lands they will report fully what they have seen and heard and felt. They will be the first to admit, we imagine, that the balance of learning has shifted from Damascus or Cairo to the West, and they will be moved all the more to work so that such cities themselves may, as they hope, one day house such a Congress as Oxford had the good fortune last week to entertain.

INDIAN NOTES.

Commerce and the Police.

It is not surprising that there should be criticism in India of the recommendation which the Associated Chambers of Commerce have made for the transfer to autonomous provincial Governments of the control of the police and the responsibility for the maintenance of law and order. For any such idea would certainly seem to be opposed to what has so far been the opinion of the European community. All the Chambers are not, we gather, in favour of the recommendation, as some of them think that the Central Government should control the Police, while all favour the retention of the Criminal Intelligence Department as a central department. The majority feel, however, that, if representative institutions are ever to be a success in India, the Indians will have to realise the necessity for an efficient police force. And the practical question is: will they ever come to realise this, unless and until they are made responsible for the maintenance of law and order? The Chambers answer this question in the negative, and hence the recommendation. There is something to be said for their view. For after all the maintenance of law and order is the primary function of every Government; and there can be no such thing as provincial autonomy, if this responsibility is not undertaken by the provincial Governments. A strong central Government in the India of the future will be an imperative necessity, as we have pointed out on several occasions of late. But it is not easy to see how the Central Government could control the Police and be directly responsible for the maintenance of law and order in each province. For any such division of functions would obviously be very cumbrous, and, moreover, it would create endless friction and difficulty as between the Central Government and the provinces. Whether the risk which will be attendant on the adoption of the Chambers' proposal can be safely faced is a matter which the Simon Commission may be expected to investigate and to determine.

The All-Parties Conference.

When the telegraphic summaries of the draft Constitution, prepared for discussion at last week's meeting of the All-Parties Conference, were first published, we observed that, despite its many obvious imperfections, the report was a document worthy of serious and close attention. Its great merit, we pointed out, was that it apparently defined the Indian demands more clearly and with greater precision than had hitherto been attempted. Moreover, it was reasonable and sane in tone. From the British Press in India it had a mixed reception, the tendency in one quarter being to welcome the report as at

least an attempt at clear thinking and for its acceptance of the Imperial tie, while others were more impressed by the extravagant futility of the main features of the scheme. There was, of course, solid ground for satisfaction to all but the most obstinate reactionary in the thought that a gathering seemingly representative of all sections of Indian political opinion was likely to agree upon the terms of a Constitution which would secure united assent and support. Unfortunately, the proceedings of the Conference itself, which were concluded this week at Lucknow, suggest that, as has so often been the case in the past, the significance of even so obvious a compromise must not be rated too high. It is true that the main resolution in favour of a Constitution conceding a status for India not inferior to that of a self-governing Dominion was passed after a protracted debate. In view, however, of the strong opposition manifested to so clear a departure from the original Congress mandate an addition was made declaring that the liberty of action of political parties whose goal was complete independence was not thereby restricted. Mr. Lala Lajpat Rai, whose experience of Indian politics is probably longer and of a more varied nature than that of any other person present, said at the opening of the Lucknow Conference that he had hitherto opposed any attempt at Constitution-making on the ground that it would augment internal difficulties. His change of mind does not, unfortunately, find any reflexion in the circumstances of which formerly he was wise enough to recognise the force. And when the Committee which has been appointed to select Parliamentary draftsmen to put the Constitution recommended in the shape of a Bill and call a convention representing all the interests concerned to consider the measure, meets, we are afraid that the separatist tendencies to which our Calcutta Correspondent refers will emerge stronger than ever.

The rising of the Hashid tribe against the Imam Yahya in the Yaman has been suppressed, and its head Shaikh, Nasir ibn Nasir Mablkhut, is reported to have fled.

It is announced from Mecca that Shaikh Yahya Basahi, Wazir to the Idrisi Amir of Abu Arish and Sabia, accompanied by the Wahhabi representative at Jizan, the Amir Salih Abdul Wahid, have arrived in the Holy City to consult about possible co-operation against the Zaidi Imam of Sanaa.

On the occasion of the Muslim festival of the Maulud en Nebi (birthday of the Prophet), the Aqsa Mosque in the Haram ash Sharif, Jerusalem, which has been closed for four years for repairs, was formally reopened on August 27 by the Grand Mufti of Jerusalem, Haj Amin al Husaini, in the presence of the Amir Abdullah of Trans-Jordan and Mr. H. C. Luke, Acting High Commissioner for Palestine and Trans-Jordan.

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THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 1928.

ROUMANIA AND THE BEST POLICY.

Although Roumania is politically quiet at the moment—the business of the harvest sees to that—no country in South-Eastern Europe in all probability is less pleased with itself. Even if there is a certain similarity in the conditions in Croatia and in Transylvania, the Yugoslav Government of the day is oblivious of anything for which it has to reproach itself, however much it may consider Croatian intransigence a matter for regret. The Roumanian Government, on the other hand, is not able to pour the same measure of unction upon its soul. Transylvanian intransigence is there for all to see, but does not, of itself, worry overmuch the Bucharest Government. Unfortunately, it is accompanied by the failure of the Ministry to obtain the big foreign loan at the time when it was most important that it should be handling the money. Some consolation has been provided by the promise of a small advance from French banks, but the source from which this crumb of comfort comes carries with it not a little humiliation. The French move lends itself so unmistakably to the interpretation that, so far as the big powers in world finance are concerned, Roumania would be left to her own devices without compunction; only because of her existing commitments, not exclusively financial, in the country does France feel compelled to come to Roumania's help by means of an emergency advance. Thus in addition to unpopularity at home (for in the face of the monster demonstrations of peasants and others, however ineffective these may be as a political weapon for unseating the Government, it is impossible to contend that the country is with the latter) the Bratianu Cabinet has to reflect on the complete lack of sympathy with which it is regarded abroad. Roumania deserves a better fate than this, and the people as a whole, there is reason to believe, are troubled by the fact. Government and Opposition are each inclined to attribute the blame to the other. The former accuses the National-Peasant Party of deliberately besmirching Roumania's reputation abroad; yet the main burden of the Opposition's message to foreign countries is that they must not judge Roumania by her present Government; but must realise that, with the accession to power of the National-Peasants, she will take her rightful position once more in the world's favour.

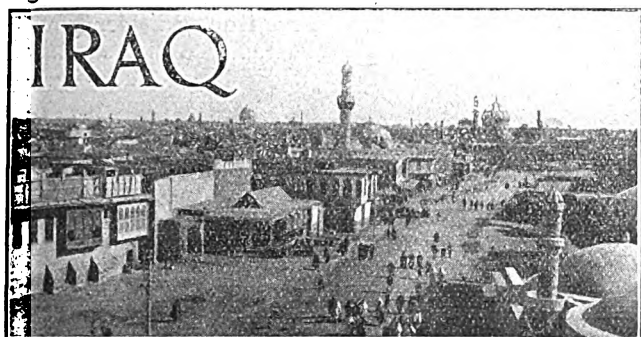
The fact is—if Roumania could only grasp it—that the world pays little heed to those political antagonisms and mutual recriminations. It is influenced more by its own experience in regard to Roumania than by the domestic quarrels of party factions. The laws of a country are a public index of national character, but there are other means as well of determining whether a certain policy is due to the chance exercise of power, or whether it reflects the settled convictions of the people. In company with most Roumanians the Bucharest Government, it is to be inferred, resents the lack of sympathy shown it abroad as being unjustified. As in the case of the Hungarian Optant question, it is prepared to argue from one point of view and is satisfied that, because it recognises no other, it can prove right to be on its side. The challenge from abroad on the subject of the Mining Laws is taken up, and item by item the legislation is shown to be justified. Foreign opinion, however, remains unconvinced, for behind the wording it sees the intention. In no respect is political

inexperience manifested more crudely than in the capacity for self-deception, and in the belief that words can be made to count as much as intentions. At the root of the trouble over the Roumanian loan lies the fact that Western financial interests—whether rightly or wrongly is for Roumanians to determine on reflexion—have decided that Roumania hitherto has shown a readier disposition to back out of any obligation, pledged or implied, when it is convenient to do so, than to establish a reputation for undeviatingly fair treatment, whatever the cost. Inexperience, whether political or in regard to business matters, is inclined to seize the temporary advantage and cannot look far enough ahead, to see that the square deal, whether as between nations, between business men or between officials and governed, pays best in the long run. However regrettable the result may be, it is not altogether a matter for surprise that those who consider themselves aggrieved in their past dealings with Roumania should wish to use her present need to inculcate a doctrine which is the basis of business dealings in the West. This would seem to be the main reason for the delay in regard to the Roumanian loan, and it is surely worth Roumania's while to examine the situation from the point of view of those to whom she looks for help.

No impartial observer can fail to sympathize with the desire of the Roumanians to be masters in their own house. Until the outbreak of the War the indifference and lack of enterprise of the small portion of the nation that did not belong to the peasant class compelled Roumania to rely largely upon foreigners to carry on the business of the country as distinct from agriculture. For the development of her oil resources she had neither the capital nor the experience required, and she was obliged to invite foreign oil companies to come to her assistance. It is to the credit of those who formed the Liberal Party that they were the first to appreciate the unsatisfactoriness of this state of affairs. That in setting out to rectify it they contrived to identify the economic development of the country with the fortunes of their own political party is the concern of Roumanians only; the principle to which they were committed of recovering for the nation control of its own economic development was sound and constituted a national service. It was necessary, however, to observe scrupulously Roumania's obligations to those who had come to her help when she was incapable of helping herself, and, in view of her inevitable dependence upon foreign capital for future development, it would have been better to hesitate long before taking any step that could not reasonably count on carrying with it the approval of the foreign interests already established in the country. No exception could be taken to the Mining Laws as promulgated, if they were intended to deal with the normal situation in a mining field; but the impression conveyed abroad by the Laws was that of a deliberate attempt to "freeze out" established foreign companies. It was an essential part of Roumania's obligation in inviting foreign capital at a time when she could not help herself that she should guarantee security of tenure. In the case of an oil company that security almost inevitably entails the right of expansion. To impose almost impossible restrictions on the expansion of foreign oil companies is equivalent to withholding from a manufacturing company the raw materials used for its finished products. It is unnecessary here to go into the details of the Mining Laws which lend colour to the contention that the framers set more store on immediate pecuniary advantage than on establishing on an impregnable base the country's reputation in foreign financial circles for fair play. Apart from the Mining Laws there have been instances of attempts on the part of the Roumanian Government to benefit by the depreciation of the leu at the expense of their foreign creditors. In ordinary circumstances such matters might be dismissed as incidental to business transactions, but in their cumulative effect they suggest that the country which indulges in them has yet to learn that honesty is the best policy.

*The Near and Middle East

From Our Own Correspondents.



Baghdād, August 19.

The Jidda Conference.

News of the breakdown of the Jidda Conference reached Baghdad on August 8, and caused no great surprise, although a very natural disappointment is felt at the rejection of what are here considered to be Iraq's generous and conciliatory proposals. In the House of Deputies the Prime Minister made a brief statement promising a fuller one as soon as he had been sufficiently informed by the head of the Iraq delegation—Taufiq Beg Suwaidi, Minister of Education—who is expected back within a few days. Sir Adbul Muhsin said that King Faisal and the Government of Iraq had done their utmost to promote a spirit of goodwill and to avoid the shedding of Arab blood, and greatly regretted that King Ibn Saoud had not shown more appreciation of their goodwill.

It is understood that the instructions given to the delegation were as follows:—

- (1) To consent to recognition of the sovereignty of H.M. King Ibn Saoud over the Hijaz.
- (2) To agree to the claim put forward by Najd for the extradition of political offenders from Iraq.
- (3) To give an assurance, on behalf of the Government of Iraq, to do everything possible to prevent any acts likely to disturb neighbourly relations between Iraq and Najd.
- (4) To maintain Iraq's claim that the Government of Iraq should be at liberty to continue the building of police posts, for purely policing purposes, so that Iraq might be in a position to maintain peace and order among the tribes in the neighbourhood of the frontier; and more especially to prevent raids into Najd, through Iraq territory, by sections of undesirable Najdi refugees who are now sheltering within Syrian territory.
- (5) To agree to the relinquishing by Iraq of all claims for compensation arising out of the Akhwan raids in the spring of this year.

These are certainly conciliatory proposals, and gave great hopes of an amicable settlement; the stumbling block was evidently the question of the police posts, and to everyone here it appears unreasonable to demand that Iraq should abstain from policing a vast tract of territory which is indisputably hers, and for which her Government must remain responsible. At present all is quiet on the frontier, but the Ministry of Defence has taken the precautionary measure of sending out a strong force of armed cars, to undertake patrol duties in areas in which Akhwan raiders might possibly be expected to make a fresh appearance.

Nouri Pasha on Conscription.

The Minister of Defence, in reply to a number of ques-

tions in Parliament on the subject of Iraq's Army, made an interesting statement on August 1. The Government, he said, attached great importance to Iraq's assuming as soon as possible complete responsibility for her own defence, and had considered several schemes, the last of which was General Daly's plan based on a purely defensive system with a minimum strength of military units. This plan would have necessitated either voluntary service (as now in operation) or the introduction of conscription. Voluntary service was inadequate to ensure the reserve forces necessary to any regular army; the Government had, nevertheless, drafted a Bill, now before the Cabinet, providing for the creation of a reserve force. The system of voluntary service was exceedingly expensive, and in the Pasha's own opinion was incapable of satisfying the aspirations of the country.

His own belief in conscription, Nouri Pasha went on to say, was confirmed by many military experts. It was less expensive, and stimulating to the national sense of responsibility for its own defence. It was for Parliament to decide which system should be enforced.

In reply to a question on the Army's readiness to undertake such a responsibility, the Minister said that it was all a question of proportion. Many years must elapse before the Iraq Army could attain to an efficiency comparable with that of the British Army, but it could already be compared favourably with the forces of neighbouring States such as Turkey, Persia, or Afghanistan, all of which had assumed full responsibility for their own defence. It was the constant effort of the Ministry of Defence to improve the condition of the Army, but until Parliament adopted a definite scheme of defence, money

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so spent was largely thrown away. One Ministry, or one group of persons, could not decide so vital a question; it must ultimately be settled once for all by Parliament.

Desert Brigandage.

An Overland Mail convoy which left Baghdad on August 9 was attacked in the early hours of the following morning by a band of armed robbers, about ten miles west of the Syrian frontier. The Nairn six-wheeler car, which carries sixteen passengers, was struck by a bullet, but turned back and safely reached Rutbah, whence information was telegraphed to Baghdad. The overland mail was being carried in a Buick tourer, and the bandits made off with both car and mail bags; the convoy of local cars which was ahead of the mail met the full brunt of the bandits' fire, one man being killed and two wounded. Further details of the attack are still awaited.

No political significance is attached to this raid, the motive of which was merely robbery. A party of police set out at once in cars from Rutbah, but no capture has yet been reported; the robbers are believed to be the same as those who last March succeeded in stealing a Nash car from a desert convoy. At the request of the French authorities, the in-coming convoy due two days later was delayed for 24 hours.

Royal Agricultural Society.

A meeting was held at the royal palace, at the personal invitation of King Faisal, to found a Royal Agricultural Society for Iraq. The gathering included Cabinet Ministers, ex-Ministers, and prominent landowners and farmers. Ex-King Ali and the Prime Minister of Iraq were with the King, who opened the proceedings with an eloquent speech in which he emphasized the duty of all rulers and national leaders to endeavour to lighten the burden of poverty for the labouring classes by promoting agricultural co-operation. The Minister of Finance, thanking the King for his speech, then proposed that im-

mediate steps should be taken to form a Royal Agricultural Society, governed by an administrative committee; it was agreed that in this should be included the committee of a society inaugurated a year earlier on similar lines, the members of which should be considered members of the new society under the Hon. Presidency of King Faisal. A general committee was then elected, and contributions amounting to Rs.5,050 were made forthwith. A suitable headquarters for the Society, overlooking the Tigris, is to be found in Baghdad.

General News.

A claim to the ownership of the Mosul oilfields is being made by the heirs of Nemlizade Tahsin Pasha, who was granted prospecting rights by the Sultan Abdul Hamid. The Sultan later revoked the grant, but after his fall the Council of State disagreed as to Tahsin's rights. The heirs of Abdul Hamid, nineteen in number, are now raising a counter-claim to the oilfields, and are requesting the Turkish Council of State to disallow the claims of Tahsin Pasha's heirs.

The new railway bridge at Salahiyah, on the Qaraghan-Kirkuk section of the Iraq Railways, was opened for traffic on July 27. This bridge is a vital factor in the lines of communication during any military operations in northern Iraq, and the fact that a modern structure of steel girders on concrete piers has now replaced the old and easily-destroyed wooden bridge makes this achievement of the Railways' engineering staff one of strategic as well as commercial importance.

A Polish Fokker monoplane reached Baghdad on July 31 after a non-stop flight from Warsaw. Night-landing flares were put out by the Royal Air Force at Hinaidi, but the aeroplane hit the bund in landing and overturned. The observer, Lieut. Czalas, was killed, the other two occupants—an officer and a mechanic—escaping with slight injuries.

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R. B. W. Holmes,
General Manager,
HAIFA.



Jerusalem, August 25.

"Sh'ifotenu."

At this time of year events worth recording are few. With the exception of the unimportant and the unfortunate nearly everyone is on leave or gone to take part in one or other of the numerous conferences in Europe. One point of interest, however, is probably worthy of a short note.

There has just appeared here a second volume of "Sh'ifotenu" ("Things we are striving after"), a publication issued by a small group of local Jews who have established the Society called "B'rith Shalom" ("The Covenant of Peace"). Their primary purpose is to educate Jewish opinion—one marvels that it should be necessary—into an understanding that Palestine has been, is, and most certainly always will be, a country with an Arab majority, and that consequently all ambitions touching a Jewish National Home in Palestine must not reckon without their host, the existing Arab population. The leaders of this "B'rith Shalom" are all of them outstanding figures in the Zionist movement and none can doubt the reality of their Nationalist ambitions. Yet they are daring to take the very unpopular line that a Jewish majority in Palestine is not essential to the fulfilment of the "National Home" idea, and they even face the fact that it is not in the least degree probable in the present political circumstances.

The present volume of "Sh'ifotenu" is concerned with the idea of an elected Legislative Council which the last Arab Congress put forward as its fondest wish. Local Jewish opinion was loud in its dislike of any such scheme ever coming into being, since it could only mean an attempted reshaping of the major Palestinian policy—or at least many important details within that major policy—along lines favoured by the Arab majority. The "B'rith Shalom," however, comes out wholeheartedly on the side of the Arabs in favour of a Palestinian Parliament, even with an Arab majority.

Arab-Jewish Co-operation.

Their argument is that at all costs Jewish political thought must come to terms with obstinate Arab facts, and that systematic Jewish and Arab political contacts, however discordant they may and must be, are infinitely preferable to the present condition of things with Jewish Zionist thought functioning in a purely imaginary realm where ideas are allowed to weigh more heavily than realities.

The contributors to the present volume are Dr. Hugo Bergman, Librarian of the "Jewish National and Hebrew University Library," a learned student of Kant and modern sociological theories; Mr. Chaim Margoliouth-Kalvarisky, who ever since the British occupation has been a leading figure in the "higher politics" of the Palestinian Jewish community; Dr. Hans Kohn, a name well-known to those who follow European Jewish journalism; and Dr. Radler-Feldman, a thoughtful writer and member of the "Mizrachi," the Orthodox wing in Zionism. Each advocates the idea of a Parliament with Arab and Jew jointly working out their future salvation within the country along lines which shall give fullest scope to the ambitions of each, confident that, with increase of mutual knowledge, a political *modus vivendi* will prove possible

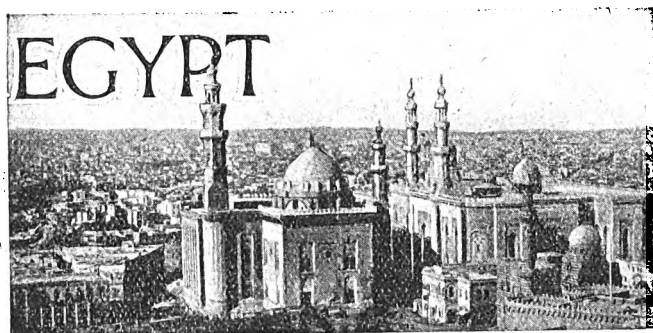
along lines which it may not now be easy to foresee, but which, at any rate, will be preferable to the present very wooden efficiency of "colonial government" which the Arab loathes and the Jew tolerates out of fear of something worse.

To the Gentile onlooker it would seem that the "B'rith Shalom" policy is the only conceivable line of development, if development there is to be, in the internal policy of Palestine. But it is no use pretending that the policy is popular with the Jews or wholly trusted by the Arab leaders.

One cannot resist quoting the motto adopted by the "B'rith Shalom" group and put at the head of its last publication. It is a quotation from Ahad ha-Am, the great Jewish thinker and "philosopher of cultural Zionism":—

But what shall I say, for well do I know already from twenty years' experience that if Moses and Aaron came and performed before their eyes all the wonders of Egypt they could effect nothing, for God has made their understanding heavy and they will not see things as they are.

And so far the "B'rith Shalom" has only served to provoke a united chorus from local Jewry which runs along the lines of "There was a young lady of Riga. . ."



Cairo, August 26.

The U.S. Arbitration Treaty.

The amount of excitement that the American Arbitration Treaty has caused, both in Europe and in Egypt, has been quite unwarranted. At first the Arabic Press rejoiced that the Egyptians were going to have a treaty all to themselves, and that with one of the most important countries in the world. Then Editors began to scratch their heads in suspicion, wondering whether America had not some ulterior motive! This, of course, made the United States mock considerably, and they pointed out that this was the thirtieth such treaty they had made with small Powers.

Another curious idea current in Europe was that Great Britain was extremely surprised and somewhat offended at America's treating with Egypt without reference to her; for, it was said, Britain also has her "Monroe Doctrine." Britain as a matter of fact was not in the least perturbed, for Egypt has never been prevented from signing treaties with other countries—as is witnessed by the many economic pacts which she has negotiated and the two recent treaties, mentioned last week, with Italy and Persia.

This idea, however, of Great Britain's being offended

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with America was at once pounced on by the Press in Egypt, and it rejoiced the heart of the Wafd. It encouraged certain papers to make some amazing boasts, boasts which are said to have been inspired by Nahas Pasha. It was claimed that it was due to Nahas Pasha's diplomacy, while Premier, that this proposed treaty with America gradually came into being. The negotiations that he carried on, however, were conducted in the utmost secrecy, so that the Residency might be outwitted! What was happening was even kept secret from four members of the Cabinet, for fear they might betray Egypt. Then, state the Arabic papers, came the climax; these four Judases, finding out what was going on, resigned from the Government and went to tell the Residency that it was on the point of being outwitted. Thereupon these four ex-Ministers, Mohamed Mahmoud Pasha, Gaafer Wali Pasha, Ibrahim Fahmy Bey, and Ahmed Khashaba Pasha, intrigued with the Residency for the downfall of the Nahas Government and with the help of Great Britain reinstated themselves in the Government! It is only in Egypt that people are so naive as to think that such a story will be believed. No mention is made of the Seif El Din affair or of any of the other well-known incidents which led King Fuad to dismiss the Nahas Cabinet, and it is apparently expected that the public is to believe that the last Cabinet was turned out by the influence of the Residency, because the Wafd were on the point of succeeding in outwitting Great Britain.

"Missionary Makram."

William Makram Obeid, Secretary of the Wafd, left for Europe a few weeks ago to carry on propaganda for the Wafd. This party still consider that they represent a majority in Egypt and regard themselves as the champions of their down-trodden countrymen against the tyranny of the present Government. At least this is how they would have themselves esteemed. Therefore Nahas Pasha has taken it upon himself to send the various statesmen of Europe, assembled in Paris for the signing of the Anti-War Pact, a Note in which he gives his views on the intended treaty between America and Egypt. Makram Obeid, therefore, as far as one can make out, has been spending his time buttonholing these great men and explaining the standpoint of the Wafd.

The real object of all this was shown by a clause in the Note to Mr. Kellogg, which stated that Egypt would be pleased to sign a Treaty of Arbitration with America, but that, should America try to negotiate such a Treaty with the present Government, it would suffer the displeasure of

Egyptians, because the Government did not represent the country. In other words, the Wafd, having failed to assert themselves in Egypt, are now trying to do so abroad. But how they can possibly expect anyone to be interested is hard to see. The latest reports here of Makram Obeid's "propaganding" activities are that he has been trying to get certain prominent lawyers in France to make a statement that the present régime in Egypt is illegal. With this support it is reported that he hopes to influence the International Parliamentary Conference, now meeting in Berlin, at which two Wafd deputies have been accepted as honorary members. But already at a preliminary meeting Egypt has been discussed and a vote passed that the present régime was constitutional.

Makram Obeid is shortly proceeding to London, where he will join the two other members of the Wafd. The three of them make up the Wafd "propaganding mission."

The Government's Views.

Hafez Bey Afifi, Minister of Foreign Affairs, was interviewed the other day on the subject of the Arbitration Treaty and wisely said that he could pass no comment, since the draft had not yet reached Egypt. It is almost taken for granted that the Government will sign the treaty, and certainly Great Britain will not wish to interfere.

The Seif El Din Affair.

While the Wafd are making proud boasts of what they have done in the past and what they intend to do in the future, investigations into the Seif El Din affairs are steadily proceeding. It will be remembered that Nahas Pasha, Wissa Wassef Bey, and Gaafer Fakhry Bey, who were employed to try to obtain a larger share for Prince Seif El Din of the revenues of his own estates in Egypt, and the lawyers were to receive a percentage of the sum which they succeeded in obtaining for him. The charge against the lawyers is that they used their influence as prominent members of Parliament to further the Prince's claims.

The latest development is that a witness went to the police and said that Gaafer Bey Fakhry's clerk with others had tried to bribe certain witnesses to deny their former testimony against Gaafer Fakhry Bey and to substitute a story which was in his favour. The police having got wind of a meeting which was going to be held between this clerk and the witnesses, a plain clothes man was sent. At this meeting the witnesses agreed in principle to alter their story, although they said that they wished to consult their lawyer, and the clerk paid over the money. The police officer had been a party to all this discussion, but on payment of the money he decided it was time to disclose his identity, and thereupon he arrested all involved.

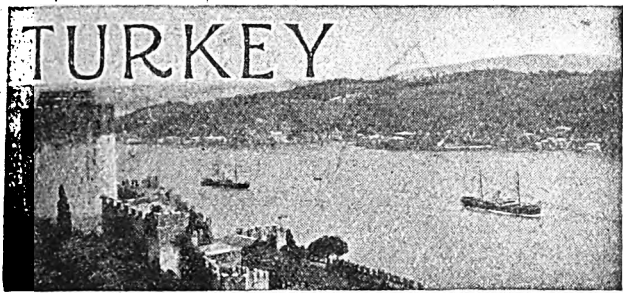
The Press.

Perhaps the aspect of a dictatorship which is most striking to an Englishman is the suppression of the freedom of the Press. When this was done at the Dissolution of Parliament on July 19, Mahmoud Pasha declared that he was not going to suppress criticism where it was genuine but only where it was likely to provoke disorder. But this sort of statement made by a Government which has complete control of the country is generally discounted. Mohamed Mahmoud's Cabinet, however, has been as good as its word. It has been remarkably lenient towards its opponents, only suppressing the most scurrilous papers, and indeed it has shown itself so impartial as to suppress *Al Kashkhoul*, which was a fervent supporter of the Government and a bitter opponent of the Wafd; so bitter and so personal indeed that the Government decided it had gone too far. This impartiality may not seem an extraordinary thing in England, but it is remarkable in Egypt, where it is probably unprecedented.

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*Constantinople, August 29.***Adoption of Latin Characters.**

When making his appeal a few days ago to all patriotic Turks to assist him in disseminating and popularising the new Turkish script, the Ghazi can scarcely have anticipated the feverish alacrity with which his request would be met. Constantinopolitans of the upper classes, so it is reported, have literally gone mad in their haste to adopt the *Yeni Haroufeti* or "new script." Disseminating-organisations are springing up like mushrooms after a shower. The Government presses are at work turning out alphabets by the thousand. Night and day classes for the populace are being hurriedly opened in many quarters of the city. Courses of instruction have been inaugurated in all Government offices, financial establishments and the Municipal Departments, whilst about fifty Deputies who are spending the vacation in Constantinople attend a special daily class at the Dolma Baghtche Palace. Turkish characters on sign-boards, shop-fronts, railway stations, liners and homely tramps are being hurriedly painted out and as swiftly painted in again in the new script. Telegrams received from the larger up-country towns call for the dispatch of thousands of copies of the new alphabet, many booksellers having been obliged to close their establishments owing to depleted stocks.

Although the foreign observer cannot but laud, not without feelings of envy, this outburst of unwonted activity at the very zenith of the dog-days and is quite ready to render honour where honour is due, he nevertheless remains puzzled by the dispatch and hurry-scurry with which the measure is being rushed through.

The newspapers are doing their best to aid the movement by publishing daily half-columns of news in the new alphabet, together with a short lesson. But—and this is where trouble usually arises when a toddler tries to run before he can walk—there would not as yet appear to be a sufficiently standardised system for correctly expressing the Turko-Persian-Arabic consonants and vowels by anything resembling either their German, French, Italian or English equivalents.

The only approach to a standard adopted, so far as it is possible for a mere dilettante in the science of Max Müller to judge, would appear to be something in which both Polish and Hungarian equivalents are utilised. As to the affinity between the Turkish and Hungarian languages, Vambery and many other distinguished writers have taught English readers that it undoubtedly exists. The old-standing friendship between Poles and Turks is equally notorious. When, however, the hard "*Djim*" or "*J*" of the Turkish alphabet is represented by the sibilant Latin "*S*"—when the soft Persian "*kiaf*" or "*K*" is made to appear as a guttural "*G*," the unfortunate foreigner who has been learning to write backwards in the Turkish characters for many a long year and now sees the result of his patient labours cast on the scrap-heap, is certainly nonplussed and sorry. That the educated Turk should know best what is suited to the requirements of a comparatively illiterate people and how best to render the phonetic expression of his Tchaghatai-Perso-Arabic language in Latin characters, it is only fair to admit. It does not necessarily follow, however, that bonds of consanguinity or of political sympathy offer the

most practical method of tackling what is, undoubtedly, a very complex linguistic problem.

This dialectic tournament, at all events, is still in its early stages and much water will, no doubt, flow under the bridges of the Golden Horn before a definite standard is finally adopted. The novel departure is unquestionably a move in the right direction, the Arabic characters being an undeniable impediment in the matter of educating the Anatolian peasant.

Notwithstanding the unanimity among the masses which is so freely commented upon in the Turkish dailies, there are still some diehards—obviously belonging to the older generation—who are of a different mind and who cling to old forms and standards consecrated by century-old observances, as may be inferred from an instructive incident which occurred a night or two ago.

The Presidential yacht was cruising in the Sea of Marmora, both the Ghazi and the Prime Minister being on board. The Stamboul Broadcasting Station had been transmitting its usual evening programme, which was listened to in the yacht's State-room. An address prepared by the President and broadcast in turn from the yacht was received towards midnight by all local stations, ships, and amateurs of whom this city now boasts some few thousands. The President stated his conviction that the battle now being waged against popular ignorance with weapons represented by the new Turkish script would have consequences far greater and far more enduring than those which followed in the train of the battles fought and won during the Anatolian war of liberation. "Should this nation ever again be exposed to danger or difficulties," the message went on to say, "I and my comrades will not hesitate for an instant to sacrifice ourselves on its behalf."

After the completion of the address and the lapse of a few minutes, the following anonymous message broadcast in Turkish from an unknown source was picked up by the Presidential yacht:—"Ye are abandoning the Arabic script and are adopting characters considered better adapted to the raising of the Turkish intellectual standard. This is all well and good—but what do ye intend doing in the matter of the Arabic characters which adorn the walls of our mosques and which record the glorious names of our Prophet and his companions?"

As directional-finders are not usually operated on board even Presidential yachts when pleasure cruising, the source of this message must remain a mystery for all time.

National Festivals.

Once again, as so often happens at various seasons of the year, has a rapid succession of festivals and the observance of the Sabbath reduced the working week in business establishments to an almost negligible quantity. The following is the record for the present week: Tuesday, August 28, Festival of National Sovereignty; Thursday, August 30, Festival of the Proclamation of the Republic; Friday, August 31, Sabbath; Sunday, September 2, half day. Maulud, the anniversary of the birthday of the Prophet, also falls within this period, but being no longer observed as a public holiday, does not count. The total length of time during which the Stock Exchange, the banks and public offices are this week open for the transaction of current business works out at exactly 15 hours and 45 minutes as between Monday morning, August 27, and Sunday evening, September 2.

Earthquake shocks were experienced in the Karsindi region of Adana, on the south coast of Anatolia, Asia Minor, on August 28.

The first anniversary of the death of Saad Zaghlul Pasha was commemorated on August 23 throughout Egypt by the recitation of the Quran by the leading shaiyks of each district.

A telegram from Peshawar reports that Captain Weiser, a French Pilot, flying an aeroplane presented to the King of Afghanistan by the French Government, arrived at Kabul on August 22, after a ten days' journey *via* Aleppo, Baghdad, Teheran, Kandahar, and Herat.

CALCUTTA LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Calcutta, August 16.

The Statutory Commission.

It has rained political documents on us this week. It began on Friday, when the memorandum of the Burma Chamber of Commerce was published. The memorandum of the Associated Chambers of Commerce of India and Ceylon followed the next day, and yesterday came the report of the Committee appointed by the All-Parties Conference. Space forbids that I should take these documents and analyse them one by one. They all lay stress on one thing, and it points to the rock on which all attempts to build a new Constitution for India may split. The point stressed is that the new Provincial Governments must be endowed with a sufficiency of funds for the development of the Provinces. If the lead were followed blindly, there would be left far from funds sufficient to carry on the Central Government. There is a separatist tendency at work, in fact, if no one seems very clearly to recognise it. It was what was to be expected. Those who are responsible for, say, the administration of Bengal, besieged as they are on all sides by demands for more money for the police, for education, for sanitation, soon lose sight of the fact that, were the Provinces dragged to the middle of the Pacific and anchored there, there would be a Bengal army to pay for, a Bengal navy, and many scientific services that, because they now are organised on an All-India basis, are paid for out of Central revenues, but nonetheless serve Bengal. One may, no doubt, rely upon the Statutory Commission's not overlooking the fact that the development of the Provinces, beyond the point they have reached, must, if the Central Government is not to be dangerously weak financially, be financed largely with new money raised in the Provinces themselves.

The Associated Chambers of Commerce, alleging a lack of evidence to show whether the Indians are or are not capable of governing themselves, are prepared to run the risk of a very considerable advance on Dyarchy. They are prepared, indeed, to go farther than some Indian statesmen would go, and they men who have gained experience as Ministers. They state that Dyarchy has proved too feeble an instrument ("has exhausted its possibilities" is the kind of thing that is said, when it is desired to be polite to the poor beast), and that it is desirable to abolish it in the new Constitution. They recommend the grant to the Provinces of powers varying up to full autonomy, that is, the abolition of the Provincial Executive Councils, and the transfer to Ministries of all the subjects now administered by either half of the Government. They do not recommend any alteration in the legal powers of the Provinces, but an increase in their political powers by the transfer of the whole of the government to them.

A tribute worth remark is paid to the statesmanship showed in the memorandum of the Associated Chambers in an article by Mr. Bipin Chandra Pal in this morning's

Englishman. "It is impossible to deny," this article begins, "that the memorandum of the Associated Chambers of Commerce of India on the question of the next advance that must be allowed to India towards the goal proclaimed by the Montagu announcement of 1917, shows a quality of far-seeing statesmanship which is rare even among professional statesmen. It ought to remove a good deal of current suspicion in the Indian mind of the political motives and outlook of the representatives of European interests in this country." Turning to what he thinks would follow any attempt to go back on the fundamental policy of the Montagu-Chelmsford "reforms," Mr. Pal says: "It would completely destroy whatever faith still exists in the political mind of the country in the good faith of British policy, and would kill all chance of a peaceful settlement of the present conflict and drive the people, already surcharged with a violent anti-British sentiment, into the vortex of a continental revolution, which must spell ruin to those large interests which our European and British fellow-subjects represent." According to Mr. Pal, the reconciliation of the European interests in India and India's "undeniable rights of self-rule" is the most pressing of the calls on statesmanship to-day.

The report of the committee of the All-Parties Conference was described in the *Statesman*, in its first leader on the subject, as "a good piece of drafting, and as certain to receive the most careful scrutiny and consideration in England." Such scrutiny and consideration are invited. The proposals of this weighty document are that there should be an Upper House or Senate elected by the Provincial Councils for the term of seven years, and a popular House, elected by proportional representation and the single transferable vote with manhood suffrage for five years. The Governor-General will have the power of reserving assent to Bills, or he can send them back for reconsideration, while in the case of a difference between the two Houses he can call a joint sitting. In the case of Provincial Bills, there is a three-fold series of control—through the Governor, the Governor-General, and the Crown. It is proposed that there be a Committee of Defence consisting of the Prime Minister, the Minister of Defence, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Commanders-in-Chief of the military, air, and naval forces, the Chief of the General Staff, and two other experts, and "no measure affecting the discipline or maintenance of any part of the military, naval, and air forces of the Commonwealth," the report reads, "shall be introduced into Parliament except on the recommendation of the Committee of Defence." One has only to think for a moment of how all that would have struck Lord Kitchener to begin to doubt. The framers of the Report were at their weakest in dealing with such matters. What, however, has any one of the eight men whose signatures appear at the end of the Report ever had that could be called experience of the defence of a country? What do Motilal Nehrus, Ali Imams, and Subhas Chandra Boses know of such matters? A pandit, a barrister, a young politician? Another weak point, but I have already glanced in this direction, is the absence of any sense that India is weak on the side of finance, is a

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desperately poor country, and that it is no use framing a Constitution for her that would be very costly to work. One cannot think of a Constitution more costly than the one offered for consideration to the All-Parties Conference.

The All-Parties scheme, as it is known for short, has certainly had a very good Press; but it is only two days old to-day. It was inevitable that the praise should be heard first. One rose from reading it, hardly remembering, there being so hypnotic a quality in its silence, that India is rent with communal differences. There might be no such thing. If there were none; if there were plenty of money to go round (if anything is certain, it is that there is far from plenty), the scheme might be adopted to-morrow by general acclamation, or only after a little amendment on the side of defence. But there are communal differences, and there is less than money enough to go round; so one's judgment, even to-day, must be that the scheme will not do.

BOMBAY LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Bombay, August 18.

The Nehru Committee's Report.

After a delay of six weeks the Committee appointed by the All-Parties Conference to draft a Constitution for India has at last presented a report to the Conference. The Report, which is a unanimous one, is signed by Pundit Motila Nehru, Syed Sir Ali Imam, Sir Tej Bahadur Sapru and five others. It has been well received in the Press. Even the Anglo-Indian Press concedes that no one can afford to ignore it; the attempt of the *Times of India* to laugh out the Report failed so hopelessly that it has to-day made a serious effort to comment on the findings of the Committee. By Indian leaders of all shades of opinion it is welcomed as a step in the right direction. It is generally regarded as the first attempt to present a unanimous decision which would be acceptable to all the parties in this country. To the British politician the Report should mean even more than to Indian leaders, for it signifies the return of the Liberals to politics. If the Report is a triumph, as is claimed for it, of the Liberal party, the recent suggestion to make the All-Parties Conference a permanent institution is a still greater one, as it will mean the automatic removal of the Congress from its present predominant position in Indian politics. The first thing that strikes even the most superficial reader of the Report is the fact that the resolution of the Madras Congress of 1928 proclaiming independence without the British Empire as their goal has been dropped, and the Liberal ideal of Dominion status has been accepted by the Congressmen—at least for all practical purposes. The expression Dominion status, by the way, is meaningless, unless applied to a country in the Empire in relation to the United Kingdom or the other countries of the Empire. It cannot mean responsible government. Seen in this light, India has already, as the *Indian Daily Mail* points out in a recent editorial, got Dominion status, as she sits in the League of Nations and in the Imperial Conferences. What the Indian demand is, therefore, is that the Government of this country should be in India and not in England, that we should have a Parliament of our own and, lastly, that our representatives in the conferences should be Indians elected by our Parliament. It is difficult to realise what Sir Malcolm Hailey meant when he said in the Legislative Assembly that the term Dominion status was of wider extent than responsible government. The Committee also argue that the terms are both the same, whilst really responsible government is the term of larger extent. To return to the Report. The main recommendations are: that India shall have the same constitutional status in the comity of nations known as the British Empire as Canada, Australia, South Africa, etc., with a Parliament having powers to make laws for the peace, order, and good government of India,

and an executive responsible to that Parliament; that Sind and the Karnatak should be separated from the provinces in which they are now included, that two provinces should be formed and that the same form of government should be introduced in the North-West Frontier Provinces as the other provinces in India will have under the "Reforms." The Committee does not recommend the reservation of seats in the provinces of Bengal and the Punjab for any community, and in other provinces only for Muslim minorities on the population basis. In the N.W. Frontier Provinces there will be reservation of seats for non-Muslim minorities. Reservation of seats shall be for a fixed period of ten years. The Report further contemplates the transference of the control of the military, etc., to Indian hands. Many of these recommendations will undergo modification at the Conference to be held in Lucknow, which promises to be an important one, as many leaders who have hitherto held aloof have announced their intention to attend.

The Limit of Concession.

Tatas have issued another statement regarding the strikers at Jamshedpur, in which they give a summary of events that have occurred during the past few months. The importance of this announcement is due to the fact that it is signed by all the Directors and removes the impression which some strikers had that some of the Directors were sympathetic towards them. The statement runs thus. "We wish to make clear our conviction that the Company cannot make further concessions without serious consequences to the industry. The crucial issues are: (1) the reduction of surplus men by the company; (2) the claim on behalf of the men for full pay for the strike period. A stage is now reached when we consider it necessary in the interests of the workmen to emphasise that they will be well advised to return to work by the 20th instant, failing which the company will have no option but to engage fresh men. Much as we regret the present situation, we are unanimously convinced that the only course now left to us is to put the announcement of August 11 into force." It is related that, when at the battle of Fontenoy the French and the English forces were ranged against each other, the French general rode to the front of the enemy and with a bow asked them please to fire first. The public have long felt that the Directors of the Tata Iron and Steel Company well deserve a niche in the hall of Fame beside that general. This is a step which should have been taken rearer the beginning of the strike.



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The Congress of Orientalists—I.

Reception of Delegates.

The Seventeenth International Congress of Orientalists, to which we were able to refer only briefly last week, began at Oxford on August 27 with a reception by the President, Lord Chalmers, in the Examination Schools. There were about 200 Delegates, from Governments, Universities, Academies, and Learned Societies, and, in addition, some 400 members present on this first night and on subsequent days. In a speech of welcome the President said that to those who represented Oxford it was a matter of profound and lively satisfaction that in 1928 Oxford should enjoy the high honour of resuming, after an interval of 16 years (a Congress had been arranged at Oxford for 1915), the fraternal meeting of distinguished Orientalists from all countries in the world. They welcomed there that day eminent scholars from all European seats of learning, from India, China and Japan, and from the New World, and they held out the right hand of fellowship to every Orientalist who had journeyed there to contribute to the world's growing knowledge of things Oriental and to enjoy personal converse with fellow workers in his or her particular branch of Orientalism.

"Our hope and aspiration for all visitors to this Congress," continued Lord Chalmers, "this ecumenical council of Orientalists, is that their visit may not only be pleasant in itself but may also be fruitful for the advancement of the studies which we severally delight to pursue. Bountiful as has been the harvest of last century's achievements in the Oriental field, let us yet join in the hope—the very confident hope—that our present century may garner a still more bountiful harvest of scholarly knowledge of all that the immemorial East can illuminate in the rise and growth of the civilisation and the culture of mankind."

The President went on to announce that under the Congress Statutes of 1897 a Consultative Committee had been appointed to deal on September 1 with questions arising during the meeting of the Congress, and to consider the time and place of the 18th Congress. The committee consisted of the President and Vice-Presidents of the Organising Committee, together with a certain number of foreign members, who had been chosen as fellows: Professors Breasted, Foucher, Snouck Hurgronje and Zimmern.

Lord Chalmers then received each of the Delegates personally, who approached the President according to the alphabetical order of their countries. During the period of refreshments which followed many friendships were renewed and begun.

On the following day the Congress began its serious work of attending the lectures, which were all given either in the Examination Schools or in the University Museum. The various subjects had been divided into nine sections. These divisions included a General section, of which Professor J. L. Myres was President, and sections dealing with the following subjects: Assyriology and kindred subjects (presided over by Professor S. H. Langdon); Egypt and Africa (Professor F. Ll. Griffith); Central and Northern Asia (Professor F. W. Thomas); the Far East (Professor W. E. Soothill); Ancient India, Modern India, Southern India with Ceylon, and Iran, Armenia and the Caucasus (Professor F. W. Thomas); Hebrew and Aramaic (Professor G. A. Cooke); Islam: Turkey (Professor D. S. Margoliouth); and Oriental Arts (Sir Michael Sadler). The following were the officers of the Congress:—General Committee: The members of the Board of the Faculty of Oriental Languages in

the University of Oxford—Professors G. A. Cooke, S. H. Langdon, D. S. Margoliouth (Chairman) D. C. Simpson, W. E. Soothill and F. W. Thomas, Dr. A. E. Cowley, Mr. R. P. Dewhurst, Mr. G. R. Driver, Dr. J. Morison and Mr. J. F. Stenning. Organising Committee: Professor F. W. Thomas (Chairman), Mr. G. R. Driver (Treasurer), Mr. C. N. Seddon (Secretary), Sir R. Burn, Professors F. Ll. Griffith, S. H. Langdon, D. S. Margoliouth and W. E. Soothill. Editorial Secretary: The Rev. E. Burrows.

For purposes of convenience we shall divide our report of the various lectures into the sections under which they were delivered.

General Section.

The General Section under Professor Myres began unfortunately, for none of the Russian lecturers, who were due to begin the proceedings on August 28, had been able to procure visas from the Russian Government. Although this was not a unique mishap—similar ill chance, for instance, having occurred at Oriental congresses in Germany—it was disappointing to be denied lectures on "The New Information about the Trepolian Culture in the Ukraine," "The Tatar feudalism in the Ukraine during the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries," and "Seljukism and the Golden Horde in the Crimea: being archaeological researches in 1925-26," by Professors Boltenko, Petrunne, and Borosdine respectively. (One of the Russian lecturers, Professor A. S. Federovsky, was able to arrive late, and delivered his paper on "The Antiquities of the Golden Horde in the Ukraine" on August 31.)

It fell to Mr. G. Horsfield, of the Government of Trans-Jordan, therefore, to begin with an unwritten paper on "The Archaeological Service in Trans-Jordan and its Works." Mr. Horsfield said that in October, 1924, Professor Garstang, to whom all the present work in Trans-Jordan was due, asked him to repair certain Sassanian ruins at Amman. In April of the following year Professor Garstang procured funds for the establishment of a Department of Antiquities in Trans-Jordan. The lecturer went in the summer of 1925 to Jerash, where he experienced considerable lack of facilities and of workmen. Within six months, however, a storehouse and a road had been constructed, 150 workmen of Jerash had been obtained, and by the end of the summer the theatre had been repaired, and pavement and a few inscriptions had been found. Activities had been extended to rebuilding as well as to excavation. At the end of 1926 Professor Garstang resigned, and in April, a new Department, quite separate from that of Palestine, was created. The lecturer remained, therefore, at Amman, and a competent engineer was put in charge of Jerash. At the present time, the south theatre of Amman was almost wholly excavated. In Jerash there had been found four monuments which were precisely dated, as being of the time of men such as Commodus and Trajan. There were two archaeological expeditions in Trans-Jordan. At Amman there was an Italian expedition, and at Jerash there was the expedition conducted by the Yale University and the British School in Jerusalem. Nothing had been found worth publishing, except the inscriptions which will be published by the Yale-British expedition.

In the subsequent discussion, Professor Myres spoke of the old civilisation of Trans-Jordan, mentioning, for example, the fortress of Rabboth-Ammon, and of the reconstruction of the whole culture of the desert margin region in the early generation after the conquest of Alexander. There were great pylons, gateways, cities, and so forth to attest that the place had a continuous architectural and cultural history. All this was ended, of course, with the Saracen conquest. Circumstances had come to be exceptionally unfavourable to human existence in Trans-Jordan. Now, however, with a settled Government

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in the country, and a determination to exploit its natural resources, there was the danger, so to speak, of an increase of population. It was essential, therefore, that the right lines of the preservation of ancient monuments should be laid down now. There must be a judicious discrimination between stones that were essential and stones which could profitably be wasted. (The lecturer had referred to the pilfering of the stones by the local people, and Professor Myres amusingly emphasised the fact that, what had previously been work of loot by the natives was now work of necessity in the interests of archæology.) The work of conservation of ancient monuments in Trans-Jordan was highly important.

Mr. Horsfield remarked how that it was a matter of pure luck that the Circassians were not now in that part of Jerash where archæological work was being carried on. The Circassians, who went to Trans-Jordan from Anatolia in 1882, had intended to settle on either bank, but malaria killed off so many of the settlers on the east bank, that the west bank never received its section.

Mr. P. L. O. Guy, of Megiddo, referred to Trans-Jordan as the step-child of Government diffidence in helping Antiquities. Mr. Horsfield, whose most excellent work he knew well, had great need of travelling assistants, and the Colonial Office ought to know this. Money Mr. Horsfield could not hope to get; but he ought to receive more help.

In conclusion Mr. Horsfield referred to the great assistance which he had had from the Royal Air Force in Trans-Jordan. Group-Captain Rees had considerably helped him, particularly in regard to Byzantine buildings. For exploring in the desert area there was no water. Finally, the lecturer stated that there was no illicit digging in Trans-Jordan.

Next, Professor F. W. Buckler, of Oberlin University, Ohio, U.S.A., lectured on "The Human Khil'at." We are enabled, though the courtesy of Professor Buckler, to publish the following authoritative summary of his lecture:—

"The quest to discover the composition of the *khil'at* in terms of its component garments and other articles included in the gift has proved a failure owing to the great variety of things which in different countries has appeared under the name. Further, the limitation thereby imposed on the investigations to articles of ordinary wearing apparel has obscured the real significance of the symbol known in English as 'the robe of honour.' The distinctive feature of the robe of honour lies not in the number or costliness of the garments comprising it, but in the fact that each is a *khil'at* or cast-off of the donor. The recipient's position is described by another group of terms—derivatives of *halapu*, whose primitive meaning is he crept into [the shadows]—hence the *halipol smalut* combines the ideas of transfer of authority, delegation of function, succession and acknowledged suzerainty with the idea of the extension of the shadow of God (*Khilafatu'llah*) or kingship, as is seen in the *Khirqah* of the *Sufi* at his moment of *jama* or ecstasy, when he becomes the *khalifatullah* or the shadow of God on earth. As I have already suggested, the *khil'at* is the symbol of the central fact of Oriental kingship—its organic and corporate nature whereby the delegate of the King is a member of the King's body, functioning as part of that body and—by the *khil'at*—symbolically incorporated into that body 'so that they are no more twain, but one flesh.' The implied organic unity appears both in the process of delegation and in the succession. The conclusive proof of this implication appears in the one 'garment' which has escaped the notice of investigators, namely, the widow of the deceased monarch.

"The prophet Malachi (ii. 15-16) upbraids those who 'deal treacherously against the wife of his youth,' for the Lord hates 'him that covereth his garment (*lebuso*) with violence.' *Lebuso*, here applied to the wife, is one of the technical terms for a robe of honour. In the Quran the Prophet Muhammad makes a similar allusion (ii. 183). man 'spreading his skirt' over her. (Ruth iii. 9.) The

verb *khala'a* also supplies the legal terms for divorce and the divorced wife as well as terms applicable to a concubine who has been renounced, and it is suggested that the same idea attaches to the widow, who is irrevocably the *khil'at* of her departed husband.

"The Thousand and One Nights' supply two striking illustrations of such *khil'ats* from the Sultan's harem. In the first case (Burton, iv. 65-67) Harunu'l-Rashid gave one of his concubines Qutu'l-Qutub to 'Alau'l-Din, who refused to accept her as his wife on the ground that 'what befiteth the lord befiteth not the liege.' Harun, therefore, sent to the market and purchased a slave girl for the man. The second instance (Burton, *Suppl. Nights*, v. 235) is the Sultan's presenting to the Bhang-Eater 'by way of a *khil'at*, a white slave girl.' These two examples seem to be conclusive evidence of the nature of the custom—that the widow or the abandoned concubine is a robe of honour.

"It is in the realm of kingship that the importance of this institution appears. The possession of the King's last wife or concubine constitutes the capture of the succession to the kingship. For that reason Ahitophel advised Absalom to go in unto his father's concubines (2 Sam. xvi. 21-22, cp. 16-18); Adonijah, in order to retrieve his right to the throne, asked through Bath-sheba for Abishag the Shunammite to wife. Solomon's reply was: 'Ask for him my kingdom also' and the order for Adonijah's execution. Herodotus, in rather significant phraseology, after recounting the murder of Candaules of Lydia, states, 'thus did the wife and kingdom of Candaules pass into the possession of Gyges.' Behind the somewhat fantastic stories of Antiochus' love sickness for Stratonike and the physician's advice lies the truth of the story that Seleucus, in order to pave the way for a peaceful succession, gave his latest wife to his son Antiochus, in accordance with Persian custom—as Tatian has informed us (*Orat. ad Graec.* c. 28).

"The most interesting fact of all, however, lies in the appearance of this custom among the royal tribes of Germanic kingship. About 550 A.D. Hermegisklos, King of the Varini, when he is on the point of death instructs his son Radiger to take to wife his widow immediately after he has passed away. Half a century later, Augustine of Canterbury inquires of Gregory the Great whether the custom is to be permitted to converts. Gregory forbids it.* In 616, Eadbald of Kent, however, married Ethelbert's widow and the act appears as part of a pagan revival. In 856, in face of an attempt to divide the kingdom of Wessex between the four sons of Ethelwulf, Ethelbald, the eldest, married Judith, his father's second wife the moment she had become a widow. Pope Nicholas I. refers to the evil custom of sons marrying their step-mothers. Cnut, the Danish conqueror of England, in order to ensure the recognition of his right to the English throne married Emma, the widow of Ethelred. 'It was an old Danish custom that marriage with the King's widow carried the kingdom with it as a matter of right,' remarks Frazer. Saxo Grammaticus sums up the same view in the words *Ita et nupciis sceptrum et scepro nupcias respondere*. The converse of the custom is that where any other bride is taken she must be a *virgo intacta*, as, if she is a vassal's daughter or renounced wife or concubine, the king is placed in the false position of vassal to one of his own vassals. It is this fact which, I believe, underlies the initial objection of Lothair II. to Teutberga. The custom persisted among the Slavs until the 19th century.

* If the letter is genuine. Duchesne declared it to be a forgery.

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"The survival of the custom in both the East and the West implies a common origin. It is, as already indicated, Persian and not Semitic. It is forbidden in the Semitic redaction of the Laws of Hammurabi (§§157-8), in Leviticus (xviii., 3,7-8), and Deuteronomy (xxii. 30) as an Egyptian and Canaanitish custom; by Amos (ii. 7) and later Saint Paul (1 Cor. v. 1); the Prophet Muhammad regards it as an abomination. The antagonism is to the institution in its incestuous form, which excited the opposition of the Semites and the Roman Church, which based its decision on Roman Law and its arguments on the Old Testament, but, as Radiger of the Varini explained to his injured and enraged fiancée—it was a matter of necessity, and the princess understood—as Procopius relates the story.

"Sir James Frazer appears to base his explanation of the custom in the descent of royalty and of the royal house in the female line. This explanation, however, hardly meets the case, for its object is not the maintenance of the purity of the blood royal, and if it is, it would fail unless we are to suppose that all David's concubines were of royal blood. Frazer has been misled by two incidental applications, which a strong-minded woman (like Hermitrude of the Picts, or an outraged woman like the wife of Caudaules) would be in a position to make. He has also overlooked the fact that the important point is the stress on the last wife who had been in corporal contact with the King—as Abishag the Shunnamite. The most satisfactory solution, then, appears to lie in the principle of the robe of honour, the widow or the divorced wife or concubine or slave is a human *khil'at*, whereby the organic unity of the kingship is symbolised.

"If this explanation is the correct solution of the problem, then certain consequences follow:—

"1. It explains the origin of the Levirate marriage—the mantle of the elder brother falls on his younger brother.

"2. It accounts for the Hindu *janhar*—a means of preventing the conqueror adding to the right of the sword the right of succession.

"3. It is a definite proof of the common ancestry of primitive Germanic kingship and Oriental despotism.

"4. It finally establishes the theory that the *khil'at* is symbolic of organic incorporation."

Afterwards, Professor Morgenstern, of the Hebrew Union College, Cincinnati, Ohio, declared that among Semitic peoples relationship was originally transmitted through the mother. The Edomite Kings, for example, were never followed by their sons, but all came from different places. It was said of a King that his wife was the daughter of the daughter of etc. That was, the royal descent was traced through the woman, not through the man, but the husband exercised the function of kingship.

On August 29, Dr. H. R. Hall lectured upon "The Publication of Archæological Material." He declared that the cost of many archæological publications was nowadays prohibitive, alike to the student and to the library, and suggested many ways, such as reference to photographs in books easily obtainable elsewhere, instead of expensively produced duplicates, the suppression of non-essential material, and so on. He moved a resolution, which was passed after a discussion in which Mr. C. M. Firth, of Saqqara, Dr. Mayer, of Palestine, Mr. P. L. O. Guy, Professor Steindorf and Professor Myres took part, to the effect that the cost of archæological publications has increased, is increasing, and ought to be diminished, that the ideal price of such publications is £2, or better still, £1 10s., or £1, and that excavating societies be asked to consider the advisability of allocating a larger proportion of funds to their publications in order to reduce their sale price.

In the evening of August 29, Mr. J. W. Crowfoot gave an illustrated address on "Excavations at Jerash (Gerasa) in Trans-Jordan." For this lecture, Professor Myres abdicated the Chair in favour of Sir Ronald Storrs, Governor of Cyprus, and formerly Governor of Jerusalem, who, of course, knew Jerash personally. Sir Ronald said that

Jerash was one of the "Big Four" of the Near East, the other three cities being Baalbek, Petra, and Palmyra. Dr. Crowfoot, who is Director of the British School of Archæology in Jerusalem, then gave an account of the recent excavations carried out by a joint expedition by Yale University and the British School in Jerusalem. He said that the expedition had discovered a great complex of Christian buildings, which included two large churches built east and west of a pillared courtyard containing a fountain, which was probably the site of an annual miracle, described by Epiphanius in the fourth century. According to Epiphanius the water of a fountain at Jerash was turned into wine every year on the anniversary of the miracle as Cana in Galilee, and the lecturer said that the existence of these two large churches with a number of smaller dependent buildings, all centred round the Fountain Court, might be regarded as proof that this was the site of the miracle. He compared the place with two other great pilgrimage sites, the church of Saint Menas near Alexandria, and those of St. Simon Stylites near Aleppo.

The last season's work had also established the fact that Jerash continued to flourish for at least 100 years after the last conquest. The churches were probably destroyed in the great earthquake of 746 A.D. and a second blow was dealt at the prosperity of the place by the removal of the capital of the Arab Empire from Damascus to Baghdad about the same period. Until this time, however, it was quite certain from the coins and lamps which had been found on the site, that there was no serious decay.

On August 31, with the Very Rev. W. Schmidt in the Chair, Professor T. Jordanescu delivered a paper in French on "The Atharvaveda in Roumanian Charms and Witchcraft." These charms he attempted to derive from India by way of the gipsies. Some of the customs of the Tziganes and of the Roumanians—for instance, the perambulation in a state of nudity by young women on certain occasions—had their origin in India. Professor Jordanescu was, however, vigorously attacked by the veteran Dr. Gaster, who said that the lecturer's theory would not hold. He pointed out that gipsy charms did not resemble Roumanian charms. Indian charms, he maintained, went back to ancient Babylonian charms; nor was the resemblance between Indian and other charms confined to Roumania, but was to be found, for example, in Greece, Bulgaria, Serbia, and other places.

A Resolution.

Before this General Section came to an end, a resolution was moved, by Mr. P. L. O. Guy, to the effect that "this Congress desires to bring home to the Governments of countries in the Near and Middle East the need of increasing the facilities granted to accredited excavators and for reducing to a minimum the formalities attendant upon obtaining them." Mr. Guy, who was Director of Antiquities in Palestine before he was put in charge of the Chicago University expedition at Megiddo, set out eight practical steps which, he said, ought to be taken. These were: the remission of Customs duty on all archæological equipment, the reduction of railway fares for all the personnel of the expedition, the reduction of railway freights, the remission of house tax, the remission of immigration fees in respect of all imported personnel, the transportation by the Government of all the Government's share in antiquities (that is, from the site of the dig to the Museum), the acquisition by Government, before the arrival of the excavators, of grounds required for excavation (that is, the excavator should pay the Government purchase price or rent), and the reduction of formalities attendant on obtaining the necessary facilities.

In the subsequent discussion Dr. Mayer spoke first. The resolution found strong support from Professor Chiera, who is digging at Kirkuk. He said especially that Governments should do something in the complicated matter of land. He was followed by Sir Ronald Storrs, who mentioned first the sympathetic attitude of the Government in Cyprus towards archæological expeditions. Formerly in that island the Government took everything found, but

now archæologists could keep a considerable share of the spoils. On one point only did he dissent from Mr. Guy, and that was in relation to immigration fees. He pointed out that Customs were universally regarded as "fair game," and that in the tourist season the temptation of various wives, sisters, relations, and hangers-on in general to attach themselves to archæological expeditions might prove irresistible, and so bring about a real and legitimate loss to Government revenue. Finally, Mr. Clauson, of the Colonial Office, expressed disagreement with Mr. Guy's first three points. He emphatically objected to concealed subsidies, such as would be involved in concessions in the matter of railway fares, house taxes, and so on: rather than that, he would have Government openly subscribe to archæological expeditions. Over the last five points, however, he supported Mr. Guy.

Garden Parties.

One of the most delightful features of this week at Oxford was provided in the garden-parties which were held. The first was on August 28, when Delegates were invited to a garden-party and tea by the Warden of Wadham College and Mrs. Stenning, in Wadham College. Unfortunately, rain interfered with this function. The following day, however, the weather was as beautiful as Magdalen itself, when Dr. and Mrs. A. E. Cowley held in Magdalen College a reception to all Members of the Congress. On August 30, a garden-party (by invitation) was given by Professor and Mrs. D. S. Margoliouth, in New College, and on the following day, similar garden-parties were given, by Professor and Mrs. C. G. Seligman, at Toot Baldon, and by Mr and Mrs. W. H. Buckler, at 1, Bardwell Road.

We shall continue our account of the proceedings in next week's issue.

PERSONAL AND GENERAL

TO-DAY

September 6, 1928 (New Style).
August 24, 1928 (Old Style).
Rabia I, 20, 1347 A.H., of the Muslim Calendar.
Ellul 21, 5689, of the Jewish Calendar.

The Hon. Mrs. Harold Nicolson will return from Berlin at the middle of the month to Long Barn, Weald, Kent.

M. Henri Ponsot, French High Commissioner for Syria, left Beyrout last week for Paris, and is expected to be away for two months.

Keuprulu Zade Fouad Bey, who represented the Government of Turkey last week at the Congress of Orientalists in Oxford, left for Constantinople at the beginning of this week.

Mr. John C. Orr, of Oriel College, Oxford, and Mr. V. A. Ottaway, of Trinity College, Oxford, leave England next week for Abyssinia to take up positions as English masters at the Tafari Makonnen School in Addis Ababa.

Sir Thomas Arnold, who unfortunately was prevented from attending the Congress of Orientalists at Oxford last week by an attack of arthritis, is now better. His absence from the Congress was the subject of universal regret.

The Prince of Wales and the Duke of Gloucester leave England this week for their African tour. Embarking on the P. and O. Kaiser-i-Hind at Marseilles on September 7. Their Royal Highnesses are due to arrive at Alexandria on September 11. On September 13 they will be entertained to dinner at the Gezira Sporting Club by the British community in Cairo.

M. Caclamanos, Greek Minister in London, left last week for Geneva to attend the Assembly of the League of Nations. M. K. A. Collas, Counsellor at the Legation, is acting as Chargé d'Affaires during the absence of the Minister.

The King has been pleased to approve the appointment of Mr. John Coldstream, Indian Civil Service, to be a Puisne Judge of the High Court of Judicature at Lahore in the place of Mr. Justice Campbell, Indian Civil Service, whose resignation has been accepted with effect from September 10.

Abdul Rahman Fikry Bey, who has been on the Staff of the Royal Egyptian Legation in London since its establishment, and until recently held the post of First Secretary, has been appointed Technical Secretary to the Ministry of Finance in Cairo. Fikry Bey, who before entering the Diplomatic Service, studied at the London School of Economics, was deservedly popular both with his diplomatic colleagues and with all who came in touch with him at the Legation.

In response to a request from the Greek Government, Dr. M. D. MacKenzie, of the Health Section of the League Secretariat, has been placed by the Secretary-General at the disposal of the Greek Government in connexion with the epidemic of Dengue fever now raging in Greece. Dr. MacKenzie left Geneva for Athens on August 28.

Where to stay in the East

*Write for particulars of attractive offer
for Advertising Hotels on this page.*

BEYROUT—Hotel Metropole.
CAIRO—The National Hotel.
JAFFA—Hotel Jerusalem.
JAIPUR (Rajputana)—New Hotel.
JERUSALEM—St John's Hotel,
H. & F. Fast, Managers

KYRENIA, Cyprus—
Sea-View Hotel.
NICOSIA, Cyprus—
George Hotel.
PORT SAID—
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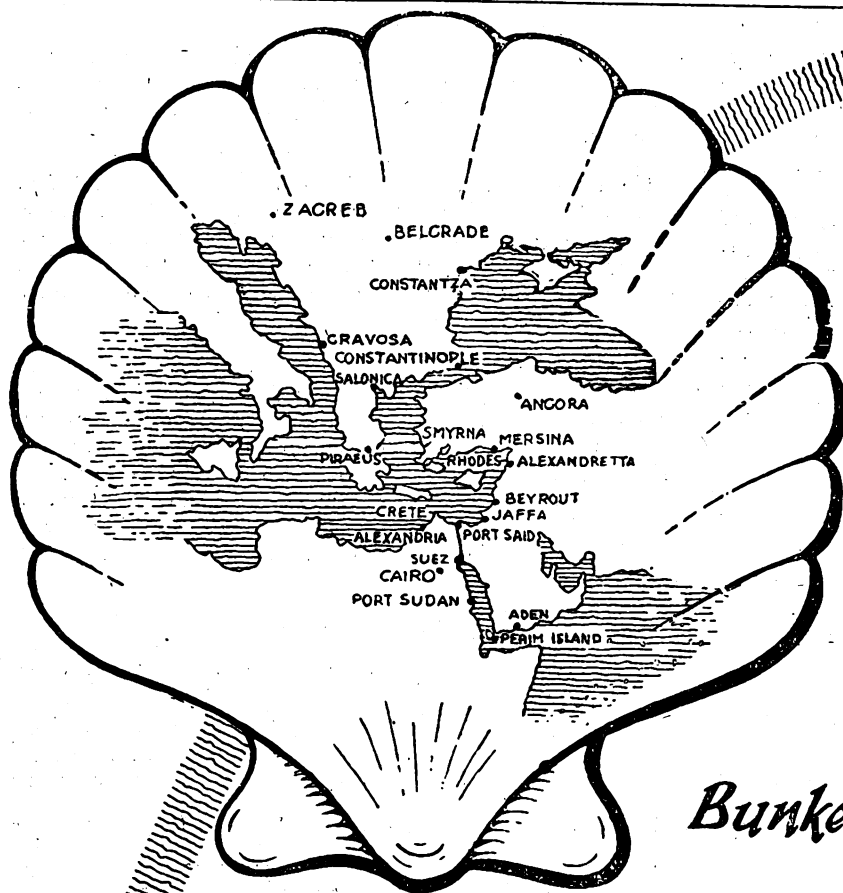
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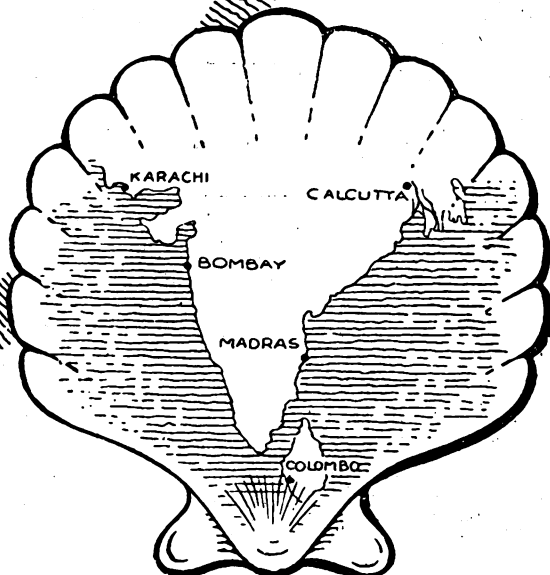
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SHELL



Commercial and Financial Section.

NOTES AND NEWS

170, Strand, London, W.C.2,
Tuesday Morning.

Fruit Cultivation in Palestine.

While the principal efforts to develop fruit cultivation in Palestine are concentrated on the well-known orange which has for so long been the mainstay of the country's export trade, endeavours are being made to enlarge the production of other fruits for which conditions are suitable. One of these fruits is the banana, which is the subject of a recent leaflet issued by the Palestine Department of Agriculture and Forests, in which it is stated that there are possibilities of a banana industry of moderate dimensions in the country. It is true that in the case of the banana there are climatic disabilities, but it is believed that these will be offset by Palestine's proximity to the Eastern European markets. At present about 180 acres are devoted to banana cultivation, but it is estimated that from five to ten thousand acres could be devoted to the fruit in the regions best suited for it.

A Loan for Bulgaria.

It is unfortunate that, just at the moment when the difficulty between the Bulgarian Government and the Disconto Gesellschaft of Berlin has been adjusted and the ground is now cleared for further negotiations for a Bulgarian loan under the auspices of the League of Nations, a Ministerial crisis should break out in Bulgaria. The details of the trouble have not been divulged, but it is understood that, immediately after the Anglo-French suggestion regarding the possibility of effective measures against the Macedonian Revolutionary Organisation, M. Bouroff, Minister for Foreign Affairs, and other members of the Cabinet decided that the presence of General Volkoff, Minister of War, in the Government was an obstacle to the carrying out of adequate measures against the Macedonian leaders. The obvious desirability of preventing a united front in the negotiations for a loan caused M. Liaptcheff to work hard to heal the breach in his Ministry and for a time it seemed as if he had succeeded. The quarrel, however, has broken out afresh on the eve of the meeting of the Sobranie, and a Ministerial crisis now threatens.

The Roumanian Loan Question.

The urgency of a foreign loan for Roumania, both on economic and on political grounds, is reflected in the reports that negotiations for a settlement of the dispute over mutual financial adjustments with Germany are proceeding as well as could be expected, and—no less significant—that modifications in the Mining Laws are being considered. The German view of the negotiations is not quite so optimistic, although it is recognised that ultimately an arrangement satisfactory to both sides will be reached, if only for the reason that the conclusion of the Roumanian loan may be said to depend, in all probability, upon such an arrangement. It can safely be said that if, on the top of an agreement with Germany, the Roumanian Government decided to introduce certain changes into the Mining Laws which will meet, in whole or in substantial part, the more serious objections of the foreign companies, no further difficulties will be put in the way of a Roumanian loan by British financial interests. The country's financial position promises to be much improved as a result of this year's harvest, if the official estimates are not too optimistic. There is a grain shortage in the Ukraine and a partial famine in Turkey; the diffi-

culties of her neighbours will be Roumania's opportunity, by supplying her with a ready and easy outlet for her surplus harvest.

Oil and Railways in Iraq.

Ever since an attempt was made to put a spoke in the wheel of the negotiations between Great Britain and Turkey over the Turkish Petroleum Company's concession, it has been known that powerful financial interests were prepared to take an active part in the development of the Middle East. Behind the agitation against the granting of the Dead Sea Concession to Messrs. Novomeysky and Tulloch has been the grievance that the big sums that will ultimately be required for its full exploitation can be more surely found, and are indeed being eagerly offered, elsewhere. Now comes the report that the Iraq Government is being pressed to transfer all the oil grounds not already taken up by the Turkish Petroleum Company to the same financial interests, and possibly to reserve for the latter any fields for which a renewal of the former's lease may be necessary. As a special inducement offered to the Iraq Government to accept this suggestion an undertaking has been given to construct without any financial contribution from Iraq the Iraq section of a railway from Haifa to Baghdad. The offer must present great attractions to the Iraq Government, but it will naturally want to weigh any prospect of immediate gain against the advantages that it stands to reap in the future from the uniform development of all its oil resources. At all costs it wants to avoid having its oil resources made the sport of financial operations instead of being properly worked. Whatever the future has in store, the compliment to the potentialities of the Middle East that lies behind an offer to build a railway without Government aid must not be overlooked.

India's Match Industry.

After a prolonged inquiry and much discussion the Government of India has come to a conclusion on the match manufacturing industry. As we have previously pointed out in these columns, the amount of revenue derived from the Indian import duty on matches has been declining during the last two or three years. The duty is equivalent to 100 per cent. *ad valorem*, and it has been so far a revenue and not a protective duty. In view of its diminishing yield the Government of India instructed the Tariff Board last year to investigate the position of the Indian industry. And after taking evidence from the manufacturers and others connected with the match trade,

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and consulting the Chambers of Commerce, the Board made certain recommendations. These were considered by the Government of India, whose decision with reference to them was announced last week. The Board said that the 100 per cent. duty had been protective in its effect; that, sheltered by it, match factories had been established, and that the industry thus brought into being had made progress. They accordingly recommended that the duty should be maintained and converted into a protective tax. This recommendation the Government of India has accepted, although it does not greatly like the retention for a long period of such a high rate of duty. Much was heard during the discussion before the Tariff Board of the operations of the Swedish Match Company; and the Indian manufacturers asked for protection against the manufacture of matches in India by this concern. The Tariff Board found, however, that no action against the Company need be taken on the ground of unfair competition. At the same time, the Board thought that conditions might arise which would make an excise duty desirable. With this view the Government of India agrees, and it considers that, if the Swedish Company should obtain a monopoly of the manufacture and sale of matches in India, the situation will require to be reconsidered. In the meantime, the Government proposes to legislate this session with the object of making the existing import duty a protective impost.

COMMENTATOR.

THE MACHINE TOOL EXHIBITION.

The Fourth Machine Tool and Engineering Exhibition is to be opened at Olympia, London, on September 5 (while these pages are in the Press) by the Rt. Hon. W. C. Bridgeman, P.C., M.P., First Lord of the Admiralty, and will remain open until September 22. It will be the most comprehensive exhibition of the kind ever held, no side of the machine tool having been neglected. Nearly two hundred exhibitors from all parts of the country will show their latest machines, with all the improvements effected during and since the War. So many of these machines will be in operation that it has been necessary to instal an extra electric cable at Olympia to supply the additional power which will be needed to drive them. The machinery installed will be capable of making anything from a pen to a battleship, and, by a triumph of organisation on the part of the Management and the Exhibitors, this enormous plant will have been erected in fifteen days. The machines vary in size from the tiniest drill, revolving thousands of times a minute, to an enormous drop-hammer with a punching force of many tons and a gigantic planing machine weighing fifty tons.

In between these come grinding wheels, giving a spectacular pyrotechnic display as they sharpen various tools of the toughest steel, lathes which perform half a dozen

various operations on a solid lump of metal in as many minutes and turn out a beautifully finished part of a motor car, ball bearing devices which seem almost to solve the problem of perpetual motion, boring, milling, planing and shaping machines, chucks which hold the pieces of metal undergoing various operations in an immovable grip, gear-cutting machines, sawing machines both for wood and metal, electric welding plants, air compressor plants, electric control panels, morticing, slot drilling, surface grinding machines, power presses, tapping machines, riveting hammers, electric furnaces, devices for testing the hardness of metals, lubricant and cutting oils, and a multitude of small tools.

In the present exhibition may be seen the realisation of all the lessons learnt during the mass production period, combined with that thoroughness of workmanship for which this country is so justly famous. At the beginning of mass production we inevitably sacrificed some thoroughness for speed. In the last few years we have regained the thoroughness and increased the speed. In the workmanship there is a greater degree of accuracy, in the selection and treatment of materials there is a greater care and knowledge, and in technical skill there is a higher standard than ever existed before. To meet the increased costs of labour and the shorter hours worked, it is necessary to employ machine tools of the most efficient type, and to extract the last ounce of output from them.

Quite recently one of the great motor car producing firms announced a still further reduction in the price of its cars. To understand how this reduction has been made possible we recommend a visit to the Fourth Machine Tool and Engineering Exhibition at Olympia, where the machines which are responsible will be seen in actual operation.

FORTHCOMING SAILINGS.

The following are the sailings for the Near East and India, the ports of departure and closing dates for cargo being given in parentheses:—

Anchor Line.—S.s. Circassia for Bombay (Birkenhead, September 8); s.s. Assyria for Bombay (Birkenhead, September 25). (For passenger sailings and dates see advertisement).

Anchor Brocklebank Line.—S.s. Manipur for Calcutta (Birkenhead, September 6); s.s. Holywell for Calcutta (Birkenhead, September 13).

Bibby Line.—S.s. Lancashire for Port Said, Port Sudan, Colombo, and Rangoon (Birkenhead, September 10).

British India Line.—S.s. Mulbera for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, September 8); s.s. Golconda for Bombay and Karachi (London, September 8); s.s. Mashobra for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, September 22).

Cunard Line.—S.s. Bactria for Gibraltar, Malta, Patras, Piræus, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, and Constantza (Liverpool, Glasgow, and Swansea, September 29); s.s. Bantria for Casablanca, Gibraltar, Genoa, Leghorn, Naples, Palermo, Messina, Catania, Corfu, Bari, Gruz, Venice, Trieste, and Fiume (Liverpool September 15, and Swansea September 18).

Johnston Line.—S.s. Jessmore for Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, September 29); s.s. Dromore for Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, October 13).

P. and O. Line.—S.s. Rawalpindi for Bombay (London, September 14); s.s. Bangalore for Calcutta (London, September 15).

Prince Line.—S.s. African Prince for Tunis, Malta, Alexandria, Jaffa, Haifa, Beyrout, and Cyprus (Manchester, September 15); s.s. Tripoli, Alexandretta, Mersina, and Cyprus (London, September 22). Cyprian Prince for Tunis, Malta, Alexandria, Jaffa, Haifa, Beyrout.

Ellerman and Papayanni Lines.—S.s. Algerian for Gibraltar, Patras, Piræus, Volo*, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, and Constantza (Liverpool, September 8); s.s. Dido for Malta, Alexandria, Jaffa*, and Haifa* (Liverpool September 8, Glasgow September 7); s.s. Voltorno for Gibraltar, Malta, Alexandria, Jaffa*, and Haifa* (Liverpool, September 16); s.s. Lesbian for Oran*, Algiers*, Piræus, Volo*, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, and Constantza (Liverpool, September 22); s.s. Flaminian for Genoa, Leghorn, Naples, Palermo, Messina, Catania, Bari, Gruz*, Ancona*, Venice, Trieste, and Fiume (Liverpool September 29, Swansea October 4). *Subject to sufficient inducement. Cargo taken on through Bill of Lading to:—Algerian ports via Algiers; Moroccan ports via Gibraltar; Tripoli (Barbary) via Malta; Syria and Cyprus via Alexandria; Greek outports via Piræus or other convenient port.

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THE WEEK'S FINANCE.

(By Our Financial Expert.)

London, Tuesday Morning.

The volume of business passing on the Stock Exchange remains restricted, but on the whole prices are well maintained. Gilt-edged securities were firm, sentiment being assisted by the publication of an extremely favourable Bank return. Home railways were inclined to recover some of their recent losses, but closed below the highest. In the main, the speculative markets were dull. There was, however, a distinct broadening of interest in the industrial share market. Artificial silk shares were firm (a matter to which we make reference in a subsequent paragraph), while there was also a considerable inquiry for iron and steel shares. One of the most conspicuous features was a substantial rise in Imperial Chemicals.

Greyhound Racing Profits.

The recent weakness in the shares of greyhound racing companies has been one of the outstanding features of the Stock Markets. The directors of the Greyhound Racing Association Trust have, therefore, been well-advised in issuing a statement to their shareholders, this company's shares having been particularly affected. It is doubtful, however, whether it will be completely successful in removing uneasiness. The statement refers to the "severe competition" caused by the formation of a very large number of greyhound racing tracks, especially in the Provinces; it also refers to the competition of dirt-track racing, which is proving a counter-attraction in certain centres. The company has been participating in dirt-track racing. Revenue figures are given, but these are of little value since, apart from prize money, they are not accompanied by details of outgoings. It seems fairly clear, however, that the prospectus estimate of a profit of £350,000 for the current year will not be realised. It should have been understood from the first that this was a highly speculative business; and, even if it could be proved that it were prospering to-day, it would not follow that a successful rival form of entertainment would not be introduced to-morrow. In a word, the investor of modest purse should leave such ventures to those whose means allow them to shoulder great risks.

The Artificial Silk Outlook.

During the past week artificial silk shares, after a period of comparative neglect, have been distinctly firm. For instance, Courtaulds have advanced to 4 19-32, as compared with 4 3 a month ago; the lowest price of the year is 4 1-16. The movement in share prices follows an improvement in the position of the industry. Trade in the late spring and summer was rather disappointing, prices in some cases having to be lowered to tempt buyers. The past month, however, has witnessed a slight recovery. The summer reaction this year, though seasonal, has been more serious than usual and the conclusion is reached that in Britain, America and on the Continent production has—for the time being at least—outstripped consumption. The falling off in demand appears to have hit the Continent more heavily than this country. There can be no doubt that the production of the newer companies is beginning to make itself felt. An occasional excess of production is the normal experience of most industries, but perhaps this danger is present in an exceptional degree in the artificial silk industry, since a large proportion of its output is dependent upon the caprices of fashion. Of course, new uses and adaptations for the future are constantly being discovered. The cautious investor, however, will carefully review the situation before making a purchase of shares.

Mortgage Bank Bonds.

During recent months a considerable number of foreign mortgage banks have issued bonds in London. These bonds, however, have attracted rather less attention than might have been expected—possibly because the mortgage bank is an unfamiliar institution in this country. But they are by no means without attractions. They possess a considerable degree of security. It is the common practice of a mortgage bank only to issue bonds up to 50 per cent. of the value of the land and freehold property upon which they grant mortgages to their customers. Moreover, many of the institutions issuing these bonds carry on a general banking business in addition to making loans on mortgage. In these cases, their mortgage bonds carry the additional security provided by their charge upon the other assets of the bank. The question of political risk cannot, of course, be ignored. Nevertheless, the yields given by the bonds—being in the neighbourhood of £7 per cent.—would seem largely to discount this factor, especially in view of the security of individual bonds. The following securities deserve attention. The Municipal Mortgage Bank of Finland 6½ per cent. sterling bonds give a return of £6 11s. per cent. A yield of £6 4s per cent. is obtainable on the Bank of State of San Paulo 6 per cent. guaranteed sterling mortgage bonds.

NEWS FROM ALL SOURCES.

Sir John William Anderson Bell has been admitted a partner of Messrs. Gray, Davies and Co., merchants and bankers, of 122, Leadenhall Street, E.C.3, as from September 1.

The traffic receipts of the South Indian Railway Company for the week ended August 4 amounted to Rs.7,27,230, making the total from April 1 Rs.2,11,95,648.

The traffic receipts of the Egyptian Delta Light Railways for the ten days ended August 10 amounted to £E7,757, making the total from April 1 £E91,147.

Electric tramways have been installed in Smyrna and the new services will begin on September 9. Hitherto Constantinople has been the only town in Turkey with electric tramways.

The directors of the National Bank of India have declared an *ad interim* dividend for the half-year ended June 30 last at the rate of 20 per cent. per annum, payable on and after September 14, free of income tax.

The Bulgarian Government is endeavouring to establish a second silk-worm "crop" each year. To this end special silk-worm eggs have recently been imported from Brazil and are being distributed among some fifty different localities. It is hoped in this way to be able to collect cocoons in the autumn as well as in the spring.

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Amritsar	Chittagong	Kandy	Mandalay	Zanzibar	Mombasa		Kampala	
Bombay	Cochin (S. India)	Karachi	Newera Eliya		Nairobi, Nakuru			

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Motors and Motoring.

By G. B. B.

New Cars.

Times change and prices of cars change with them. The new Morris prices have come rather as a surprise to the motoring world, as most people had expected the price of the Cowley would come down a trifle. Instead of doing that, however, it has gone up, but the new Morris Minor, with a 7 h.p. engine has taken its place, with a chassis price of £100 and as that means a touring car price of £125 and a saloon model at £135, I fancy it will become very popular, especially as it will do 50 miles to the gallon and has a speed of 55 miles per hour on the road. The makers say that the coming of the Morris Minor has rendered it unnecessary to bring down the price of the Cowley model as that is a far more powerful car, is more of a luxury production and has far greater value put into it. The increase in the price of the Cowley is not very great, however, as a new four-door saloon model is now only £190 instead of, as formerly, £185.

The Morris Minor.

By the courtesy of the makers I am able to give some details of the new Morris Minor. The engine is of the overhead valve, overhead camshaft type, with four cylinders and has a bore of 57 m.m. and a stroke of 83 m.m., giving a capacity of 847 cubic centimetres. The tax is £8 per annum and the car should be very light on tyres, with its full length frame incorporating semi-elliptic springs for both axles. The cylinder head is detachable, and the pistons are of aluminium. There is a three-speed gearbox, the hand brake operates on a drum on the transmission and the footbrake operates internal expanding shoes on all four wheels. Shock absorbers are fitted, and front and rear bumpers are a part of the standard design. The saloon model is fitted with a fabric body and has two doors, and a single pane adjustable windscreen. The open four-seater touring model has a coach built, two-door body with hood and rigid side screens and I omitted to mention that the saloon model can be obtained in either a blue or a brown coloured body. There have been certain improvements incorporated in the new Cowley, possibly as some concession for the enhanced price and these include certain new coach work designs and colour schemes, and dipping headlights and bumpers.

Motoring Speeds.

The question has been raised as to whether the Minister of Transport has power to permit heavy motor traffic, as chars-à-banc or motor coaches, to travel at 20 m.p.h. instead of 12 m.p.h., as that speed is laid down by Act of Parliament. It is felt in some circles that only another Act of Parliament could legalise the change. I have discussed this point with some legal friends and they assure me that the Minister has power, under the Act of 1919, to do what he has done, as by that Act he acquired the powers previously exercised by the Local Government Board to regulate that class of traffic.

I fancy there is a good deal underlying the new concession and that those who are rejoicing in it are rather premature. In the present stage of affairs it would have been an unwise move on the part of the police or the authorities generally to proceed against any public service vehicle for exceeding the antiquated archaic speed limit of 12 m.p.h. The raising of the speed limit has altered the condition of affairs and I fancy that after a few weeks we shall find some of our motor omnibus owners in the position of defendants. The official view will be, of course, that speeds of 30 or 40 m.p.h., such as are indulged in at present, will be monstrous or unheard of or something of the kind. I see the Chief Constables of one or two counties have already declared that they are going to see that the new speed limits are not exceeded in their counties.

My view is that the wrong people are being pilloried. I have used our roads constantly since long before a motor omnibus was thought about and I have not yet seen any dangerous or inconsiderate driving by the drivers of that class of vehicle. It may, of course, be said that my experience is not that of others. On the other hand, I assert without fear of contradiction that it is impossible to stand for half an hour by the side of a main road, especially at a week-end, without seeing many instances of bad, careless, inconsiderate and, at times, even dangerous driving on the part of private car owners or hirers. The old order has changed. A few years ago the private owner was one who had had to work hard to attain the position that justified him in owning a motor car; he had a high degree of intelligence, was keenly alive to the courtesies of existence, was more or less a man of the world and in all circumstances was more or less of a gentleman in that he thought something of the feelings of others, would not do anything that was not the "correct thing" to do. To-day that class still persist although in numbers they are almost swamped by a new class of owner-driver; men of little or no experience, of no knowledge or courtesy or road custom, a class that has obtained second-hand cars on absurdly low hire-purchase terms and who behave themselves as soon as they get on the road, much as Punch's "Harry and Harriet" used to enjoy themselves on Hampstead Heath on pre-War Bank Holidays. To put it plainly, the road is becoming infested with hooligan car drivers and it is against them and their dangerous, inconsiderate and inexperienced practices that the attention of the police should be directed rather than against the drivers of motor coaches.

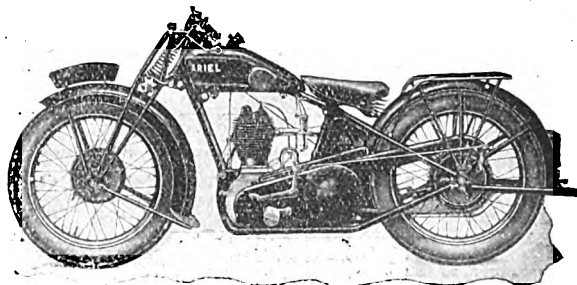
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British Consular Reports

IV.—YUGOSLAVIA.

(Continued from page 255.)

Bridges.

One of the great difficulties to be overcome in organising the communications of the new State is that due to the insufficient number of bridges over the main waterways of the country. Belgrade, separated from the new territories, on the one side by the Danube and on the other by the Sava, possesses only one bridge, the railway bridge over the latter river. The nearest bridge across the Danube is at Novi Sad, some eighty kilometres upstream. The bridge to cross the Danube just below the capital, the material for which is being supplied by Germany on reparations account, which is to carry both rail and road traffic will, when completed, be of very great importance. The whole of the works connected with the bridge, including the dam or embankment and the railway line complete to Panchevo, is to be completed by the end of March, 1931. The connexion thus established will give, in addition to interior communications of very great utility, a railway route from Roumania across Yugoslavia to the Adriatic coast. The works involved by this undertaking are of some magnitude; the bridge itself will be one of the longest in Europe; and the building of the line along the left bank of the Danube (opposite to Belgrade) from the bridge to Panchevo involves the construction of an embankment built on land which is frequently inundated at certain times of the year. It is planned to combine the construction of this line with the reclamation of a large area of potentially valuable agricultural land now subject to flood, but owing to the great area involved and the length of the dams or dykes which would be necessary it is a very costly project. Another reclamation project is that concerning the drainage and protection from flood water of a large tract of land adjacent to the river Sava near Sremska Mitrovitza; and the draining of a great deal of land at Lake Skadar (Scutari) is also an attractive enterprise to be undertaken at some future date. This, it seems, could easily be effected by dredging the channel of the river Boyana, which is the outlet of the Lake of Scutari to the sea; the river having silted up, the level of the lake and its area have gradually increased until it covers a large area of fertile land which, if reclaimed, would probably do much to relieve the poverty of the Montenegrin and Albanian peasants. As the draining of the lake concerns both countries, preliminary agreement between Yugoslavia and Albania will be necessary.

Shipping.

The principal Yugoslav seaports on the Adriatic are, from north to south, Shushak, Sibenik (Sebenico), Split (Spalato), Metkovitch, Dubrovnik-Gruzh (Ragusa) and Kotor (Cattaro). In addition, Yugoslavia has a part of the Greek port of Salonika, and an arrangement exists by which she has the right to use the Thacon di Reval basin in the Port of Fiume; but little use is at present being made of these facilities. The Adriatic coast abounds in

natural harbours, many of which are well-protected and can accommodate large vessels; but modern loading and discharging facilities are lacking at most of them, and the same mountainous formation which gives deep water close in shore renders development difficult, as there is rarely any great width of foreshore on which warehouses can be erected, or sidings, etc., constructed. The principal ports of the future, when the developments projected have been accomplished, will probably be Shushak, Split and Kotor. Shushak is the natural outlet for a great deal of Yugoslavia's export of timber; Split will become more and more the great general trading port for both exports and imports; while Kotor, with its magnificent natural harbour, will remain the principal naval base, and in addition, when the main Belgrade-Adriatic railway, which is to have its sea terminus there, has been built, should also develop commercially. Meanwhile, the port of Dubrovnik (Gruzh), served by the Bosnian narrow-gauge railway, carries a great deal of traffic; but transport to and from the principal trading centres, Belgrade and Zagreb, at present is under the disability of the necessary transfer of merchandise from the narrow to the normal gauge line and *vice versa*.

The coastal shipping lines engaged in handling tourist traffic along the Dalmatian coast had a good year; the large increase in tourists has been due not only to the propaganda of the "Putnik" tourist agency in Central European countries, but also largely to the appreciation of the lira and the resultant increased prices charged at the Italian resorts. Several of the Yugoslav steamship companies increased their tonnage during the year; and in addition to purchasing secondhand vessels, ordered new steamers in the United Kingdom; and the establishment of an emigrant service with South America with vessels flying the Yugoslav flag is projected.

The total tonnage of Yugoslav merchant shipping is about 300,000 at present, the increase for 1927 being some 17,000 tons, mostly purchased in Great Britain. Competition in shipping services is very severe, especially from Italian lines, and the Yugoslav shipowners have lately held a conference with the object of securing mutual co-operation among the coastal lines. Reductions in fares of up to 20 per cent. have been put into force on certain coastal routes, and other steps have been taken with the object of meeting foreign competition. Assistance is given by the State to the shipping companies both by direct subvention and by exemption from all taxation.

In addition to a long sector of the Danube, which is of course an international waterway, Yugoslavia possesses important navigable territorial waters, in the River Sava, which is navigable from Belgrade up to Sisak. There are further the Kralja Petra (formerly Franz Josef) Canal, a part of which is in Hungary, and the Begey Canal. Belgrade, being situated at the confluence of the two great rivers, the Danube and the Sava, occupies an exceptionally favourable position in regard to river transport. A great part of the river transport, both passenger and freight, is operated by the Government with its own fleet, through an autonomous body under the general

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control of the Ministry for Communications. A bi-weekly passenger service of large and well-equipped passenger boats is operated during the summer months by the Danube Steam Navigation Company Limited from Vienna via Budapest and Belgrade to the Roumanian port of Giurgiu on the Danube. The transport facilities offered by the Danube are greatly used for the carriage of coal, machinery and other heavy goods imported from Central European countries, for the carriage of petroleum products from Roumania, and for the export of agricultural produce, most of which goes to countries lying to the north. Grain traffic, however, owing to the failure of the Yugoslav harvest, fell off considerably in 1927.

Aviation.

A great deal of attention is being given to aviation, both military and civil, and serious efforts are being made to develop the manufacture of aircraft, including engines, in the country. The Compagnie Internationale de Navigation Aérienne, which succeeded the Franco-Roumanian Aviation Company, maintains its services from Paris to Constantinople via Belgrade. A local company, the Društvo za Vazduzni Saobraćaj (Aerial Navigation Company) has been formed and, commencing on February 15, 1926, has maintained a regular daily service between Belgrade and Zagreb, using Potez aeroplanes. The company receives a Government subsidy of 26 dinars per kilometre flown. The new Belgrade airport, situated on the far side of the river Sava, about eight kilometres to the north-west of the capital, was opened to international air traffic on February 15, and simultaneously the old airport at Panchievo was closed. When completed the Belgrade airport will, it is hoped, be one of the best-equipped in Europe, if not in the world.

An aircraft factory at Novi Sad manufactures aeroplanes of the "Brandenburger" type, and a pattern of hydroplane evolved by its own engineers, foreign engines being used in both types; a factory for the manufacture of metal aircraft of the "Potez" type has lately been established at Zemun; and yet another, to manufacture aeroplanes of the "Hanriot" pattern, has been opened in the same town. In addition there are two small works at Belgrade, at one of which wooden aircraft are made and at the other aircraft engines as well as fusilage, etc., can be repaired.

The most important development, however, is the construction and equipment, now being proceeded with, of a large works near the capital, at Rakoviza, where "Jupiter" aircraft engines are to be manufactured with French technical assistance. It is hoped to produce the first engines by the end of 1928: the engines will probably at first be composed largely of component parts brought from France, but later practically the whole of the machine will be manufactured locally.

THE DRIED FRUIT MARKET.

Messrs. C. J. Giraud and Co., of Smyrna, have issued the following report on the state of the local Dried Fruit Market for the week ending August 25:—

Sultanias.

Estimated arrivals on the Smyrna market since the opening of the season amount to 2,810 tons as compared with 3,750 tons for the corresponding period in 1927; the estimated sales amount to 2,000 tons as compared with 3,200 in 1927.

Closing prices at Smyrna per ckt. c.i.f. London were for Types 13 to 18 inclusive respectively as follow:—37s. 6d.; 40s. 6d.; 43s. 6d.; 47s. 6d.; 52s. 6d.; 57s. 6d.

The total shipments to date have been, with the amounts for the corresponding period in 1927 in brackets, as follow:—To the U.K., 175 tons (530); to the Continent, 370 tons (410); to the U.S.A., Canada and sundries, 49 tons (15).

Market Conditions.—Business has not shown expansion in relation to the increased extent of arrivals; prices began easing off at the middle of the week and an all-round decline of about 3s. per cwt. (ft. 3 per 100 kgs.) has been realised on last week's closing level. The undertone of the market, however, is strong at the decline, as the Interior is refusing to follow the lower level of values and fresh

supplies are not moving forward to market. It will need very little increase in buying to strengthen the market.

The diversity of quotations for the various main centres is due to the unsettled state of the Smyrna freight market. On the London berth competition exists between the regular liners (Ellerman group) and the Byron S.S. Company. The fruit rate to London has been for the present reduced to 10s. per ton. The Liverpool rate, which is feeling indirectly the competition on the London berth, has been progressively reduced from 45s. to 37s. 6d. and then to 30s. on boxes and 27s. 6d. on bags, where it stands at present.

The North Continent is maintaining its rates at 40s. on boxes and 35s. on bags. Trieste rate has been reduced to 27s. 6d. on boxes and 25s. on bags.

The freight position generally must be regarded as unstable and liable to sudden fluctuations.

Figs.

Estimated arrivals on the Smyrna market since the opening of the season amount to 1,535 tons, as compared with 1,650 tons for the corresponding period of 1927; estimated sales to date are 1,330 tons, as compared with 1,565 tons in 1927.

Market Conditions.—Market opened on the 19th inst., prices paid being between 30 per cent. to 40 per cent. above last year's level. This was due to the bull efforts of two or three shippers, whose interests lay in creating an artificially high opening for the purpose of influencing markets abroad. Prices have gradually declined throughout the week and stand to-day 20 per cent. below the opening.

The general quality of the early fruit was distinctly unsatisfactory. Later arrivals show a somewhat better condition, but there is still considerable scope for improvement.

The market will be closed in the 28th, 30th, and 31st inst. owing to local holidays.

Messrs. J. C. Houghton and Co., of Liverpool, report for the week ending August 31:—

Currants.

When allowance is made for the holiday season, and the fact that the declaration of official new crop prices was expected during the month, it is not surprising that at the commencement very little interest was taken, and that sellers found it extremely difficult to make headway with fruit on hand. As the month progressed holders became increasingly anxious to clean up the small remaining stock, and the market being in a state sensitive to any slight pressure, this had the effect of reducing values. Business in the lower grades shows a decline of 1s. 6d. to 2s. at 40s., but the fall in Vostizza is more pronounced. Fine Shade Dried qualities have been sold at 56s., thus registering a decline of fully 6s. from the highest point reached.

Closing quotations:—Pyrgos, 49s. to 49s. 6d.; Amalias and Patras, 50s. to 51s.; Zante, 51s. 6d. to 52s.; Gulf and Panariti, 53s. to 55s.; Vostizza, 53s. to 56s.

The authorities in Greece have fixed the retention rate for the 1928 crop at 50 per cent. in kind. The opening price at the equivalent of 42s. 6d. c.i.f. for Pyrgos was quickly advanced, and a strong Greek market is reported with 44s. 6d. c.i.f. for Pyrgos as the latest quotation. Loading will commence early next week, the first steamer being due here about the middle of September.

Sultanias.

Smyrna.—Business has been extremely difficult throughout the month, and sales were only effected by reducing prices. Ordinary to Medium, 37s. to 40s.; Good to Finest, 42s. to 65s. Reports are that the weather has been ideal for new crop harvesting operations, and latest estimates are about 37,000 tons for export.

Cretans.—Overland samples of very light fruit for August and early September shipment attracted some little attention at 72s. to 80s., landed terms.

Greeks.—Dragging sale 50s. to 51s.; bright and colour parcels, 64s.

Figs.

New crop Genuines offered at 21s. 3d. c.i.f. September shipment, but practically without result.

An agreement, it is reported from Greece, has been reached and will shortly be signed between the Greek Government and the New York banking house of Seligmans for a loan of 75,000,000 dollars (£15,000,000) for productive works.

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THE LIVERPOOL COTTON MARKET.

Messrs. Reynolds and Gibson report as follows for the week ended August 29:—

Egyptian Futures.—Sakel Contract.—Quiet and rather featureless markets have been the general rule during the past week; trading throughout has been of a light character and in the absence of any developments to influence a decided change of sentiment only minor price alterations have to be reported. Crop accounts recently to hand rather give the impression that last week's reports of deterioration were somewhat exaggerated, the loss only being normal for this period of the season; fears of further scares, however, still prevail and whilst the continued absence of trade support remains a "bearish" feature, we rather doubt whether any sustained pressure will be experienced until more definite views can be found regarding next season's supplies. Throughout the week the Alexandria market has shown a steady undertone, values moving with a moderate range; the stabilisation effect of the scheme for financing the coming crop is still in evidence, and it is to be noted that prices there have now reacted nearly 3 dollars from the low level obtaining a fortnight ago. A further slight hardening in our premium over the American contract has to be recorded; under present circumstances the ruling difference appears wide, but, at this point of the season, conditions change so rapidly that straddle operations between different crops cannot be entered upon with any degree of confidence. As we anticipated in our last report, early new crop positions have reverted to a discount with later deliveries; we look for Novembers to run back to 10 or 20 points under January later on.

Business in the fine count section remains at a low ebb and numerous reports of mills curtailing production are coming to hand. We are still some way off the crop movement, otherwise this state of affairs would operate more strongly as a market factor; at the moment, as mentioned earlier, it is rather outweighed by anticipations of scare reports between now and the date when the crop can be considered safe. We are still inclined to lean to the "bull" side for a short view, but in stating this we consider that the position is such that operations should be confined to minor quantities.

Upper Contract.—Only a moderate business has transpired in this option during the past week and little change in the level has to be recorded. Trade reports reveal rather more business, and this has been backed up by fairly consistent trade purchases of both spot and forward cotton. Crop reports continue in the main satisfactory and picking is now general. Early lots are beginning to arrive down in Alexandria, and receipts from now on should begin to show larger figures. For the immediate future prices will probably be governed by the action of the American market; we should not care, however, to follow any decided upward movement unless due to a material increase in trade purchases or to reports of crop deterioration from the American staple districts.

Egyptian Spot.—Business during the past week has been of a somewhat patchy description, and at one time, indeed, the inquiry practically faded away altogether; nevertheless, sales have been well up to those reported last week and values have remained remarkably steady with a tendency towards higher levels. Spinners have shown little enthusiasm as buyers, and there is no doubt that our "fine" trade is experiencing difficult times. Manchester reports, however, have lately sounded a more optimistic note, and it may well be that a general improvement is nearer than we anticipate.

Crop reports from Egypt are still very favourable, and in a short time now we should be receiving some early shipment of Upper cotton. The local inquiry has not been remarkable for any new feature. Sakel has been rather more to the front, and the difficulty found in supplying suitable staple cotton has been reflected in the advancing quotations. The demand for Upper has fallen off somewhat, but there is still a fair general inquiry about, for practically all grades, but chiefly as before, for the pass to 50 on cotton. Pilon has been in fair request at from 14½d. to 15d., but the more or less popular growths, such as White, etc., have been neglected. Sudan Sakel has moved off quietly, but no weight of business has transpired. There has been some slight improvement in the offtake for Tokar Sakel. A line of some 2,000 bales of American Seed Sudan changed hands on one occasion.

C.i.f. business has been very stagnant, but spinners have taken slightly more interest in new crop offers. Forwardings to the trade for the week ending the 24th inst. were returned as 6,683 bales Egyptian and 1,155 bales Sudan. Estimated sales, 2,700 bales Egyptian and 2,610 bales Sudan. Quotations of Sakel show a net advance of 40 points, those of Upper and Pilon 10 points. F.G.F. Sakel to-day, 19.05d. F.G.F. Upper to-day, 12.60d. F.G.F. Pilon to-day, 14.35d.

THE EGYPTIAN MARKET.

The Alexandria Commercial Company, in their report for the week ended August 23, state:—

The market during the past week has been fairly active; the tone has been rather better. The week's summary of price movements is as follows:—Sakellaridis: November, 36.63 dollars, 1.24 dollars up; January, 36.74 dollars, 1.44 dollars up. Ashmouni: October, 23.35 dollars, 0.34 dollars up; December, 23.68 dollars; 0.38 dollars

up; February, 24.03 dollars, 0.38 dollars up.

Sakellaridis.—A considerably better feeling has been manifest this week, but it is hard to find any local reason for it. The demand has not shown any improvement, and there has been very little commercial buying. With no new material factors one might reasonably expect that the fluctuations would reflect the current rumours, but in the present instance such has not been the case; the rumour in the market this week has been to the effect that the acreage now being prepared for Sakellaridis in the Sudan will show a large increase, but this rumour has not had any depressing effect. The Sakellaridis Ashmouni straddle has widened out to 1,328 points, against 1,238 points a week ago.

Uppers.—Prices have fluctuated within narrow limits, and this variety has not shared in the rise shown by Sakellaridis. The demand does not show any improvement, spinners still maintaining their holding-off policy; the amount of new crop business concluded, so far, is very small and in this respect this season must be one of the poorest on record. We confirm our opinion that Uppers at present prices do not seem unreasonable, and we do not look for much decline in values, unless American prices break badly.

The Government have notified the institution of a scheme for financing the crops of small growers, similar to the scheme which was in operation a couple of years back. They agree to advance £E5 per kantar Sakellaridis and £E3½ per kantar Ashmouni F.G.F. upwards, at 4 per cent. per annum interest; the advances will be limited to 500 kantars for any one individual and the period four months with a conditional extension of another four months. The publication of the scheme had no effect on the market, but the firm tone may perhaps be attributed to a belief that the scheme is the forerunner of further Government intervention if occasion demands.

Spot: Total sales amount this week to about 4,000 bales, of which we estimate 2,000 bales Sakellaridis, 1,900 bales Ashmouni and Zagora, and 100 bales other varieties.

Sakellaridis: There has been rather less activity during the week under review. The demand for Fully Good Fair/Good and Good mentioned in our last report is still maintained, but buyers are not anxious to force up the premiums, and the business transacted has not been large. Any lots of medium grade appearing on the market find a ready sale. There is still some demand for low grade cotton, but this also is somewhat scarce. On the whole spot differences remain about unchanged.

Ashmouni and Zagora: The demand in these varieties showed a considerable falling off during the early part of the week but has revived again to-day. Spot differences remain about unchanged. One or two lots of new crop cotton from the south have made their appearance on the market, and have changed hands at about market premiums. It is much too early to give any opinion as to the quality of the crop.

Other Varieties: There has been a small business in White at about last week's differences.

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Improved Arrangements.

It is expected that the change-over by the P. and O. Company in the coming autumn season to new territory in the southern branch of Tilbury Dock will be found to present considerable advantages. Berths for the ships are provided at a quay, 2,200 feet in length, immediately adjacent to and in direct line with the new lock. Along the whole length of this quay will run a platform for the arrival and dispatch of the special trains by which passengers are conveyed from or to London.

In a central position, adjacent to the steamer berths, are the new dock offices of the company, which include a large and well-appointed waiting-room for passengers. In addition there are motor parking places, approached by a broad, well-surfaced road which has been laid down by the Port of London Authority between the main gates and the P. and O. Quay. This road will give easy access to the ships for motor lorries, whose loading and discharge will be accelerated by the greater convenience of the new site, and for cars conveying passengers from town or which may be sent to the dock for shipment abroad. The new quays are of great width and are equipped with sufficient numbers of the most modern types of electric cranes.

The directors of the company take the view that their share of the considerable expenditure on these arrangements will be justified by the great consequent gain in convenience to both passengers and shippers.

Seventy-five of London's mammoth double-deck, eight-ton omnibuses are being fitted with Dunlop pneumatic tyres as a result of the British Government's decision to encourage the use of pneumatic tyres on commercial vehicles in order to save the roads and lessen the noise of traffic. If the experiment proves successful, London's whole fleet of 5,000 omnibuses is expected to be fitted with pneumatic tyres.

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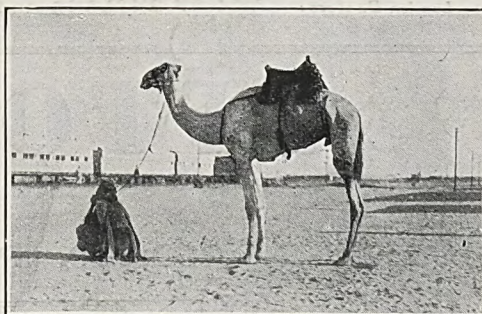
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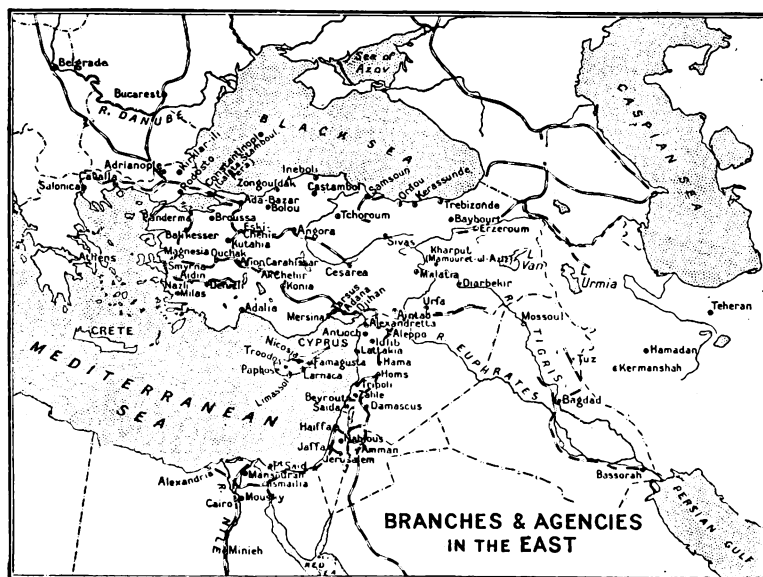
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THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 1928.

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Notes of the Week.

Albania and Her Neighbours.

The change in the status of Albania from a republic to a monarchy has been effected without any untoward incident in the country, and has evoked correct and adequate interest abroad. King Zogu has been the recipient of formal congratulations from the majority of the heads of neighbouring States including, notably, a message from the Greek President. The Government at Belgrade alone seems to have gone out of its way to show pique, and thus remains consistent in its mishandling of the relations between the two countries. Turkey, to judge from Press references, is inclined to be peevish; but this attitude may possibly be a reaction to the previous interest shown in the constitutional change in Albania, as a result of a suggestion originating from foreign sources that Mustapha Kemal Pasha might follow Ahmed Beg Zogu's example. The likelihood of any such step on the President's part is roundly denied, and there is no reason to doubt the genuineness of the denial. A greater contrast could hardly be afforded in personal character than that between King Zogu and the Ghazi. The loneliness of the former was complete and will hardly be emphasized by such regal aloofness as his new status imposes; to Mustapha Kemal Pasha companionship would seem to be the wine of life, and his popularity is due in no small measure to a happy faculty for identifying with himself, in the first place, his immediate associates and, secondly, the nation as a whole in all that emanates from his own commanding personality for the development of Turkey. The conditions in the two countries are different, and it may be that King Zogu, who is equally concerned for the advancement of Albania, is sincere in his conviction that the work can be more easily done from the vantage position of a throne than, as it were, down among his people with his coat off.

Great Britain and Albania.

It would be a tactful adjunct to Great Britain's recognition of the new status of Albania if the opportunity were taken of removing the British Legation to Tirana. There

are nine Legations at the capital including those of France, Germany and Italy; but the British Minister still has to reside at Durazzo, where steps have yet to be taken to drain the marshes behind the town, which are responsible for its malarial conditions.

Peace Pacts in the Balkans.

A formal pact of non-aggression and friendship between Italy and Greece, the negotiations for which are reported to have been completed, would have redounded more to the honour and glory of Italy, if the strictly disciplined Italian Press had indulged in less cynical remarks about the Kellogg Pact for the outlawing of war. The value of the latter lies in the fact that it marks the formal renunciation of a policy of sabre-rattling of which Italy has been the chief exponent since the War. The signatories of the Kellogg Pact have pledged themselves, in effect, not to indulge in Italy's "Corfu" tactics, when differences with other countries arise, but to seek a settlement through diplomatic means. For the general peaceful conduct of the world's affairs, it is far more important that Italy should subscribe wholeheartedly and with conviction to this international convention than that she sign a pact with a single country. In spite, however, of the Italian gibes at the attempt to make war "bad form" among civilised nations the Pact with Greece will certainly give a stimulus to similar agreements among the Balkan States. Already the Yugoslav Government has informed Greece that it is prepared to re-open negotiations with a view to the settlement of the questions pending between the two countries, and Greece in turn has been able to use her recent change of Government as an occasion to inform Turkey of her wish to settle outstanding points at issue and thus to facilitate a closer *rapprochement* between Angora and Athens. In this way we may hope before long to find all the States of South-Eastern Europe pledged to be at peace with and to behave properly towards one another, and they may then have occasion to turn their attention to the establishment of peace at home. It is a curious inversion of what might be expected as the natural sequence of events that a nation should show any anxiety

to be at peace with others when it is a complete stranger to peace within itself. The relations of Serbs and Croats, Roumanians and Transylvanians, Venizelists and anti-Venizelists will seemingly await a permanently satisfactory adjustment after the relations of Yugoslavia, Roumania and Greece among themselves and with their Balkan neighbours leave little to be desired. The order of procedure, however, is of less importance than that peace within and without should be established. By a curious irony of events Italy would now seem to be furthering this good cause.

The Bulgarian Crisis.

The Ministerial crisis in Bulgaria is not proving an easy problem to solve. Opinion in the Democratic Entente forming the Government's majority is divided on the merits or demerits of General Volkoff, as was shown by the action of three-sevenths of the deputies in declaring, immediately after the Government resigned, that they would not support any Cabinet that did not contain General Volkoff at the Ministry of War. In these circumstances it is not surprising that M. Liaptcheff has not succeeded in his first attempt to reconstruct his Cabinet. His solution appears to have been to omit both M. Bouroff and General Volkoff; but the former also has his friends and followers, and these, as the Populist Party, refused their support, if M. Bouroff were not given a portfolio. In the meantime General Volkoff does not seem inclined to lie down under the charges brought against him and the Army of allowing their personal feelings to interfere with the performance of their duty. That there is the possibility of serious trouble in the country over this charge is to be inferred from the speech delivered by King Boris at the Shipka Pass celebrations towards the end of August. When his Majesty spoke, the crisis had not come to a head, but the King was constrained to make a serious appeal to his troops for unity and self-denial in the interests of the country as a whole. The Anglo-French *démarche* would appear to have troubled the political waters of Bulgaria in a way that was not foreseen by the authors and can hardly be according to their wishes.

The Sultan of Muscat.

The history of Muscat, whose Sultan, Taimur bin Faisal, begins his stay in Great Britain as the official guest of the nation on September 15, is but vaguely known to the majority of the British people, although this country has for nearly three centuries been intimately connected

with the fate of the torrid country to which our distinguished visitor belongs. For a time Muscat was in the hands of the Portuguese, who laid the foundations of so considerable an Empire in the East. Owing, however, to their mismanagement, to the counter-efforts of the British, and to the possession of a remarkable series of native rulers, Muscat finally succeeded in obtaining its independence. And the independence, it may be remarked, is now a far more complete thing than the independence of the places in the Persian Gulf, such as Bahrain or Kowait. The Sultan of Muscat and Oman, whose territories face both east and south, is in name and in fact a sovereign independent ruler. With the later history of Muscat, particularly with its relation to the suppression of slave-trading and arms-traffic in the Gulf, most people are tolerably familiar. To a certain extent, its importance in the scheme of things in the Gulf has disappeared, for international competition therein, which at the close of the last century and in the early years of the present, attained a degree of sharpness that it may possibly never again reach, has now largely vanished. The centre of rivalries has in fact shifted northwards from the Gulf to Teheran and Baghdad. This State of Muscat and Oman still holds, nevertheless, very considerable importance to the British Empire, and it is to be hoped that the Sultan, during his stay here, will fittingly be made aware of the very real friendship between this country and his own State that a community of interests inevitably promotes.

Oman as Air Post.

For Oman is of very potent importance in connexion with the Imperial Air Route to the East. It is true that the route through Southern Persia, which Imperial Airways have now succeeded in establishing, is the most convenient for normal purposes; but circumstances are conceivable in which that route would not be possible. For that emergency Oman could fulfil a dual function. For Muscat, on the one hand, could be used as an intermediary station for aeroplanes between Basrah, Bahrain, and Baluchistan; and Dhufar, the resort on the Indian Ocean, where the Sultan stays during the summer months, would be of primary importance to the airship route between Aden and Karachi. In the long view, therefore, the State of Muscat and Oman may be held potentially to be destined to play a considerable part in the development of Imperial communications with the East. Nor, in recording the fact that this State of Muscat and Oman is now so well prepared, in the sentimental sense, to fall in with possible Imperial necessities, should one forget the wisdom of its present ruler, and the aptitude with which he has availed himself of the advice of certain British officials, notably Mr. Bertram Thomas.

Persia and the League.

The election of Persia as a member of the Council of the League of Nations is an important tribute to the new order in that country and an event of some significance, we may hope, in the affairs of the Middle East. It places the seal of European, or world, recognition on the political progress which Persia has made under the enlightened influence and driving power of Shah Pahlavi, and it should stimulate interest in the League among those Eastern nations which still remain outside its ranks. The Persian example must indeed give the Turkish Republic furiously to think, for it has been inclined hitherto to affect indifference to the League of Nations as a European "close corporation," or to consider that Turkey's adhesion is only to be secured at the price of a permanent seat on the Council. Persia has chosen the better part, and has reaped her reward. With her presence on the Council she has enhanced her own position in the Asiatic Triple Entente which is slowly crystallising between Turkey, Persia and Afghanistan; and another result should be a desire to regulate all outstanding questions between herself and Iraq.

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THE ESSENCE OF INSURANCE IS SECURITY.

Air Days and Airways.

The return flight from India in four and a half days of Captain C. D. Barnard and Flying Officer E. C. Alliott in their Fokker-Jupiter monoplane, and the flight from Croydon to Bucharest in twelve hours and twenty minutes of Flight-Lieutenant Scholefield in a Vickers Vivid machine are two events in the air history of last week that cannot fail to stir the imagination. They formed a picturesque setting to the annual meeting of Imperial Airways Limited, at which the Chairman, Sir Eric Geddes, gave an interesting review of the future of civil aviation, as envisaged by that Company. The new agreement with the British Government provides for a weekly service between England and India, with most modern aircraft, having a carrying capacity of from one and a half to two tons, and, as traffic develops, it is intended to make the service a bi-weekly one. The London-Karachi service, however, is regarded only as a first instalment towards the ultimate establishment of services on a commercial basis between London and Australia, as well as between London and Cape Town. It is in the development of these Empire routes that the mission of Imperial Airways Limited clearly lies. To this end it is essential that the Company should maintain services over the Mediterranean, a section of the main Empire route which hitherto has been left—as many think at too great a risk—in abeyance. Sir Eric Geddes referred to a new type of seaplane, which, it was hoped would promote a vast extension of flying to many outlying parts of the Empire. The marine side of civil aviation has lagged behind the land side, but this year the Air Ministry has made notable strides in the former direction and Imperial Airways contemplate “in the near future” the tackling of the problem of the long oversea flight from Singapore to Australia.

Aviation on a Commercial Basis.

There was one passage in Sir Eric Geddes' speech of special interest in regard to the air routes of Europe and Hither Asia. In the development of civil flying, he said, there would seem to be two more or less incoherent schools of thought—one which regards high figures of aeroplane miles flown, machines in existence and pilots trained yearly, and looks at a map with aeroplane routes spider-webbed across it and says, ‘That’s fine,’ and the other the mind which looks to the commercial development of flying and its ultimate independence of subsidy. The British Government is undoubtedly adopting the second mental outlook—and, he added, “by far the wiser, if we are looking at civil aviation commercially and not as a means of development of an auxiliary military arm, nor as a means of peaceful penetration into other countries.” The allusion is obvious. In many directions it seems a matter for regret at first sight that British commercial aviation should have been anticipated by the companies of other countries; but closer investigation will show that these routes are being carried on at a substantial loss. The end may justify the means; but it is at least possible that the tortoise will again outdistance the hare. In the long run the company, or country, which resolutely sets its face against anything short of the highest efficiency and insists on the constant scrapping of old types for improved makes will reap the advantage.

INDIAN NOTES.

The Beginning of the End.

The decision of the Madras Legislative Council to co-operate with the Simon Commission would seem to mark the beginning of the end of the foolish boycott movement. The Punjab, Burma, Assam, Bengal, Bihar and Orissa, Bombay and Madras have now all appointed Committees to co-operate with the Commission. Only the United Provinces and the Central Provinces are still standing out; and it is to be hoped that, following the good example of Madras, these two Councils will soon reverse their pre-

vious unwise decisions. The Swarajists in the Madras Council followed their customary silly practice of walking out of the Council Chamber when they find themselves in a minority. They have also threatened the Council with the High Court. But nothing very serious is likely to come of this move. It may be expected to end as ineffectively as did a somewhat similar attempt which was made in Bengal a few years ago. In the meantime the leaders of the boycott are evidently beginning to recognise that they are steadily losing ground in the country. For it is reported that their latest proposal is to petition the Viceroy to dissolve the Assembly, so that they may invite their constituencies to choose between their policy of boycott, and the decision of the provincial legislatures to co-operate. This would appear to be merely an attempt to hide the collapse of the boycott in the confusion of a general election. For there is no valid reason why there should be a dissolution just now, and there are several good reasons against it. The fact is, of course, that the promoters of the boycott have never really represented anybody but themselves. By organising a whirlwind agitation they obtained for the time being a certain measure of support for their proposal. But nothing could for long disguise the futility of throwing away the opportunity which was offered by the Commission. And now that there has been time for reflexion it is being realised throughout the country that it is only by co-operation that progress can be made towards representative institutions.

The Simla Session.

Earlier expectations that the usual short autumn session of the Central Legislature, which opened at Simla last week, would prove comparatively uneventful have speedily been belied. The return of the political leaders fresh from their Pyrrhic victory at Lucknow has already infused abundant animation into the proceedings of the Legislative Assembly. And the eleventh-hour decision of the Government of India to introduce several important official measures, which, however justifiable on grounds of expediency, are bound to excite considerable controversy, has served further to confound the prophets. A year ago, it will be recalled, the Viceroy opened the session with an eloquent appeal to the members of both Houses for Hindu-Muslim concord. This year there was no ceremony but the significance of the fact that one of the earliest replies to questions showed that the casualties from communal riots continue steadily to grow was doubtless not lost upon the responsible leaders of the parties. The pending legislation includes the Bill for the investigation and settlement of trade disputes; a Bill to penalise the authors of statements made with the intention of interfering, or likely to interfere, with peaceful relations with foreign countries, and a Bill for the protection of the Indian watch industry. Leave has been given for the introduction of all these measures, the passage of which seems assured although, except in the case of the last, it is likely to be a stormy one. The first breezes occurred when the Home Member moved for leave to introduce the Public Safety Bill. Although, as Mr. Creras said, if ever there was a case for co-operation of all well-wishers of India, English and Indian, it was provided by this attempt to combat the Communist menace, the obstructionist tactics of Pandit Motilal Nehru and his friends with the aid of a “responsive” President of the Assembly at the time of writing have succeeded in holding up the measure. At the same time the need for action is so widely recognised in moderate circles that it is difficult to believe that the good sense of the Assembly will not ultimately prevail. As was anticipated last week the sponsors of the Nehru-Sapru report have decided to withdraw their resolution in favour of acceptance of the Draft Constitution. Following the emphatic repudiation by all the leading Muslim leaders of the principle of joint electorates the Congress party's action shows that it is not prepared to withstand the opposition which the resolution would undoubtedly have encountered in the Legislature from the many parties unrepresented at Lucknow.

THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA.

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THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 1928.

THE BULGARIAN CRISIS.

There would seem to be too many ingredients in the Ministerial crisis that has broken out in Bulgaria for it to be a sign of ordinary healthy development. M. Liaptcheff has been in power for two and a half years, and this period is, perhaps, above the average for the life of a Bulgarian Cabinet. The peculiar circumstances of the country, however, in particular the fact that it is in the middle of negotiations for a loan under the auspices of the League of Nations, rendered it desirable that the Government should be free from domestic complications for the moment, in order to be able to impress Geneva with the measure of stability that two or more years' of office can be held to connote. The divisions that have for some time challenged the unity of M. Liaptcheff's Ministry have, therefore, chosen an inopportune moment for coming to a head. The crisis has followed too close upon the Anglo-French *démarche* of August 12 to allow it to be regarded as wholly unconnected with that unusual step on the part of two friendly foreign Governments. It would be, however, a mistake to exaggerate the part played by this step in the subsequent course of events in Bulgaria. The accepted version of what has actually happened is that, on the strength of the Anglo-French suggestion that the time was ripe for vigorous measures to be adopted against the Macedonian Revolutionary Organisation, whose activities are a menace to the security of neighbouring States and to the peace of the Balkan Peninsula, the section of the Cabinet that favoured drastic methods of suppression found its policy thwarted by General Volkoff, Minister for War. It appealed, therefore, to the Prime Minister to have General Volkoff removed. The Minister for War, however, resented the insinuation that either he or the Army had allowed personal feelings to interfere with the discharge of their duty, and refused to lend colour to the accuracy of the charge by resigning. On the particular point raised by him, General Volkoff appears to command no small measure of sympathy in the country. Confronted, however, by the resignation of three of his Ministers, M. Liaptcheff had no alternative to placing the resignation of the whole Cabinet in the hands of the King. The latter in agreeing to the reconstruction of the Ministry without General Volkoff would not necessarily endorse all the charges brought against his late Minister of War. The interests of the country are above all personal considerations, and at the present time those interests call urgently for some measure of continuity in the handling of the loan negotiations.

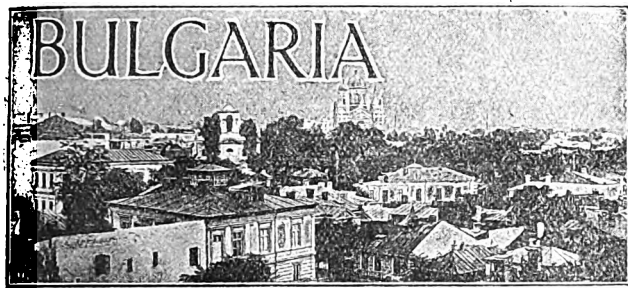
An unfortunate feature of the crisis is that it should have reproduced the features of a previous attempt a few months ago to force M. Liaptcheff out of office. The

challenge came then from M. Tsankoff, the previous Prime Minister and now President of the Sobranie, who has been at no pains to disguise his view that the time has come for his return to power, and the resignation of one of his followers in the Cabinet was intended to force the issue. This time M. Tsankoff's "hand" would seem to have been played by M. Bouroff, the able Foreign Minister, whose careful and correct steering of Bulgaria's foreign relations under M. Liaptcheff's captaincy has been of considerable service to the country. In the demand for the removal of General Volkoff, M. Bouroff and M. Tsankoff have acted in close co-operation, and it is noticeable that the resignations which finally forced M. Liaptcheff to lay down his office were those of two of his most expert helpers, the Minister of Commerce and the Minister of Agriculture. In these circumstances it must be supposed that there are wheels within wheels in the crisis. It would certainly be unfortunate if the action taken by the British and French Governments—no doubt, with the best intentions—can be shown to have reacted on party politics in Bulgaria to the extent of weighting the scales against one political group or another, and so creating bitterness against the Powers that will be held guilty of interference in the domestic affairs of the country. In the background remains the sinister shadow of the Macedonian Revolutionary Organisation. The view of the British and French Governments appears to have been that that body was momentarily paralysed by the quarrels between rival leaders and factions. If the Bulgarian Cabinet became divided as the result of a controversy over the accuracy of the Anglo-French diagnosis, there will be considerable support for those Ministers who held that the diagnosis was entirely wrong. As far as can be judged from outside, the Organisation has achieved greater unanimity and driving force than it has possessed for some time, as a result of the victory of Mihailoff over his rivals and his known propensity for an active terrorist policy. Those whom he has dispossessed of power may be biding their time, but their only opportunity lies in a continuance of the bloodshed which constitutes such a scandal in Europe of to-day. Any action by the Bulgarian Government against these disturbers of international peace must now inevitably be more conspicuous as a result of the Anglo-French *démarche* and may, therefore, be expected to find Mihailoff on his guard and more than ever resolved to seek defence in embroiling Bulgaria with her neighbours.

In the circumstances it is, perhaps, unfortunate that the British Parliament is not in session to afford the Government an opportunity of explaining the situation that gave rise to the Anglo-French *démarche*, with its critical developments for Bulgaria. It would argue an ignorance of Balkan affairs that cannot be charged to either Government to suppose that the Macedonian Question can be solved by drastic action against a few leaders. In the first place, all the indications, before the representations were made at Sofia, pointed to the consolidation of power in the hands of the extremist Mihailoff. Secondly, even if the so-called Moderates could be supposed to be gaining ground, they differed from their rivals only in the degree to which personal assassination should be employed as a means to achieve the common aim. They had shown no signs of modifying that aim, the emancipation of Macedonia from alien, primarily Serbian, rule. If, therefore, the object in view was to eliminate the Macedonian Question from European politics, it was essential that some steps should be taken simultaneously to ensure for the rank and file of Macedonians in South Serbia relief from the grievances which keep the Macedonian Question alive. With the Croat evidence before it of what Serbian domination entails, Europe cannot pretend that the solution of the Macedonian problem is to be found in representations in Sofia alone. If, therefore, an occasion was supposed to be provided for grappling with the problem, it is to be regretted that a more comprehensive effort was not made.

*The Near and Middle East

From Our Own Correspondents.



Sofia, September 4.

The Peace Pact.

No country is more alive to the blessings of peace than Bulgaria after her six years of disastrous war. When, therefore, the invitation was given her, in common with other States, great and small, to adhere to the Kellogg Pact against war, public opinion was unanimous in endorsing immediate signature by the Bulgarian Government. In referring to the subject, M. Liaptcheff, Prime Minister, said: "We rejoice sincerely in every step taken by America that brings her nearer to Europe. We appreciate above all the conclusion of the Kellogg Pact as a fresh manifestation of this drawing together, and Bulgaria adheres to it joyfully."

Mr. Bouroff, Minister for Foreign Affairs, spoke at greater length. "Although the Anti-War Pact," he said, "is more in the nature of a moral manifestation in favour of peace, it constitutes nevertheless an important step in this direction. Enterprises of this significance have always to be preceded by considerable moral preparation, without which their practical realization would be difficult, if not impossible. Considered in this light, the Kellogg Pact possesses all the importance of a very weighty international act."

The Bulgarian Press was equally favourable in its reception of the Pact, and pointed out that the countries that had been weakened and disarmed as a result of the Great War must necessarily repose greater hopes in it than other countries and look to it as a further guarantee of their security and of a brighter future.

The Bulgarian Army.

The three days, August 26, 27 and 28, were devoted to military celebrations on the southern slopes of the Balkan Range, not far from Kazanlik in the historic Shipka Pass, the scene for three days and three nights of the heroic defence of 1877 by the Legion of Bulgarian Volunteers, until the arrival of the Russian army, against the Turkish forces under Suleiman Pasha. The celebrations constituted an imposing ceremony in commemoration of the War of Liberation on the occasion of its fiftieth anniversary.

In order to enhance the significance of the ceremony King Boris made use of it to announce the promotion to the grade of sub-lieutenant of the pupils of the highest class of the Military School. His Majesty concluded the celebration by delivering an important address bearing on matters which have been the subject of rumours in regard to the Bulgarian Army. After a reference to the hard work undergone by the soldiers in barracks, King Boris continued: "The privations which mark the existence of our army, as well as the onerous conditions of existence of our State must not check our aspiration towards an ever greater perfection. Let a high moral, an iron discipline and careful preparation—three precious things which, thanks to the qualities of the Bulgarian, we can

certainly cultivate—replace things of less value which from a material point of view we now lack. . . . Now more than ever Bulgaria has need of an army, solid, unanimous and united around its leaders, who conscious of its high and important destiny, constitute a safe and devoted shield against every danger, a powerful support, under the protection of which the State and the Nation can quietly and by creative work realize their progress in every direction and prepare better days for future Bulgarian generations. I know well the valiant Bulgarian officers, with whom I am linked not only by ties of service, but also by the memory of joys and sorrows lived together. They have given proofs of their love and of their devotion without limit to the Fatherland, and I am sure that, far from all pernicious impulses which are incompatible with their career, they will know, in the future as in the past, how to keep pure and intact their spirit of discipline, of self denial and of disinterested service for their country, which we all cherish and for which we are all ready to submit to every sacrifice in order to see it prosperous, happy and great. Firmly convinced that the Bulgarian officers understand, as it behoves them, their military duty and that, working in silence, but with self-denial, for the uplift of the Army, they are following the good road of the most faithful and the most devoted service to the interests of the nation and of the State, I believe in the strength and the union of our National Army as well as in the brilliant future of our dear Country."

September 6.

The Ministerial Crisis.

Recent agitated activities in Ministerial circles came to a head yesterday when M. Liaptcheff, Prime Minister, who, it was obvious had not fully recovered from his indisposition, announced in the Sobranie his intention to hand in the resignation of the Cabinet to the King. His statement was to the effect that the necessity of filling the vacancy in the Ministry of Railways caused by the resignation of M. Gheorgieff some months ago afforded him an opportunity of giving full liberty to the Sovereign to enter into direct contact with the representatives of all political currents in the country. It has, however, long been an open secret that trouble in the Cabinet has arisen over the Macedonian question. General Volkoff is regarded by some of his colleagues as an obstacle to the taking of drastic measures by the Government against the Revolutionary Organisation. In a communication to the Liberal organ *Nezavisimost* the Minister of War repudiates the suggestion that, on the strength of the Anglo-French representations to the Bulgarian Government, he ought to withdraw from the Cabinet. He declares that the alleged pressure is a pure fabrication, and would, moreover, be highly damaging to the country. He adds that he and the Army have always done their duty and he challenges any Minister to quote a single instance when the Army has refused to render assistance asked of it. Any doubt on this points would destroy the moral of the Army. For this reason he had refused to resign, and he would con-

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tinue to the bitter end, to protect the Bulgarian Army from the danger of party spirit.

The issue of the *Nezavisimost* was confiscated for publishing this statement, although it divulged little that was not common knowledge.

After leaving the Sobranye M. Liaptcheff repaired to the Palace, where he handed to King Boris the resignation of the Cabinet. His Majesty sent at once for M. Tzankoff as President of the Sobranye, and afterwards received M. Malinoff, leader of the Democrat Party. This morning audiences have been given to M. Kostourkoff, Secretary of the Radical Party, and M. Pastoukhoff, Socialist leader.

The difficulties of the situation may be inferred from the fact that 72 of the 172 members of the Democratic Entente have signed a declaration that they will remain in the Government majority only on condition that General Volkoff has a seat in the new Cabinet.

CYPRUS.

August 21.

The Proposed Loan.

There is much speculation as to what will be the gain to Cyprus should Sir Ronald Storrs succeed in carrying out his good intentions for a loan of £500,000, and other projects. Plenty of advice is offered by writers in the Press. While manifold needs are discussed, in their suggested order of importance, all agree in placing an increase of water supplies as unquestionably the foremost requirement, to which all others are subsidiary. Such, indeed, has rightly been the opinion of all authorities. Take, for instance, one of the many reports of experts who have visited, and dwelt on, island capabilities—those of Professor Wyndham Dunstan, who, a quarter of a century ago, came out to report on cotton-growing prospects. He found the industry decadent, and the methods primitive. "Given," he says, "an adequate supply of water, and improved cultivation this industry could be made the foundation of prosperity for the island." This relates to only one branch of agriculture. Other experts have similarly stated that by an increase of water supply not only could cereal productiveness be rapidly doubled, but also a vast field could be opened for the profitable sale of live-stock, fruits, vegetables; that, in fine, upon the solution of the irrigation problem depends the future prosperity of an island which lives by agriculture. If large sums are to be spent on roads and harbours, without such corresponding increase of wealth and productiveness, it will be throwing money into the sea, or building upon sand.

British Empire Forestry.

The Principal Forest Officer, Dr. A. H. Unwin, is having a year of strenuous activity. In addition to heavy office work, and a Blue Book report, he has had to deal with that of the Forest Committee of last year. To this has been added correspondence in connexion with the British Empire Forestry Conference, as a member of which Dr. Unwin is now on his way to Australia, by the Orient Liner Orama, as representative of Palestine and Cyprus. In May last he visited Palestine to inspect the forests and examine the important work that has been carried on there under the Mandate. While there he was able to ascend Mt. Hermon (Jebel esh Sheikh), 10,000 ft. He will be on duty leave from September 15 to November 28. During his absence, Mr. G. N. Sale, Assistant Conservator of Forests, will act for him.

Passport Irregularities.

It has been ascertained that frauds of various kinds have been occurring in connexion with the issue of passports and false certificates regarding British Nationality since November 1914, when Cyprus became a British Colony, and resident Cypriots became British subjects,

with certain exceptions. Cases of personation have occurred. In some cases Cypriots have personated relatives living in Egypt. The Police of Nicosia are busily engaged in hunting down offenders and are on the tracks of suspected persons. As there seem to be not a few, inquiries may be protracted. An official of the lower grade, who was employed in connexion with the issue of passports, has been dismissed.

Miscellaneous News.

The Legislative Council during its last sittings has considered various useful draft laws. Some of the more important have been reserved for next session. The Council has been prorogued *sine die*.

The gathering of olives has been proceeding and that of carobs (locust beans) has begun. The yield of the latter should be good, and prices are so far favourable.

Game is said to be plentiful. Under this head are included red-legged partridges, some francolins, hares, and, in a cold winter, woodcock, and some snipe.

TRANS-JORDAN.

Amman, August 25.

Parliament.

Preparations for the elections are in progress. Government departments have been asked to assist by lending as many of their officials as can be spared, and it is hoped that Parliament will be ready to begin its labours in November. There has been a good deal of talk of boycotting the elections, but it remains to be seen whether the attraction of an easily earned salary will not induce representatives to stand for the various constituencies. The total number of elected members will be 16, and the salary £180 a year.

Harvest.

Crops on the whole have been better than was at one time expected, but in certain districts, especially round Tafleeh and west of Madeba, they have been so bad that the Government revenue from this source has been practically nil. There is no doubt that a good deal of blame for this condition of affairs must fall on the farmers themselves. They know that the local grain is diseased and yet have not the initiative to co-operate in order to purchase fresh grain from abroad. The Government could certainly assist, and may experiment with a Moroccan grain that has apparently been sown with success in Palestine, where conditions are very similar.

The advent of another tobacco and cigarette factory, Karaman, Dik and Salty, of Haifa, which has opened a branch in Amman, will further strengthen the position of the cultivation of tobacco. The Sharabati company have certain areas under tobacco, and the newcomers will have to cultivate locally also, if they wish to compete for the cheap cut tobacco trade which represents at least two-thirds of Trans-Jordan's consumption. The Government are very wisely assisting the growing of tobacco by collecting no taxes for two years on the crops. A cheap local tobacco on the market is the best means of stopping the contraband trade from Syria, and it is said that 75 per cent. of this trade has been effectively killed since the opening last December of the first factory.

The grape harvest has been satisfactory. It does not seem to be realised that there is a good opening in this direction. The Trans-Jordan grape is superior to any other grown in Palestine or Syria, and yet growers are satisfied to sell their crops for neighbouring countries to make into wine. Wine, cognac and arac are made here, but for local consumption only. Here again the Government could assist by giving a rebate of the excise duty on exported wine, and there is little doubt that such an action would increase enormously the manufacture of wine and consequently extend the acreage under vines. In certain parts it is possible to go for miles through

vineyards, such as in the Ajlun district, but very little profit is made out of them. What is not bought by merchants from Palestine, or used for local wine, is made into raisins. These are of a golden colour and delicious flavour, but until the growers will combine, and also sort out their raisins, there is practically no chance of selling them in European markets. There is an opportunity in this direction for the outlay of a little capital for starting at Salt a factory for the sorting and packing of raisins, which should prove very profitable.

The Desert Mail.

The recovery of the mails captured by bandits near Rutbah Wells from a Nairn convoy was effected within 24 hours by the declaration of a blockade of the desert on the part of Syria, Iraq and Trans-Jordan. The mail intact and the car were returned to the spot where the attack had taken place, and it is said that the bandits have made themselves distinctly unpopular by their action.

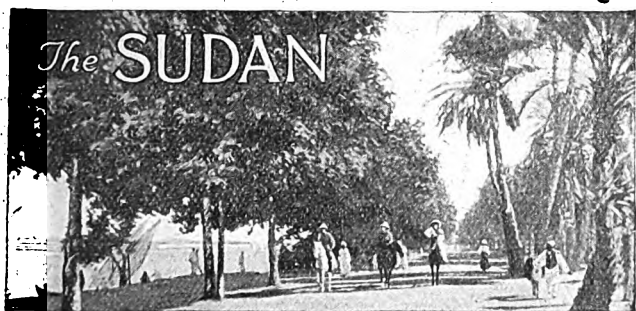
Earthquake.

Two very distinct shocks were felt in Amman at 5.45 a.m. on Sunday, August 5. No damage was done to buildings, but some of the inhabitants were greatly alarmed. On the night of August 4 and 5 there was a violent eruption on an island north of Flores, East Indies, resulting in the destruction of several villages and great loss of life, and again on August 6 there were slight shocks in Armenia. It would be interesting to know whether there is any connection between these occurrences.

General News.

Lord Plumer's departure is very much regretted here. He understood thoroughly and appreciated Trans-Jordan's difficulties, and was always most sympathetic. His position was peculiar where the interests of Palestine and Trans-Jordan were not identical. He was High Commissioner for each separately, and at times a great deal of tact must have been necessary to conciliate the points of view of the two different Governments.

Prince Talal, eldest son of the Amir Abdullah, has been in Trans-Jordan at el Hammeh on leave before going to Sandhurst. Receptions in his honour were given by the Municipality, the Arab Legion and the Arab Club.



Khartoum, August 25.

Rains.

Though it is as yet too early to feel assured that the Sudan will have the average rains of a good year, they have given sufficient promise to send the Arabs to their work of cultivation. Unlike Egypt, the Sudan remains largely dependent on rainfall, although the usual visitor to the Sudan, whose experiences rarely reach beyond the railway journey from Port Sudan or Wadi Halfa, across the northern deserts to Khartoum, might well think of the Sudan as a rainless country.

Nuers.

The Sudan may have a rough geographical entity, but, like the term India, it embraces a multitude of races, and amongst the most backward of these are the Nuers (not to be confused with the Nubas) whose witch doctors still occasionally awake the old propensities to raid cattle and

to murder. A party of Nuers have recently raided villages of their old enemies the Dinkas, about 100 miles north of Bor and then attacked a small police outpost under a native non-commissioned officer, but here they were driven off with severe loss. Reinforcements, under a British officer have been dispatched to Nassu, but the raiders cannot be brought to book until after the rainy season. The present is a re-occurrence of the turbulence in which Major Fergusson lost his life earlier in the year.

A Sudan Pioneer.

Surprise is often expressed that British residents in the Sudan look so fit when home in England, but there are few who have had so long and arduous a connexion with the Sudan and yet have left it so fit as Mr. F. W. Beddison, Controller of Stores and Workshops, Public Works Department, Khartoum, who is now on leave in England pending his retirement from the Sudan Government Service. Mr. Beddison, then in the Seaforth, entered the Sudan with the expedition of 1898, and when he left at the end of July this year was the last Government Official still surviving in the Sudan who was present at the Battle of Omdurman. From 1902 to April 1907 Mr. Beddison was a War Office official at Khartoum, he then joined the newly formed Public Works Department. He might be said to have furthered the exploitation of mechanical transport in the Sudan, but that is only one direction to which his many-sided abilities have been turned to the advantage of the country which he has so long served.

Mr. Beddison has been a prominent Freemason and is at present District Grand Junior Warden. In the early days of Khartoum he was a member of the Cathedral Building Committee and was for many years the moving spirit of the old Khartoum Rifle Club. Many will miss the ever ready assistance, official and private, of his versatile genius, but somehow or other as one bade him goodbye one felt he will not pass into the mere twilight of pensionhood, but that we shall yet have something more of his energetic personality.

The "Mutiny" of 1924 Recalled.

The retirement of El Mirali Withers Bey on his return to the British Army after completing ten years' military service in the Sudan brings to mind the so-called mutiny at Khartoum of November 1924.

Almost immediately after the Armistice, Captain Bramwell H. Withers of the Loyal Regiment joined the Egyptian Army and after a fortnight with the XIIth Sudanese was transferred to the Camel Corps and given command of No. 5 Company at Wad Medani. Not content with official duties only, he started the Boy Scout movement there, which produced the first King's Scout of Africa (native) in Patrol Leader Sid Ahmed Abdulla, who won the King's Scout badge in 1920.

Captain Withers did a great deal of police work in connexion with the building of the Sennar Dam and in particular settled without bloodshed the trouble with the imported Yamani workmen, who were subsequently evacuated. It was his patrol which captured Mohamed Said the Fiki of Singa, one of those false prophets who rise up from time to time with dreams of leading the Sudan back to the bloodshed and anarchy which the Battle of Omdurman put an end to some thirty years ago.

After being on the Darfur Patrol during 1921-1922, Capt. Withers was promoted to Kaimakan and Command of the XI. Sudanese at Talodi in the Nuba Mountains, where certain isolated hills, originally defences against Egyptian and Arab oppression, have been nothing more than the refuge of raiders and turbulent elements during

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Hon. Sec.

the British occupation. According to many the XIth Sudanese was the finest battalion in the Egyptian Army, and they showed their mettle against the lawless hillmen of their own race, especially during the latter part of 1922. In January the battalion was moved to Omdurman, and such was its good name that it was especially brought in before the conclusion of battalion training at Kerreri for Lord Allenby's inspection. The Egyptian political propaganda of 1923-1924 had no effect on the rank and file of the battalion until it was split up for special duty and a renegade officer came to the battalion under a cloud for striking a man. It is now thought that besides this man and the other two or three native officers of the two platoons brought over from Omdurman to Khartoum there were probably no more than two N.C.O.s and three men who were disloyal or had any knowledge of treasonable intentions. Moreover, they were not Nubas like the rest of the battalion; but at a time of crisis, when the Egyptian troops at Khartoum North had refused orders to entrain immediately for Egypt, and the Sudan was rife with machinations of the disloyal partner to the Condominium, the British authorities were not to know that the men were merely the ignorant pawns of two or three discontented officers.

All the men of the battalion who were present at the demonstration, or whatever it might be called, were sent back to their hills in disgrace. With subsequent evacuation of the Egyptian troops from the Sudan the native units became the Sudan Defence Force and the proud XIth Battalion, ultimately reduced to company strength, became the No. 5 Company of the Camel Corps stationed at Dilling (No. 5 Company at Wad Medani having previously been disbanded). These men, however, again showed their pluck and loyalty in those fights occasioned by lawless raiders in the Nuba Mountains, and the only Military Medal of the Sudan Defence Force was won by Nafar Kotcha Burugi of this Company for gallantry in face of the enemy.

Withers Bey became second in command of the Camel Corps and O.C. Nuba troops. In 1926 he was transferred to the command of the Equatorial Battalion, and shortly afterwards was given his final command—that of the Western Arab Corps, with the rank of Miralai, in which he completes his ten years' service in the Sudan. He received the Order of the Nile (4th Class) in 1922 and the O.B.E. this year. In Captain Withers of the Loyal Regiment the Sudan loses a distinguished officer, but fortunately what the Sudan loses the British Army regains.

ABYSSINIA.

Addis Ababa, August 21.

The Italo-Albanian Treaty.

The negotiations between Italy and Abyssinia, which have been in progress for well over a year, reached a satisfactory issue in the signing on August 2 of a Treaty of Friendship between the two countries. This treaty,

which is made for a period of twenty years, provides for a state of peace and friendship between Italy and Abyssinia, and for the submission to arbitration of all disputes, incapable of solution in the ordinary way. There is, in addition, a clause whereby the provisions of Article 7 of the French Treaty of 1908 is expressly applied to Italians in Abyssinia. This Article of the French Treaty provides for the jurisdiction of the French Consul in disputes between his subjects, and for the hearing of cases between Abyssinia and French subjects by a Special Court, composed of an Abyssinian judge and the French Consul. This provision has in fact been followed as regards all foreigners protected by a Legation in Abyssinia, but the position of all except the French depended purely on custom. The present Treaty puts the position of Italian subjects on a legal basis and it is hoped that it will not be long before the position of British subjects (who constitute commercially the most important element in the foreign community), is regularised in a similar manner.

The Port of Assab.

Further negotiations between Italy and Abyssinia have also resulted in the signature of a contract, by which Italy leases to Abyssinia at a nominal rent for 130 years land at, or near, the present port of Assab, for the construction of an Abyssinian port. At the moment this contract has not been made public; but it is understood that a road will be constructed from Assab to Dessié (in Abyssinian territory) and possibly on to Addis Ababa. In the absence of certain information as to by whom this road will be constructed, it is difficult to predict the results of this agreement. It is stated that the road from Assab to the frontier will be built by Italy, and from the frontier onwards by Abyssinia. If this is so, it is not anticipated that there will be any practical results, for it is very unlikely that Abyssinia alone will build a serviceable road through waterless and desert country, at a considerable distance from the capital. If, however, the road is to be constructed all the way by Italy, or with Italian help the agreement may well have far reaching results, especially if the road is extended to Addis Ababa.

The exact site of the intended port is to be fixed on the spot by a commission. All goods destined for the Abyssinian Government will enter free of all dues not only at the port, but also on the road. It is, however, expressly stipulated that the whole contract is subject to the observance of all existing international agreements, and thus the contract will in no way affect the present position with regard to the importation of arms.

At the present time the only practicable entrance to Abyssinia is by railway to the capital via Jibouti, and any arrangement which opens an alternative route will be for the benefit of the community generally.

According to a Central News message from Rome King Zogu's coronation has been fixed to take place on November 28, the anniversary of the declaration of Albanian independence. The ceremony will be held at Kruja, the capital under the Skanderbeg régime.

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CALCUTTA LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Calcutta, August 23.

The All-Parties Conference Report.

The comments on the All-Parties Conference Report have most of them come from your side. Speaking of it here, Sir Abdur Rahim, leader of the Muslim Party in the Bengal Legislative Council, said: "I wish to draw special attention to the international aspect of this question. The present status of India is that of a 'dependency' or a 'possession' of Britain, as if India was a huge farm or zemindary of 320,000,000 of people owned by 45,000,000 of men living thousands of miles across the sea. This is as discreditable to England as it is disgraceful to India. It is open to every nation of the world to benefit by India's resources, and all nations have their consulates here, while the doors of most countries are either barred to Indian nationals or open under the most humiliating conditions. India has no consulates of her own to promote her commercial interests anywhere."

That is a good point. A reflection that occurs to me is that, while Indian consulates throughout the world would mean an item of expenditure that now does not appear in the State Budget, the cost would no doubt be soon more than covered by the promotion of the well-being of India that would result. As much can be said for few of the items of expenditure with which the framers of constitutions would load the country. Sir Abdur Rahim passed to matters that would certainly mean greater State expenditure in more directions than one, but without a word as to how it would be covered. He said: "As regards the All-Parties Conference scheme for internal administration, its fundamental basis is adult franchise, so that no section of the people can raise any objection on the ground that it is not adequately represented. I have not had time to consider whether the scheme can be made practicable, but assuming that it can, I do not see how the representatives of any class or community can refuse to support it. If universal suffrage can be established and worked, I, for one, would say that there would be very little risk, if any risk at all, of communal majorities oppressing the minorities. For in that case real nationalism is bound to develop, and, speaking as a Muhammadan, nothing could be more congenial to the democratic ideal of Islam."

One's comment is, the word on the matter of finance having already been said, that what develop real nationalism are things nothing like as mechanical as universal suffrage. If one wants to consider how little good and what great evils might result in India from the establishment of universal suffrage, one has only to stand on the outskirts of some great crowd of mill workers, say, on the day of the Muharram, and look at it.

The Bengal Tenancy Act Amendment Bill.

The Bengal Legislative Council throughout this week, as during most of last week, has been engaged in considering the Bengal Tenancy Act Amendment Bill, clause by clause. That is to say, the Council has been making speeches, in almost every one of which occur words, the meanings of which are known in London only to such as retired Indian civilians and a few lawyers. Thus yesterday, because of the defeat of certain amendments dealing with *heba*, *waqf* and other dedications under Muhammadan law, all the Muhammadan members but two withdrew from the House. What are *heba* and *waqf* dedications? They at least are matters not suitable for this letter.

Bengal Irrigation.

One of the most interesting of recent debates in the Bengal Council had the irrigation policy of the Province for its subject. I have lying on my table the texts of the two lectures that Sir William Willcocks delivered during his recent stay in Calcutta. They are entitled, "Why is 'Cultivated Egypt Immune from Malarial Fever?' and "The Restoration of the Ancient Irrigation of Bengal."

They are documents of which more will be heard. They were, or their author was, referred to frequently in the course of the debate. Thus the Member in Charge of Irrigation is reported as having said: "Sir William Willcocks came to Bengal towards the end of January, and his lectures embodied suggestions which were the fruit of five weeks' study of some of the most complicated problems in river training in the world. Sir William's opinion on irrigation matters is entitled to respect, but it would betray a lack of proportion to consider his hastily formed impressions as anything more than mere suggestions. Sir William had not seen the Ganges in flood; he lightly proposed to put a dam across the Ganges at a cost of sixteen crores of rupees without having seen, much less studied, the river in flood." To say that Sir William Willcocks, after his years of labour in Egypt, has not seen every river in the world in flood in his mind's eye, where it is seen to much better purpose than in the physical eyes of a dull expert, is as childish a thing as could be said. I am no authority on irrigation, but I should be much inclined to back Sir William against the united voices of all the irrigation authorities in India. If, however, there is an excuse for their turning away their gaze from Sir William's proposals, in his having been in Bengal only a short time, let him be brought back; let him study the Ganges in flood. That would cost something, but if he and others to whom I have listened are right in saying that Bengal is poor largely because of malaria, and that Bengal could be cleansed of malaria as the Nile delta has been, and that the road to that cleansing is through a better and more nourishing diet for the peasantry, and that that depends on irrigation—if all that is so, then the cost of employing Sir William Willcocks for a term would soon be covered; it would be, and the sixteen crores for his Ganges dam besides.

Primary Education in Bengal.

Last mail day the Additional Inspector of Schools here gave a lecture on the primary education of the Province. A point he emphasised was that, unless the pupils are compelled to continue at school for a reasonable number of years, the additional crores that it is proposed to spend on the schools will all be wasted. According to Mr. Sen, 80 per cent. of the boys attending primary schools give up going to school after a year or two, forget the little they have learnt, and are soon illiterates again. "This," said Mr. Sen, "is the terrible waste in education." "The only remedy," the lecturer continued, "is to enforce compulsion to retain the boys for three or four years in primary schools." What good, one may ask, is schooling that lasts no longer? Things are desperately bad in matters educational in Bengal, which ought to be a sorrow to those who believe in educating the masses. I do not myself, but let that pass. I met a Bengali girl of seventeen yesterday, one of a group of families in Calcutta distinguished for capacity of all kinds. This girl spoke as good English as you would hear in any Oxford or Cambridge college, and better sense than most English men or women of twice or thrice her age. She is studying in a Calcutta college, intending later to go to Cambridge, and afterwards to be called to the Bar. She was telling me of her college life, and remarked: "How anyone is to teach most of the girls I do not know: they know no English and very little of anything else." She was right: I told her in my turn how I had once been examiner in English to the University, and what a set of duffers' papers I had had to deal with.

The Calcutta High Court on September 7 dismissed the appeal of Kazi Buzlar Rahman against his conviction on the charge of murdering Mr. G. H. W. Davies, District Magistrate at Chittagong, but a sentence of transportation for life was substituted for the death penalty in view of the mental history of the accused.

Mrs. Evangeline Lindbergh, mother of the aviator, has accepted an appointment as Visiting Professor of Chemistry at a women's college in Turkey. Mrs. Lindbergh sailed from New York on September 8 for Turkey, accompanied by Miss Alice Morrow, who will act as hostess at the college.

BOMBAY LETTER.*(From Our Own Correspondent.)**Bombay, August 25.***Bolshevik India.**

The papers recently have been constantly referring to the Communist leanings of some of our strike leaders. A certain section of the public—a very small and negligible section—has rejoiced at every new indication of the Communist "menace" and the Anglo-Indian has felt that the Government should have intervened long ago. As a prominent leader of that community has expressed it in a letter to the Press, the whole problem would be solved by arresting a few "Communists." In passing I might point out that it is exaggerating the importance of a handful of disgruntled young men to call them Communists. The arrest of a score of these "leaders" would only serve to make them more popular. Even if this could be justified, it is not the time for such repressive measures—it should have taken place a month after the strikes commenced or, better still, the same end could have been achieved by forbidding the agitators from going to affected areas. But now, when in a few days we shall see the workers throwing their leaders overboard, it would be sheer folly to resort to deportation and imprisonment. I have reason to believe that Government are contemplating a big coup and that most of the leaders will be compelled to bring their activities to a close, but I sincerely trust that Government will not repeat their mistake of 1921.

The Removal of Agitators.

Meanwhile a Bill to deal with Communist agents, called the Public Safety (Removal from India) Bill will be introduced by Government at the forthcoming session of the Assembly. The object of the Bill is to provide for power to remove those persons who are dispatched to the country for the purpose of forming organisations intended to promote and spread communistic doctrines and of creating disaffection among the masses. "It is not reasonable that these agents, the agents of Communism, if they happen to obtain an entrance into India, should be allowed to stay in India with the object of undermining the whole structure of the community. The Bill therefore is designed to provide for power to secure the removal of such persons, provided that they are not Indian British subjects or subjects of a State in India." The writer does not believe, all the same, that the Bill will go through the Assembly. A resolution passed by the R.I.M. Dock Workers' Union is important as an indication of the Indian attitude towards the persistent efforts of Communists to undermine the whole structure of the community. The resolution, which should go a long way to convince the Government that every worker is not a Communist in the making, runs as follows:—"This meeting of the R.I.M. Dock Workers' Union expresses its want of confidence and disgust at the conduct of Messrs. Jhabvala and Mirajkar, removes them from their office of Vice-president and General Secretary, as they have failed to do their duties to the Union and, moreover, have been publicly inciting the members of the Union to go on strike and become Bolsheviks."

A Boycott Meeting.

At a meeting in the Sir Cowasji Jehangir Hall on August 24, Dr. Besant, Mrs. Srinivas Iyengar and Mr. R. K. Shanmukham Chetty, who had returned from England that morning, addressed the assembly on the present situation in that country so far as India was concerned. The speakers were very pessimistic and held that there was no hope from that quarter. Sir Chimanlal Setalvad presided. Mrs. Besant who was the first speaker of the day, paid a tribute to the Bardoli peasants and said that, if Indians would only show the same spirit in asking for Swaraj, they could not be denied. Mr. Srinivas Iyengar, who received an ovation on rising to speak, said that the English were all Conservatives on one question and that

was India. He doubted the possibility of the Labour Party coming into power for some time to come and he said that, even if they did, there was no hope for India. He said that the various parties were at present not at all interested in India, but they were conducting their election campaigns. He emphasised that there was nothing in England which could be regarded as sympathetic towards Indian interests. He pointed out that there was no sincerity in English politicians. Mr. Shanmukham Chetty, once a prominent member of the Non-Brahmin Party in Madras and late Chief Whip for the Swaraj Party in the Madras Legislative Council, gave the sum and substance of his speech when he quoted the words of the poet, "Vain, vain my weary quest to find in other countries the solution which I can find in my own." The speaker declared that the chances of attaining Home Rule was as bright to-day as when Queen Victoria issued her Proclamation. Some of his impressions of England were not fit for public utterance. He said that he had sought high and low for that mythical person who, they were often told, had sympathies with the Indians—the average Englishman—but he was not able to find him. Like the other two speakers, he also stressed the fact that there was no hope in England. None of the three speakers seemed to look upon the Nehru Committee's Report with favour. There will most probably be a breach at the All-Parties Conference to be held at Lucknow on Tuesday.

The Chancellor's Farewell Address.

There was the usual large attendance at the annual convocation of the Bombay University last Tuesday when Sir Leslie Wilson delivered his farewell address as Chancellor. His speech was characterised from beginning to end by a cheerful optimism. It was a lay sermon on the dignity of labour. His Excellency suggested that a Chair of Modern History should be founded in the University and referred to the attempts at universal peace which are being made by World Powers. He pleaded for a wider outlook in life and said that it was the duty of the young students to "assist the progress of the country by disseminating among those less enlightened the most modern ideas about progress in sanitation and social reform and by helping to stamp out ignorance and superstition wherever you may meet them." Having got into his full stride, the Chancellor proceeded to his pet subject—division of labour, a subject on which he is never tired of dwelling. He advised his hearers, a good proportion of whom must have been married men and so unable to "enter life as upon a great adventure," not to look out for safe jobs with a pension at the end of them. The Chancellor proceeded to illustrate. "The Headmaster of one of the great Public Schools in England recently urged his boys to be prepared to start in any line of real work at the bottom of the ladder. A Public School-boy, he said, would make all the better railway director if he started his career by punching tickets. "And now it becomes my mournful task to wish you all goodbye and God-speed," concluded the retiring Chancellor. Sir Leslie Wilson has found himself most at home at prize distributions, annual gatherings and similar school and college functions. During the five years he has spent in this province the students have always felt that they had at the head of their University a man who was thoroughly imbued with the spirit of sympathy and understanding, who could never be guilty of the unpardonable sin of laughing at youthful aspirations. "Youth," says the Chancellor, "is nothing if not hot-headed and impatient," but he adds, "we would not have it otherwise."

In the Section of Anthropology of the British Association Conference held in Glasgow, Sir W. M. Flinders Petrie gave an account of excavation work carried out during the past two winters by the British School of Egypt on the site of Gerar, in Southern Palestine. Among the results achieved were the discovery of 11 granaries for the use of a Persian army of occupation, capable of holding enough to feed 35,000 men for two months, the latest of these dating about 457 B.C. Much gold was found dating about 1140 B.C., and the use of iron chariots, agricultural tools, and furniture by the year 1100 was confirmed. Remains of heavy iron ploughs and of furnaces in which iron was smelted and worked were unearthed. Work had been done also at Bethshelet.

CORRESPONDENCE.

The columns of THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA are open for the discussion of subjects of general interest to its readers. The publication of such letters must not be taken, however, as indicating that the views expressed by the writers are those of THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA.

THE TROUBLES OF THE SUCCESSION STATES.

To the Editor of THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA.

Sir,—I had no thought of playing the part of Ajax when I attempted last February courteously though warmly to cast some doubt as to the cogency of Mr. J. S. Barnes' reasoning on the accuracy of his facts on Hungary, Roumania, and Slovakia, nor of arousing others besides Mr. Barnes. Neither do I consider myself competent to hold the lists as protagonist of the *status quo* as opposed to the *status quo ante bellum*.

I think the readers of THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA will forgive my replying *in extenso* to Sir Graham Bower. But I did not "complain" of Hungarian propaganda nor did I "complain" that Czechoslovak officials would lose their posts. If Sir Graham Bower will re-read my letter (published February 16) he may yet appreciate the absurdity of a Slovak secession that would take the President of the Czechoslovak Republic and several members of his Cabinet besides many other Slovaks from their present duties. Fancy President Coolidge of the United States, accompanied by his Attorney-General, Mr. Sargent of Vermont, and thousands of other New Englanders seceding from the American Union. But Sir Graham Bower has so hopelessly garbled my statements that in despair I must trust the reader to do me justice.

I have enjoyed reading the temperate and courteous reply of the gentleman to whom I addressed my original remonstrance. While I may disagree with Mr. Barnes' views on democracy, I cited the political conditions in Hungary myself merely to show the lack of any attraction they might afford to Roumanians or Slovaks. I am also responsible for using the term "Dual Monarchy" to characterise the new State that Mr. Barnes apparently was creating. That State seemed to me to savour too much of the defunct Austro-Hungarian Monarchy of which Roumanians and Slovaks have had sad experience.

With Mr. Barnes' programme for a *rapprochement* between Roumania and Hungary, I am in substantial agreement, but with certain slight reservations unnecessary to specify here. I cannot, however, see that his conclusion is logically reached: "the two Powers would become practically one Power in the face of the world." But that is a matter of opinion, not necessarily controversial. Where I do differ with Mr. Barnes is in refusing to believe that this programme is possible of achievement until the great mass of the Hungarian people have the same freedom in choosing their rulers by such unrestricted suffrage as the people of the United States or of Great Britain have at the present time.

With Mr. Barnes' statements on Slovakia I must emphatically differ. The resentment of Slovaks at pre-War political conditions was voiced by Slovaks, and this resentment denounced by Magyars long before the War. The Slovak language was not respected (despite the Law of Nationalities) and the resentment was not confined to the aspects Mr. Barnes mentions. The religious bond between Slovaks and Magyars are vastly overrated. It is more ecclesiastical than simply religious. Not all Slovaks by any means are Roman Catholic, as many apparently think. There is a strong "liberal" element. Religious differences shrink as time goes on. They are to-day less important than in 1919.

A careful reading of my original letter to Mr. Barnes will not, I am persuaded, bear out all the interpretations made by Mr. Heathcote. My criticism of Lord Rothermere's mistakes as those of a journalist, not of a scholar who is a true student of history, applies directly to other problems than the Slovak. Again the present writer did not declare Mr. Barnes misinformed, but remonstrated at some of his statements (the greater part of which Mr.

Heathcote does not rise to defend) and asked certain questions on one particular topic, the Slovaks.

My understanding of Hungarian conditions since the War is surely not predicated on intimate first-hand knowledge such as Mr. Heathcote undoubtedly possesses. It rests partly upon Professor Oscar Jaszi, now well known in the United States, whose preface to "Revolution and Counter-Revolution in Hungary" might well be considered: "Only a thorough-going democratisation of Hungary, and loyal and intimate relations between this democratised Hungary and the new States, can create such an atmosphere in Central Europe as can cure the gravest evils of the present situation and clear the way for a democratic Confederation of all the small nations which are now tormented by the rigid dogma of national sovereignty." Professor Jaszi's books tells enough of conditions to prove the unpleasantness of the Hungarian atmosphere, for any save Magyars at any rate. But in view of the mass of information available from many other sources revealing the political and social atmosphere and conditions known to exist in Hungary to-day, it seemed to me quite proper to ask what attraction the Slovaks would find there? Certainly some German and Hungarian authorities would not paint a rosy picture.

Anyone who reads the protest of the Slovaks now living in the United States but originating from the territory of present Hungary (dated March 15, 1928, and published in the *Central European Observer* April 6, 1928, p. 205, and signed by the President and Secretary of the Society Matica) must wonder where Mr. Heathcote gets his information that the 300,000 (?) Slovaks still (1928) under Hungarian rule are so content as to encourage the Slovaks of Slovakia to rejoin them under that dominion. At Cleveland Mr. Louis Tarcay of the *Hungarian News* (a progressive Hungarian paper) repudiated the propaganda of the Kossuth delegation to America and the Rothermere programme, and declared the Hungarians in Czechoslovakia to be "well situated as regards political, economic and religious freedom." (See *C. E. O.* March 9, 1928, p. 144.) Again there could be no Czech coercion back of this demonstration.

Another protest against Magyar propaganda in the United States, a protest containing a bitter reference to Magyar oppression of Slovaks, Croats, Serbs, Roumanians, Russians, etc., is signed by the Slovak League of America, United Society Srbobran-Sloga, National Slovak Society, First Catholic Slovak Union, Croatian Fraternal Union, Local Roumanians, Slovak Gymnastic Union Sokol, Slavonic Progressive Beneficial Union, American Slovak Political League, Slovak Evangelical Union, Serb Federation Sloboda, Slovak Catholic Federation, and Slavonic Citizens League.

Perhaps I may be pardoned for saying that in the face of these demonstrations by Slovaks, Serbs, Croats, Roumanians, this constant reiteration of the assertion that the Slovaks and other subject nationalities of old Hungary were not oppressed, never thought themselves oppressed and are all ready to return to Magyar rule, lacks force. In view of these demonstrations, far beyond the control of Czechoslovak, Roumanian, or Serbian Governments, the negative arguments based on alleged but imperfectly proved abstentions of Slovaks from meetings of protest against Lord Rothermere and all his works seem rather weak. Any reader of THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA who has read the proceedings of the Popular Party of Slovakia meeting in convention with the Popular Party of Moravia and Bohemia, and together representing the Catholics of Czechoslovakia, will not accept purely negative abstentions.

The attack of Mr. Heathcote is centred upon my Slovak thesis. Here it should be noted that my remarks did not deny the existence of some friction between Czechs and Slovaks. My acquaintance with Slovakia may or may not be as great as that of Mr. Heathcote or of Mr. Barnes. It is slight indeed compared to that of others to whom I referred in my former communication, but no one would deny the existence of trouble there in the period

following the War and of some Czech responsibility for it.

Mr. Heathcote has cited as an example of a "true Slovak" Dr. F. Jehlicka. Very well. Let me first see what the Slovaks in America think of him. Here the amount of Czechoslovak governmental pressure could hardly be considered perceptible enough to vitiate the testimony of Slovaks. I have before me the *Resolution* of September 8, 1927, accepted by some two or three score Catholic priests, including editors of the principal Slovak papers, presidents of Slovak Leagues and Catholic Slovak Unions. Karol Strasmy of the *Obrana* (the paper cited by Mr. Heathcote) is here, among others. This resolution denounces Dr. F. Jehlicka and all his works, declaring him a traitor to Slovakia. This resolution was published in the *Obrana* October 4, 1927. I also have extracts from the *New Yorksky Dennik*, the same publication that published the diary of Dr. Jehlicka, a diary that the Slovaks in America consider sufficient to prove his dependence upon the Magyar propaganda office. They roundly denounce him and repudiate him as a Slovak representative. If Dr. Jehlicka is a fanatical lover of the Slovak nation, it is strange that the Slovaks in America, unrestrained as they are and yet in close touch with the Slovaks of Slovakia, are so overwhelmingly ungrateful. The true Slovaks, Hlinka included, have been duped by Dr. Jehlicka more than once, but I am assured by many of them that they never will be again.

I regret, therefore, that I cannot accept as representative the "Slovak" that Mr. Heathcote nominates. He is really a representative Slovak about as much as Louis Kossuth might be called such. At least, that is my understanding of Dr. Jehlicka, and I adhere to my previous statement:—"No Slovak that I know,"—I do not say nor did I say "no Slovak," though I hardly believe the latter phrase too sweeping—but what declines to accept Dr. Jehlicka as such. Many other documents that I have before me, printed protests from Slovak organizations in the United States, copies of American-Slovak newspapers, personal letters to me from various Slovaks, all support my stand. I venture too, to doubt if the economic situation in Slovakia is bad enough to make the Slovaks of Slovakia so differently minded from the Slovaks of America.

I notice that in *The Catholic Times* (April 13, 1928), Hlinka in his vigorous reply to Mr. Heathcote, in which reply he repudiates Lord Rothermere and all his works as well as any protection from a connexion with Hungary, uses similar language to that used by the undersigned last October, "No real Slovak—calls for reunion with Hungary." That picture of the Slovak nation turning back toward Hungary exists in the minds and inclinations of a few, but it is a mirage, not a fact, as the ready testimony of Slovaks on both sides of the ocean abundantly demonstrates.

It is, in fact, years too late to attempt any real defence of Magyar imperialism in Slovakia, Transylvania, Croatia, etc. Long ago we have had evidence enough out of the mouths of Magyar statesmen themselves. The facts thus established are among those that have crystallized sufficiently, so that attempts to "revise" them are both useless and wearisome. It can, therefore, be considered as definitely established that pre-War Hungary was not a country offering any appeal to Slovaks, Roumanian, Serb or Croat peasantry. Magyarized Slovaks, Roumanians, Serbs or Croats might flourish (a Kossuth like a Hunyadi) but not those who loved their own culture and national customs too much to be won over by the alien.

Now as to that wonderful decrease from Hlinka's party in favour of the Magyarophil Slovak party. The great mass of that vote actually appears to have swelled the total for the Agrarian party of Dr. Hodza, a party certainly not of the stripe of Jehlicka's group. Some twenty five thousand—not Slovaks exactly—did (in the towns which are not preponderantly Slovak) turn to the Christian Socialist Hungarians. Naturally, they would do so,

since Hlinka could not be counted upon to play the Magyar game, even unconsciously, any longer. The gain to Dr. Hodza's group was, of course, away from Hungary and not toward "reunion." Mr. Heathcote hardly proves that his statements of the Jehlicka strength are correct, and most significantly fails to show why the Agrarian vote rose so decidedly as the Hlinka vote fell.

As to the protests in Slovakia against the Rothermere programme, I am interested to note the inference from Mr. Heathcote's remarks under (3) that there were so many "Slovaks who had always belonged to Czech political parties." Needless to say that my information, all from Slovak (not Czech) sources, is rather opposed to that of Mr. Heathcote when it comes to the interest shown by the Slovaks against the Rothermeric ideas, but if he chooses to differ from my Slovak friends in his estimates, he has that privilege. But the rapprochement which Mr. Heathcote cautiously characterizes as being "projected" between the Hungarian Christian Socialists and the Slovak Populist Party is yet (according to the best Slovak information at my disposal) far too nebulous to be considered.

Slovakia is not so exploited by the Czechs as the pro-Magyars declare. Slovak ports, Slovak trade and Slovak industries in 1927, according to the figures now available, are steadily improving. Reports such as those quoted by my adversaries remind us of the calamity criers in the United States who periodically assure all and sundry that the farmers are going to the dogs. One may well hope that the farmers of Slovakia are discontented at this stage of its history; it is well, rather than the reverse, for the farmers of Czechoslovakia to be filled with ambitious discontent, but it will not take the turn the pro-Magyars desire it to take. Their legitimate desires should be satisfied, but it takes time. At the end of the first decade of American history, the United States seemed on even more uncertain ground than the new States of Europe to-day, partly owing to economic troubles and partly to differences of race and background among its people. In 1862, an English historian referred to the Disruption of the United States of America in the title of his book.

The futility of the geographical arguments for Austrian or Hungarian domination of the Danube Valley, is thus expressed recently, not by a Czechoslovak, but by an Englishman (H. W. V. Temperley, *How the Hungarian Frontiers were Drawn* in "Foreign Affairs," April, 1928).

One argument for revision which was foremost at an earlier stage seems less prominent now. It was urged in 1920 that the lopping of the various outlying parts of Old Hungary spelt economic ruin to the new State. This argument has not proved sound in fact. Lord Rothermere and his friends destroy their own case by arguing against the economic soundness of Hungary as it stands. The "economic viability" of the New Hungary seems to be proved by its superiority in credits, certainly as against Austria and perhaps as against the Successor States generally. This argument tells against frontier revision. If New Hungary, mutilated as she is, is sounder financially and economically than her mutilators, it is the latter who must be protected against further change. In point of fact the economic argument has been dropped by Hungarian propagandists for a very good reason. If economic arguments are to outweigh ethnic ones, the Arad-Szatmar strip should remain with Roumania. But it is the dearest object of Hungary to regain this area, and on ethnic grounds her claim is as good as it is bad economically. So the ethnic argument is at present the only one which Hungary can dare to use.

To this, add the following (from the *New Europe* for May 6, 1920, p. 89) by a student of Magyar economics, who unveils the "economic unity" of pre-War Hungary. The manufacturies were built at Budapest or in Magyar cities not where the raw materials were located. Industrial development would have meant political power. (See for example the growth of Czech power). To put factories in Ruthenia, Galicia, or Croatia was as foreign to the Magyar mind as it would be to a Frenchman advised to put his factories in the Ruhr or at Chemnitz. Now the Magyars have the factories and complain, because they can no longer work them by exploiting the resources of Slovakia, Transylvania, Croatia, etc. This then is the economic unity of the old Hungary.—I am, etc.,

ARTHUR I. ANDREWS.

The XVIIth Orientalist Congress—II.

The Government Luncheon.

On August 29 a Government luncheon was held in the Hall of Christ Church. The Chair was taken, in the unavoidable absence of Lord Birkenhead, by Sir William Sinclair Marris (Member of the Council of India). In submitting the toast of "Our Guests," the Chairman said:—

It was his privilege to bid them welcome on behalf of the Government of that country and to propose to them a toast which would express both the interest which his Majesty's Government took in the proceedings of that Congress, and their cordial appreciation of the contribution of other countries than their own to the vast fields of Oriental research. Lord Birkenhead (Secretary of State for India) desired him to convey to them his regret that he was unable to be present. Of all the great Departments of State, the India Office, by reason of its being responsible for a country which numbered its languages by dozens and its dialects by hundreds, was the one most closely associated with the matters which were the concern of the Congress, and it would have been a great pleasure for Lord Birkenhead if he had been able to welcome them personally. He (the Chairman) could not pretend to be an Oriental scholar, although that was doubtless an appalling confession to make after having spent many years in India. Such acquaintance as he had with any of the languages, art or philosophy of the East was just enough to warn him against drawing upon any such shallow resources in the presence of a gathering like that. One need not, however, be an Orientalist in order to appreciate the value of the Congress, the seventeenth assembly of its kind, which carried happily into effect in 1928 the decision taken at Athens in 1912—but hitherto frustrated by the War—that the next meeting should be held in Oxford. The field of Oriental learning was no man's peculiar prerogative; it was the common heritage of men of learning of whatever race. It was a branch of science which could not be exploited to enhance national dissensions. Workers in that field had a common purpose; they shared their gains; one man's success enriched and did not impoverish another; the work was international in the highest sense, and all the workers were co-workers in the great cause of national amity. How many agencies had combined in the task of recovering lost knowledge from Asiatic sources they knew far better than he did, and it would be idle for him to attempt anything like a comprehensive survey, but even a layman might venture to recall a few outstanding instances. To the ordinary man, Oriental research perhaps primarily suggested a deciphering of Cuneiform and of hieroglyphics and of Kharoshiti, that strange script used in the early years of the Christian Era from the Punjab to Turkestan. In all those works many nations had shared. In Assyriology a Dane paved the way, a German followed him, a Frenchman and a Norwegian went further, and an Englishman and an Irishman further still. In the field of Egyptology, Swedish, English, French and German names were pre-eminent, while English, Norwegian and Hungarian scholars shared the honours of Kharoshiti study. On those foundations scholars of both hemispheres had built up the knowledge which served to interpret the rich finds of recent years in Egypt, Mesopotamia, Persia and Turkestan, and had shown immense vistas in the antiquity of art and culture. Anyone like himself, whose life had been spent mainly in India, thought naturally of the achievements connected with that country, and he wished to refer to two of the most impressive of those. One was the monumental survey of Indian languages which had recently been brought to a successful completion by Sir George Grierson, and which had won him such well-deserved honour, and therewith it was right to recall the memory of a very distinguished young Italian scholar, who did most valuable research in Ranas-thani. The second event was the epoch-making explorations in Sind, and he felt it a pious duty to recall the name of a great administrator who did more than anyone else to stimulate interest in antiquarian research in India. To Lord Curzon was due the reorganisation and strengthening of the Archaeological Department and the systematic preservation of ancient monuments. Since his time the work had gone steadily forward, though exploration had always been hampered by lack of funds. The Government had sometimes been accused of parsimony, but as anyone knew who had been responsible for administering her resources, India was a poor country and had to think primarily of her day-to-day needs. But that interest in Oriental research had been genuinely aroused and was growing in India no one could doubt, and the crop of workers was spreading beyond the officials, and universities were showing interest. There was no doubt that the imagination of India had been deeply stirred by the discoveries at Mohenjo-Daro and Harappa, and by the concrete evidence of an ancient civilisation existing in India much further back than any previously known—all that was to the good. "Secular governments with many other responsibilities upon their hands," continued the speaker, "can do comparatively little to promote such researches directly. In the main, the work must always be done by the unofficial enthusiast, and this Congress affords abundant evidence of his vigour. May I quote as an example your own President, who, as a busy Treasury official, found the time to contribute valuable studies of Pali literature? None the less, I hope no one doubts that the Government of this country and the Government of India also are benevolently inclined towards the

labours of the non-official worker. Every administration that is worth the name must realise that the life of the people to-day is compacted of the past and that the more the past is examined and understood the better hope there is of coming to wise conclusions upon the problems of the present. But, perhaps, the value of the work goes deeper than this. The co-operation of workers, both from the West and East, in exploring that past which has given so much to the civilisations of both, surely makes for that better understanding of one another's minds and purpose, which is essential if the immense problems confronting the future of Asia are to be wisely and happily solved."

Professor C. Snouck Hurgronje, for the Government of the Netherlands, responding to the toast, said when he was informed that he was expected to reply to the toast of the Governments of the countries from which delegates had come to that Congress, his first feeling had been one of embarrassment, because he was a delegate of one of the smallest of those countries, whereas the countries who had sent delegates to that meeting represented the greater part of the civilised world. He had, however, taken encouragement from the thought that his country was not so small as one might suppose from the space it took up in the map of Europe. In the Far East there were more than 50 million people under the Dutch rule, but he could not imagine that that had been the reason for which he was chosen to represent so many diverse nations as were represented there. "No; the reason was a quality which I possess and which is generally considered as a defect," declared Professor Snouck Hurgronje, "namely, that I have passed the age of three-score years and ten, which the Psalmist gives as the normal space of human life." It was impossible for him to speak on behalf of every branch of learning represented in that hall, and therefore he trusted that they would permit him to take his point of view from the portion of study which was his own, namely, Islam. Muhammadan religious tradition was accustomed to divide human history into a number of parts, each of which stood under the auspices of a prophet. "All these prophets," continued the speaker, "are said to derive their force of revelation from a mysterious light—the light of prophecy, or, after the decease of the prophets, the light of Muhammad. If a prophet is dead, his light continues to shine, but in course of time his adherents are subject to a certain degree of languidness and confusion, which increases until a new prophet appears. Now, our international Orientalist Congress has had the same vicissitudes as human history according to Muhammadan tradition has had. We used to meet every third or fourth year, but after the sixteenth Congress in Athens the light by which we used to carry on our mutual discussions and co-operation in literary and other scientific undertakings grew dim and faded almost entirely away. Happily, this light has been rediscovered here in Oxford, where it must have been lying hidden for the last sixteen years, and the large attendance at this Congress defines more than anything the joy with which this discovery was hailed by Orientalists throughout the world." He was sure, therefore, that he voiced the sentiments of all on behalf of whom he was privileged to speak on that occasion when he expressed their sincere gratification at the welcome with which they had been received and their gratitude to the British Government for the hospitality it had extended to them.

Lord Chalmers also expressed the delegates' gratification at the pleasant hospitality which, he said, they had all enjoyed at the hands of the Government. To the members of the Organising Committee it had been a matter of peculiar satisfaction that the British Government should come forward to recognise by an act of official hospitality the high significance of the meeting of the Oriental Congress in Oxford. His Majesty's Government, always seeking to promote the growing sense of the community of nations by all means in its power, had been quick to testify by an official act to the unifying influences of a Congress of the world's Orientalists—a Congress animated by a single-hearted aspiration which knew no political boundaries to advance the frontiers of human knowledge for the common good of all mankind. Lord Chalmers then referred to Sir William Marris, who, he said, had had a distinguished career in the Indian Civil Service, in which he rose to be the Governor in succession of Assam and of the United Provinces; to-day he was a member of the Council of India. "Like all really busy men, from Cicero onwards," continued Lord Chalmers, "Sir William Marris has found time in the course of a strenuous career to seek solace in letters. A votary of the classics of Greece and Rome, Sir William has evinced his scholarly tastes, with a success which many here well know, by translating the *Odyssey* of Homer, the poems of Catullus and the *Odes* of Horace. May I venture to say that the *curiosa felicitas* of Horace has happily inspired the selection of Sir William Marris to preside here, in the Hall of his own College, at our luncheon to-day."

Assyriology and Kindred Subjects.

In his presidential address, on August 28, Professor S. H. Langdon said that recent discoveries in Sumer-Accad, Assyria, and Hittite lands had overwhelmed workers in cuneiform studies and completely revolutionised the study of ancient history, Semitic philology, and Biblical criticism. They had been extending the know-

ledge of the history of man not only back to its very origin, but right down to the Christian era. He claimed for Assyriology the title of "Queen of Modern Historical Research," and pointed to five special developments in its study:—

(1) The rapid rise of Hittite studies due to the German discoveries at Boghaz-keui;

(2) The rapid rise of Sumerology, its reduction to an exact grammatical science, and its great antiquity;

(3) The publication of historical and religious texts;

(4) The recovery of complete lists of dynasties from early and even pre-diluvian times down to the third century, which made Assyriology the safest guide in ancient chronology; and

(5) The astonishing discoveries in the Indus valley, which revealed a script having a connexion with Sumerian.

After the Chair had been vacated in favour of Professor Zimmern, of Leipzig, the Rev. Professor A. H. Sayce, *doyen* of Assyriologists, began the lectures with a most entertaining paper upon "The Heroic Age of Assyriology." He amusingly related how an article published by him in 1870 on "An Accadian Seal" in the *Journal of Philology* was mistaken for a misprint for a zoological paper upon Arcadia! At that time, of course, Accadian was supposed to be the name of what we now know as Sumerian. With Trübner, who published his "Assyrian Grammar for Comparative Purposes" in 1872, he enjoyed a friendship that lasted to the end of the German's life. Of George Smith, who worked at Mosul and died near Aleppo, Professor Sayce related the story of the complaint by Oppert that Smith never read anything except his own publications (which meant that he did not read what Oppert wrote). Smith's comment was: "There is only one way of becoming an Assyriologist, and that is to copy, copy, copy." Dr. Hincks the lecturer never saw, but received letters from him while still a school-boy.

With Edwin Norris, the lecturer carried on a long epistolary correspondence. Norris had a wonderful gift for languages, and his Memoir on the Third Language of the Achaemenian inscriptions which he termed "Scythic" was the foundation of all future works upon the subject. Norris's last letter was written to Professor Sayce.

Henry Rawlinson the lecturer knew well. He was of middle stature with a fine intelligent face and the manners of a man of the world. In later life he rather forsook cuneiform inscriptions for geography and politics, being convinced, like Dr. Birch of the British Museum, that Russia was a dangerous enemy to British rule in India.

With Layard Professor Sayce stayed at Therapia in 1879. He narrated the story of Layard's rise to fame. An uncle who was a coffee-planter in Ceylon asked the penurious young Layard to come to join him. Instead of proceeding to Ceylon by ship, however, the young Layard started to do so by land. By the time he had reached the other side of the Jordan, his funds were exhausted, and he was forced to travel on foot. He was captured by the *Badawin* and for six months was their slave. He escaped to Damascus, and there found a sympathetic British Consul. He then made his way on foot across Asia Minor to Constantinople, learning meanwhile the Turkish language. Soon afterwards, Sir Strafford de Redcliffe, then British Ambassador, recommended Layard as dragoman to Grace, who afterwards became his life-long friend. Again provided with funds for Ceylon, Layard started out once more; but this time got no further than Mosul. At Nineveh, Layard's gifts as a draughtsman resulted, through the advice of James Ferguson, the architect, in funds being collected which resulted eventually in the discovery of the palaces and monuments of the ancient Assyrian Kings. A propos of Layard's capacity as a draughtsman, Professor Sayce related the story of the qualification which Layard laid down for Military Consulships in Asia Minor. The one question which had to be answered in the affirmative by young applicants was: Can you draw?

Of Professor Haupt, who, just after he had taken his degree, and when he was giving lectures at Göttingen, was staying with Professor Sayce at Oxford, the lecturer asked how it was that he obtained leave of absence. "Nothing was easier," came the answer; "I advertised a series of lectures on Sumerian Grammar at 6 o'clock in the morning, and of course nobody came."

François Lenormant the lecturer spoke of with affection and admiration. This man, who, unlike Haupt, really belonged to the Heroic Age of Assyriology, died as a result of a wound received during the siege of Paris.

The lecturer first met Hommel, who, with Schrader and Delitsch, was the founder of Assyriology in Germany, at the Oriental Congress in Florence in 1878. Finally, he mentioned W. R. Cooper, who with the help of Dr. Birch established the Society of Biblical Archaeology in 1874. It was necessary, said Birch, to have the word "Biblical" to get as many subscriptions as possible. But in 1874-5 the Heroic Age of Assyriology was just passing away. Yet the more Professor Sayce looked back at the publications of men like Rawlinson, Hincks and Norris, the more he realised that there were "giants in those days."

Professor E. Chiera, of the American Oriental Society, then lectured upon "Excavations at Nuzi, near Kirkuk." He said that the joint expedition of the Iraq Museum and the American School of Oriental Research discovered a large house, which had apparently been built by a wealthy Babylonian, and had been burnt by Assyrian invaders. The fact that the walls had melted in the intense heat led to the conclusion that the rooms must have been heavily furnished: there must have been a large amount of wood to produce such a temperature. The clay roof was flat, and the water would flow down pipes inside the walls. There was no second story, and the thick walls had no windows. The door revolved over a door socket. A number of tablets found on the site had proved to be archives of the household. Every householder needed full documentation to ensure himself against future losses.

Next came papers by Dr. A. E. Speiser, of the University of Pennsylvania, on the important tablets recently discovered at Kirkuk, followed by two papers, in German, on philological subjects—"Der Geist der sumerischen Sprachen," by Professor V. Christian, and "Die Probleme der sumerischen Verbalpräfixe," by the Very Rev. A. Deimel.

On August 29, Professor S. H. Langdon, with Dr. Sayce in the Chair, gave an illustrated lecture upon "The Excavation of Jemdet Nasr, by the Oxford-Field Museum expedition; the pictographic inscriptions, pottery, seals,



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and architecture." This lecture contained bold generalisations. Professor Langdon maintained that there was a continuous civilisation from the Indus, across Baluchistan and Persia to the rivers of Mesopotamia. One striking speculation which he threw out was that the people of about 4000 B.C. of whom he was talking first adopted monotheism, and that they afterwards declined into polytheism.

The following night a very large number of delegates and members crowded to hear Mr. C. L. Woolley's illustrated lecture upon "Excavations at Ur, 1927-28." The work of excavation at Ur of the Chaldees has been in progress now for six years. The lecturer described the discovery of evidence of elaborate rites of human sacrifice. Round the chamber of the King were bodies that had obviously been sacrificed at the King's burial. They included soldiers lying on guard in the tomb and women wearing elaborate headdresses. There were also oxen harnessed three abreast and little bulls as mascots. The Queen's draughtboard was found with seven black and seven white men, counters for paying forfeits, and dice which were thrown to determine the next move. The upper part of the Queen's body was decked with beads, and by her side was a golden pot of face paint. Mr. Woolley claimed that the date of the tomb was 3500 B.C.

Egypt and Africa.

On August 28, with Monsieur J. Capart in the Chair, Dr. A. E. Buck gave a preliminary account of the "Coffin Text Enterprise undertaken by the Oriental Institute of Chicago." He said that the undertaking started in 1923 at Cairo. The texts were photographed, connotated and tabulated. There were a great many in the British Museum, Turin Museum and the Louvre. Four hundred had been collected, and it was hoped that the work would be completed in two years. It was hoped to make translations of them which would prove of great value in many lines of research.

Professor J. J. Hess, of the University of Zürich, spoke on "Die Lage von Pwn-t (Pwane-t)" or "The Situation of Punt." He said that the Somaliland theory was no longer tenable. On Greek evidence the pronunciation of the word must be Pwn-t and not "Pawnet." This district on the west coast of Southern Arabia was identical with the Oppa of the Hebrews. The place might have been on both sides of the Red Sea, for he had seen identical tribes on both sides.

Professor G. Roeder lectured on "Die Wachsmodele zu ägyptischen Bronzefiguren," and showed numerous lantern slides illustrating the ancient use of wax models.

At night, Mr. C. M. Firth lectured upon "The Architecture of the Third Dynasty of Saqqara." He gave a short account of the work of the Department of Antiquities of the Egyptian Government at Saqqara during the last three years on the site surrounding the Step Pyramid and the Tomb of Zoser, third or fourth Pharaoh of the third Dynasty. He pointed out that Zoser and his more celebrated Vizier Imhotep might be called the inaugurators of a new era in Egypt as the first builders in stone. Mr. Firth gave a description of the progress of the work, and the discovery of the beautiful façades with four fluted columns of the tombs of two princesses, so reminiscent of Greek work that at first he took the building for a Saïte or Ptolemaic restoration till its genuine antiquity was confirmed by the translation by Mr. Battiscombe Gunn of the graffiti on its inner walls, the earliest of which go back to the New Kingdom and record the visit of scribes and officials to whom the building was as already old as the Colosseum at Rome is to ourselves.

The fluted columns were mere architectural embellishments, and if they do not imitate some plant form with a fluted stem, must copy the appearance of a bundle of reeds split down the middle and bound together by a fillet. Whether the Greeks borrowed the fluted shafts of these buildings is a matter of conjecture.

The statue of the King found *in situ* in the *serdab* is perhaps the earliest case of a royal statue being so found.

On the south-east corner of the Pyramid are the

remains of the temple erected for the *Hebsed*, the festival marking the complete 30 years of the King's reign, an extraordinary building consisting of a courtyard 300 feet long with a row of chapels on each long side. In the Vth and VIth Dynasty this and the pavilion behind it were used as an office of works, and the remains of rolls of papyri in beautiful hieratic script, the débris of the office, were discovered. With the exception of one curious papyrus recording the complaints of an Egyptian military officer, which was deliciously modern in style, these have all perished.

The paper was illustrated by a number of excellent slides, including some interesting ones from the air which showed the progress and position of the excavations and one in colour of a beautiful doorway of limestone bearing the names of Zoser, and decorated with blue tiles representing reed work bound with strings. The lintel of the relieving arch of the door is supported by "dedu" signs represented by bunches of reeds and rushes tied at the neck, and into the neck of each other sheaves have been pushed to form the solid capital.

Before the completion of the work, which is already in sight, Mr. Firth hopes to discover the tomb of Imhotep, the great Vizier himself, a man whom the Egyptians regarded throughout all their history as their greatest genius. His portrait will appear on the badge and stamp to be issued on the occasion of the Medical Congress to be held in Egypt next winter. It would be a happy coincidence if his tomb could be discovered, for he was an even greater man than the Pharaoh he served.

The following day, Professor H. J. V. Breasted gave a paper on "The Edwin Smith Surgical Papyrus and the Relations of Egyptian to Early Greek Medicine." He said that the papyrus was the oldest known surgical treatise, and was written between 3,000 and 2,500 B.C. It contained forty-eight surgical cases, of which the first and last were not complete. They began with the head and proceeded down as far as the thorax and the spinal column. Among the illustrations was one showing a Greek surgeon of the third century in the act of reducing a dislocated mandible, and the hands were, in exactly the same position as in the ancient Egyptian treatise. Historians of medicine seemed to have overlooked the fact that Darius sent one of his Egyptian officials from his Court in Asia to Egypt to restore the school of medicine at Sais in the Delta. This was the oldest State establishment for the teaching of medicine known to the history of science.

Central and Northern Asia.

Professor A. Foucher gave two eloquent lectures in the the Central Asia Section, on "Balkh," and "Les dernières recherches archéologiques en Afghanistan." Of Balkh and its wonderful legends, which had deceived the whole world, Professor Foucher said that there was now not a trace. All, absolutely all, had gone, owing to the work of Chingiz Khan and his hordes.

Other lectures in this section included one by Professor E. J. Rapson on "Kharosthi Inscriptions discovered by Sir Aurel Stein in Chinese Turkestan," and one by the President of the Section, Professor F. W. Thomas, on "Some Languages and Documents from Chinese Turkestan."

[Reference will be made to the Iran, Armenian and Caucasus group Papers, and reports of lectures to the Hebrew and Aramaic and Islamic Sections will be given in subsequent issues.]

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TRADE DISPUTES IN INDIA.

(From a Correspondent.)

The Trade Disputes Bill, which is now before the Indian Legislative Assembly, is the outcome of a discussion which has been in progress for eight years. India's industrial unrest developed with quite alarming rapidity after the War; and in 1920 the Government of India, seeing that strikes were still on the increase, asked the local Governments for their views on the question of whether all-India legislation should not be attempted. They mentioned the English Industrial Courts Act of 1919, although they were themselves disposed to think that legislation on English lines was unlikely to be effective in India either in preventing strikes, or in securing their early settlement. With this expression of opinion most of the local Governments agreed after consideration; and the idea of promoting all-India legislation was accordingly dropped for the time being. But the Government of India set about collecting information concerning legislation in force in other countries; and they also instituted a statistical survey of the strikes occurring in India. These continued to break out, several of the more protracted of them occurring in public utility services. The public naturally asked that something should be done, and a demand arose for a reference of the points at issue to arbitration. Meanwhile the two leading industrial provinces—Bengal and Bombay—took action on their own account. In March 1921 the Bengal Government appointed a Committee which in its report emphasised the value of Works Committees, and favoured the appointment of Conciliation Courts to deal with disputes in public utility services. It also suggested the appointment of a panel from which the local Government might draw when constituting a Court to enquire into any dispute. The Government of Bombay, after considering the report of a Committee appointed by them in November 1921, recommended the statutory establishment of industrial courts of enquiry and conciliation.

The Government of India then went into the question again, and at the end of August 1924 they made a second reference to the local Governments. On this occasion they put their ideas into the form of a Bill, as they had come to the conclusion that the time was ripe for legislation of some kind. The proposals embodied in the Bill were provisional only, and criticism upon them was invited. In its main features the Bill largely followed Part II of the English Industrial Courts Act of 1919, its general principle being that the Government should be empowered, on the occurrence of a strike, or when one was apprehended, to refer the matter in dispute to a Board. But the proposals went rather beyond those of the English Act, in that they definitely imposed on the Board the duty not merely of investigating a dispute, but of trying to bring about a settlement of it. At the same time the Bill did not provide for compulsory arbitration. Its object was to place the Government in a position to offer to the parties involved in a dispute the services of an impartial tribunal to help them in coming to a just settlement of their respective claims. The Bill covered all workmen, but it distinguished between the general body of employees, and the employees of public utility services. In the case of public utility services it provided that it would be unlawful for any employer to declare or to enforce a lock-out, or for any workman to take part in a strike on account of any dispute unless due notice of the proposed lock-out, or strike, should have been previously sent to the prescribed officer. The intention was to ensure that, before the actual occurrence of the strike, the dispute might be referred to a Board appointed under the Act. If an order were made so to refer the dispute then the strike would not be permissible until the expiry of ninety days from the date of the notice. If no order were made for the reference of the dispute to a Board then the period would be thirty days. Any person contravening these provisions was to be liable to punishment by fine—

in the case of a workman Rs.25, and in the case of an employer Rs.2,000.

Objection was taken to the Bill on the ground that for it to be of any practical use it would be necessary for there to be in existence properly organised trade unions with leaders strong enough to induce the parties to accept the findings of the Board of Investigation and Conciliation. For the Board would be unable to do more than to endeavour to induce the parties to come to an amicable settlement. If no such settlement were reached, then the Board would merely report to the authority by which it was constituted and there the matter would end. The Government hoped that reliance might be placed upon public opinion to enforce the decisions of the Board. But public opinion in India is not a compelling force, a fact which was recognised by the critics of the Bill. It was apprehended also that the provisions regarding public utility services would prove to be ineffective in practice. For it was considered to be extremely doubtful if such compulsion as was contemplated would be of any use. If at the end of the period of ninety days—the time allowed to the Board—they should have failed to settle the dispute the position would be more unsatisfactory than ever. The Bill was not proceeded with by the Government of India, the Viceroy announcing at the annual meeting of the Associated Chambers of Commerce in December 1925, that the question had been thoroughly explored but that it would be premature to legislate until the Trade Unions Bill had become law.

The new Bill, which has been framed since the Trade Unions Act of 1926 was passed, and which is now under discussion, deals in a different fashion with strikes in public utility services. It provides that any person who is employed on monthly wages in such service, and who withdraws from his duties without permission, or without having given one month's previous notice in writing, shall be punishable with imprisonment which may extend to one month, or to a fine which may extend to Rs.50 or to both. Further, the Bill provides that any person who abets the commission of this offence may be punished with three months' imprisonment or with a fine of Rs.500 or both. These provisions are much more drastic than those which were included in the 1924 Bill, and which are outlined above. They suggest that recent happenings in public services in India have led the Government to modify the opinion expressed in that year. This was that it would be unwise and probably impracticable to attempt to prohibit stoppages of work in such services. It was pointed out at the time that such stoppages without due notice ought to be stringently dealt with, and that effectual penalties should be enforced at whatever cost.

For the settlement of ordinary industrial disputes the new Bill contemplates the establishment of two different types of tribunals for investigation and settlement named Courts of Enquiry and Boards of Conciliation. When a dispute exists or is apprehended the Government may refer any matters connected with it, or relevant to it, to a court of enquiry. Or they may refer the dispute to a Board of Conciliation. The Court of Enquiry will, publicly or privately, enquire into the matters referred to it, and will report to the appointing authority. The Board of Conciliation will endeavour to bring about a settlement of the dispute and it will accordingly investigate all matters affecting the merits of the case, and will try to induce the parties to come to a fair and amicable settlement. Each enquiry or investigation will be treated as a judicial proceeding. A Court of Enquiry will consist of a Chairman and such other persons as the appointing authority may think fit. A Board of Conciliation will consist of a Chairman, and two or four members, or it may, if the appointing authority thinks fit, consist of one independent person. When a Board consists of more than one person the Chairman is to be an independent person, and the other members shall be either independent persons or persons appointed in equal numbers to represent the parties to the dispute. All such persons are to be appointed on the recommendation of the parties concerned.

THE WEEK AT HOME

London, Tuesday Morning.

Cabinet Rumours.

Idle tongues have recently been wagging—there being little else to talk about in these days—upon the possibility of changes in the Cabinet. Officially, no changes are contemplated by the Conservative Party; but since there have in the past been similar unannounced changes in Cabinets, it may be well to record that the most persistent rumours surround the ultimate disappearance of Sir Austen Chamberlain and of Lord Birkenhead. It is being said that Sir Austen's ill-health inhibits his ever returning to the Foreign Office (and also that, in that event, Lord Cushendun, who is now acting for him, would be scarcely suitable), and that Lord Birkenhead has definitely decided to abandon politics for something more lucrative. It has, of course, been on everybody's lips for some months past that Lord Birkenhead intended to leave the India Office for the offices of the Berry brothers, the newspaper "magnates"; but this forecast is now being combined with one that concerns his entering the very lucrative world of insurance. Possibly the versatility of "F. E. Smith" might be equal to the calls of both journalism and of in-might be equal to the calls of both journalism and insurance.

One thing apparently is certain: that Mr. Baldwin will try his hardest to preserve his Cabinet intact until the General Election. After that he may have to refashion it; but there are those who think that he will be spared that trouble. For myself, I think that the job may cause him considerable difficulty, unless, as the "propaganda-mongers" now are saying, he fills his Cabinet with the younger men of the Conservative Party.

Peace in Industry.

It is perhaps unfortunate that the great debate at the Trade Union Congress on the "Mond" conference of employers and employed should have taken place during the holiday season, when few people are inclined to serious reading, for a step highly significant for the future of industry was then taken. The result in brief of this debate is that the Trade Union movement as a whole is in favour, *pace* Mr. Cook, of continuing discussions with the employers. In other words, the majority of Trade Unionists are in favour of now co-operating with the capitalists in order, presumably, that they may later socialise "Capitalism." This policy was anathema to Mr. Cook, who believes that co-operation signifies surrender. It is, one supposes, just the difference between those who believe that change should and must come gradually and those who believe that it should and must come suddenly.

At present in the industrial world, as in the international world, the air is full of talk of peace. The ravages of war have been so disastrous that present collaboration is the only conceivable policy, in the eyes of most people.

New Buses for London.

I do not know that the solid-tyred omnibus in London has ever greatly troubled the passenger, but the London General Omnibus Company is resolved to put an end to the solid tyres. A short time ago, it may be recalled, the Company experimented with six-wheeled, pneumatic-tyred, double-decked omnibuses, and one rather thought, when this experiment failed, that the last had been heard of the pneumatic tyre.

Now, however, a four-wheeled bus has been made, fitted with large pneumatic tyres (single on the front wheels and double on the rear) which is gradually to oust all the old solid-tyred buses. Before the end of this year 75 of these new buses will be put on the streets. The existing vehicles are to be mounted, a hundred at a time, on pneumatic tyres, but in time the whole of the Company's 5,000 buses will be of the new type, which, by the way, are to hold 24 people on the main deck, and 26 people on the upper deck.

A practical reason of this change is to be found in this

year's Budget. It is therein proposed to remit 20 per cent. of taxation on all public-service vehicles seating more than eight persons provided that these vehicles are fitted entirely with pneumatic tyres.

The Passing of Park Lane.

"They're turning Park Lane into flats," as Ella Shields, in those dear, dead days beyond recall, used to sing. Realisation of the sung prophecy is, however, even worse than was expected; for there are to be shops in Park Lane, which is to become a sort of superior Oxford Street. The financiers have decreed that Park Lane shall be linked up with Bond Street by shops running the entire length of Grosvenor Street: thus Grosvenor Square will be just such a centre of business as Hanover Square now is.

It is true, of course, that the tendency of big business is to move westwards; big shipping companies, insurance companies, banks, are all coming from the City to the West End, and Gamage's, of Holborn, are about to build a great store on the site of Hereford Gardens, in Oxford Street, near Marble Arch. But for the old Park Lane to be turned—even if only on the ground floor—into shops, does seem to the Londoner very like sacrilege. Of course it was aristocratic, and those who believe in the greatest possible happiness for the greatest possible number may rejoice that, owing to the flats that are to be let in Park Lane, many instead of the previous few will be able to enjoy the large views over the Park. But do people in flats very often care about views? And where in London may we find compensation for the loss of the little houses with the swelling fronts which have in the past made Park Lane to seem a place of jolly and intimate rather than forbidding appeal?

The Music-Hall.

One of the most heartening signs of our social life was manifest last week, when the Palladium, after following the primrose path of dalliance in the form of the cinema and of melodrama, returned to the variety form of entertainment, with many turns and comedians. If this were a sign that London had had too much of films and revues, one could really believe in a return to sanity and appreciation of individuality. But it is, unfortunately, far too soon to talk of the decline of the film and of the revue.

Still, a return to good sense is most heartily to be welcomed. When the world of entertainment is agog with the possibility of "talkies," as those films which combine entertainment for the eye with entertainment for the ear are typically entitled, it is splendid to find the old competitor popping up once more, with renewed vigour. For it is said that hundreds were turned away from the Palladium: and the sight of people "struggling to be free" is always heartening to the sentimental Englishman.

Barnet Fair.

Further proof of the deep roots which fix our national customs to the past was given last week at Barnet, where the Annual Fair—it is both a Horse and a Pleasure Fair—attracted men from all over the British Isles. Ponies were sent from Ireland, Wales, and the Shetlands—much as they have been sent ever since Ireland, Wales and Scotland realised that profit could be made out of England. Actually, the Charter for the Fair was granted by Henry II., but one can hardly think that the number of non-Englishmen present in those early days was as great as it is now. Possibly, however, the number of real gipsies was even greater.

On the whole the tendency at Fairs is, as in other business, for the small man to disappear. People join together for safety; often, indeed, "owners" of cocoa-nuts, darts, roundabouts, and so on, are only agents for some big firm. But there still exists infinite scope for individuality. That is the charm of these Fairs: you may meet types of men and women, modes of speech and dialects that could be collected hardly anywhere else in these islands. It is all a wonderful mixture, this smell of whelks and traction-engines and "rock" sweets and unwashed humanity!

ALTER EGO.

Book Review

NEPAL.

"**THE GURKHAS.**" By Major W. Brook Kerley and Capt. C. J. Norris (The Bodley Head. Illustrated, 18s. net.)

Few realize how utterly unknown the Himalayan State of Nepal is to the outside world, or how very difficult it is to collect any general information about it. Its means of communication are few and very arduous, so that an inhabitant of one part of the State has probably never seen most other parts nor has he any knowledge of them. The outsider who would make it his business to explore and enquire is rigidly kept out. Nepal is not, as many suppose, on all fours with what we call the "Native States" of India. It is an independent sovereignty, and the representative of the Government of India who is permitted to reside in a very circumscribed area at the Headquarters of the Nepal Government is, in reality, a sort of ambassador, like his Nepalese opposite number with the Government of India. Greatly favoured are the few great ones who are invited to join in the famous tiger shoots in the Nepal Tarai, close to the British frontier, and still fewer are the lucky ones (even Lord Curzon was not one of them) who are permitted to visit, escorted and along the main road and track only, the sacred valley of Nepal, where the capital city of Khatmandu is situated. When there it is not much that they are allowed to see. And it is only the very few who manage to secure permission to visit any other part of the country, nor can even they go alone or pass the prescribed limits which never extend more than a few miles beyond the Frontier.

This being so, it is not to be wondered at that we have hitherto known very little of Nepal, its inhabitants, their origins, customs and beliefs. What we do know so far is owing to Brian Hodgson, but even that is hardly satisfying, and he died long ago. Clearly the only way to set about remedying this state of affairs was to make careful enquiries from those most likely to know the facts. Such persons are readily available in the soldiers of our splendid Gurkha regiments, who are recruited from various parts of the State. Agents for making such enquiries are to hand in the shape of the British officers of these regiments whose relations with their beloved Gurkha brothers are extraordinarily close. No one, however, who had not the power of inspiring confidence, who had not drawn up a careful programme of his enquiries, and who had not the gift of endless patience both in questioning and in carefully checking his results could have written this book, no matter how much his attachment to his men and vicariously to their country inspired him. He could, of course, supplement and check his notes from the writings of others, specially of Brian Hodgson, and great would be his fortune, if he were able to add personal observation in different parts of the State, no matter how restricted his visits may have been.

These are precisely the qualities which the two authors of this book possess. The preparation of this book must

have entailed very hard and very exacting labour, but the result is a work of real usefulness and one which has long been badly wanted. Major Northey and Captain Morris are heartily to be congratulated on the completion of their labour of love, and we can now only hope that, as edition follows edition, each may be a still further improvement on the last. We have not space to enter into details, but hope that we may be able to give some slight indications of some of the directions in which this could be achieved.

The past history of the State is, of course, only outlined. If the outline is often blurred, the authors are not to blame. They have had to piece together as they could from a mass of legends, many of them contradictory. The main facts, however, do stand out. Modern history is given in much more detail, and here we miss any explanation or discussion of the curious custom which deprives the King of all temporal power and hands it over to the Prime Minister, in much the same way as we find in the neighbouring State of Sikkim. Perhaps the most effective historical narrative in the book is the chapter dealing with Nepal's share in the Great War. Simply, even badly, the facts are set down, but what they disclose is almost incredible. It would take the pen of Sir Thomas Mallory to treat it in any other way, for it is startling, if comforting, to learn that the old spirit of chivalry still survives, as indeed we were to learn that it still survived also in many of the Indian Native States. But here the material and human resources were comparatively small and the performance approached the impossible.

The physical nature of the country is described with what detail is practicable. But the most valuable part of the book is that which deals with the various tribes constituting its population. The varying admixture of Mongolian blood with that of various Indian tribes renders the task of sifting the legends of their origins very hard and in many cases, the matter has to be left in doubt. The authors have tried to give an account, in the case of each main tribe, of its chief social practices and religious ceremonies. This must have entailed much hard work and is particularly interesting. The admixture of Hindu and Lamaistic-Buddhist beliefs is very curious. Here and there, however, there is a lack of clarity, and now and then the workers seem to have grown weary and to have nodded. For instance this sort of thing stands out badly in the midst of records of permanent scientific interest:—"One more caste (*sic*) inhabiting Eastern Nepal remains to be mentioned. This is the Thami. Only about three to four thousand in number, they live chiefly on the banks of the Sunkosi and Tamburkosi rivers. Coarse in appearance, and the inferior of the other races in social and religious matters, they do not merit further description." We would suggest that, in preparation for a second edition, the authors should seek the advice of experts in ethnology and folk-lore with a view to weak points being strengthened. With expert guidance as to what is wanted, we have no doubt but that the authors will be able to supply it. The difficult question of tribal languages and dialects must, for full examination, await the opening up of the country to students.

We have only to add that the value of this excellent work is greatly enhanced by the unusually good and interesting illustrations which are included in it.

C. S-W.

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PERSONAL AND GENERAL

TO-DAY

September 13, 1928 (New Style).

August 31, 1928 (Old Style).

Rabia I, 27, 1347 A.H., of the Muslim Calendar.

Ellul 28, 5688, of the Jewish Calendar.

The Hon. Donald and Mrs. Erskine left England on September 12 for India.

The Hon. Lady (Stanley) Jackson has arrived at the Hyde Park Hotel, from India.

Dr. Martin, of Addis Ababa, has arrived in England, where he will stay for the next few weeks.

Field-Marshal Viscount Allenby and Viscountess Allenby return to-day to 24, Wetherby Gardens from Scotland.

Princess Cecile of Greece left London on September 10 for Balmoral Castle on a visit to the King and Queen.

The Hon. Henry and Mrs. Mond returned to 45, Green Street on September 10 from a cruise round the Greek Archipelago.

The Bishop of Madras, who is returning to his diocese, left London on September 7 in the British India Company's liner *Mulbera*.

Sir Jagadis and Lady Bose were among the passengers leaving Marseilles on September 7 in the P. and O. liner *Kaisar-i-Hind* for India.

Lady (Clement) Hindley left London on September 6 by the P. and O. special train to join the s.s. *Kaisar-i-Hind* at Marseilles for Bombay.

The Amir Zaid, younger brother of King Faisal of Iraq, who has been on a visit to ex-King Hussain in Cyprus, has arrived in England, where he expects to stay for a few weeks.

The Earl of Birkenhead, Secretary of State for India, who has been appointed to act as Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs in the absence of Lord Cushendun at Geneva, took over his duties on September 7.

Miss Helen Schilizzi, daughter of Mr. Stephen Schilizzi, of Guilsborough Court, Northamptonshire, has been adopted prospective Liberal candidate for Northampton. Miss Schilizzi is a niece of Mme Venizelos.

Princess Eudoxia of Bulgaria, who is on a visit to Sir Kay and Lady Muir at Blair Drummond, Perthshire, arrived last week at Balmoral Castle on a visit to their Majesties the King and Queen, and left on September 8. Mdle Petrov-Tchomakoff is in attendance on Her Royal Highness.

THE ALBANIAN GOVERNMENT.

The first Cabinet appointed in Albania under the monarchical régime has been constituted as follows:—

M. Kosta Kotta	...	...	Prime Minister and Interior.
M. Ilias Vrioni	...	...	Foreign Affairs.
M. Jafer Ypi	...	...	Education.
M. Hqmet Delvima	...	...	Justice.
M. Milto Tutulani	...	...	Finance.
M. Talih Vuchiterni	...	...	Public Works.
M. Musa Juka	...	...	Agriculture and Forestry.

PERSIA ON THE LEAGUE COUNCIL.

At the election for filling the non-permanent seats on the Council of the League of Nations on September 10, Spain, Persia and Venezuela, with 46, 40 and 35 votes respectively, were nominated to take the places of Colombia, Holland and China. Norway came next with eleven votes; Greece, Portugal and Uruguay received two each.

NEWS IN BRIEF.

In consequence of differences between Ministers, M. Liaptcheff handed in the resignation of the Bulgarian Cabinet to King Boris on September 5. The Chamber of Deputies was adjourned and will not meet again until the formation of a new Government.

A thousand young Fascists, including Signor Mussolini's two sons, are visiting Constantinople. On September 6 they marched through the streets in uniform and laid flowers below the statue of Ghazi Mustapha Kemal, in the Taksim quarter.

When the United Grand Lodge of English Freemasons met at Birmingham on September 5, a maul (or mallet) found in the tomb of a Pharaoh of the Third Dynasty was presented to Lord Amptill, Pro-Grand Master, by Brigadier-General Wilson, Grand Master of Egypt and the Sudan.

Two hundred and forty-seven British pilgrims, among whom was Viscount Stopford of the Imperial War Graves Commission, who have been visiting the graves of their relatives and friends in Gallipoli, arrived in Constantinople on September 5 on board the *Stella d'Italia* for a two days' stay before their return to England.

Flight-Lieutenant J. Scholefield, who left Croydon at 5.30 a.m. on September 6 in an effort to fly to Roumania in one day on a Vickers Vimy military machine, reached Bucharest at 5.50 p.m. the same day, having flown about 1,600 miles with only two stops for refuelling. The machine is to be demonstrated to the Roumanian authorities in a competition for orders for new military equipment.

A Budapest message states that the coffin of M. Aichorn, late Director of the Hungarian Consular Mission at Cluj, which had been sealed by the Hungarian Legation in Bucharest, has been opened by Roumanian Customs officers at the Hungarian-Roumanian frontier station of Borsi, in order to ascertain whether it contained smuggled articles, especially gold.

Three Englishwomen who arrived recently at Athens on their way from Spain to Baghdad by motor car, have been experiencing difficulties in proceeding through Turkey owing to the Turkish law which forbids the driving of a foreign car across the Turkish military zone except by a Turk. They are proceeding to Adrianople, says *The Times*, where they will take the matter up with the local authorities.

BY MOTOR ACROSS EUROPE.

The interesting account that appeared in *THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA* during July of a motor tour from London to the Black Sea has inspired others to undertake the same journey. Miss Katherine Stoop, of Westhall, Byfleet, Surrey, and Miss Beryl Mappin, of London, have recently arrived at Varna, having made the journey from England alone in a Bentley 15 h.p. coupé *via* Holland, Germany, Austria, Hungary and Roumania. After a short stay at Les Trois Sources, the residence of Dr. and Madame Stancioff at Varna, Miss Stoop and Miss Mappin have been the guests of the British Minister and Mrs. Sperling in Sofia, and are expected to start shortly on the return journey by car. It is understood that their experiences on the way out were so entirely satisfactory and agreeable that they are encouraged to return to England by the same method of transport.

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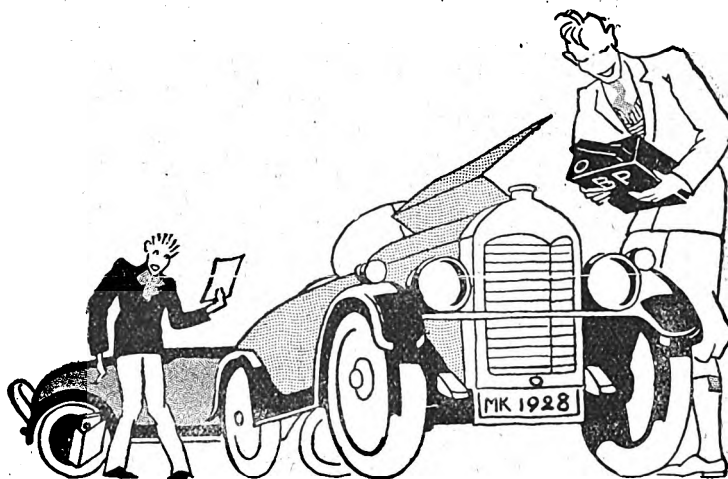
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NOTES AND NEWS

170, Strand, London, W.C.2,
Tuesday Morning.

The German-Roumanian Negotiations.

The negotiations between Roumania and Germany for the settlement of the financial questions outstanding between them—to which reference is made elsewhere in this issue—are due to be resumed in Berlin this week, after an interruption to enable the Roumanian representatives to consult their Government. The Germans have prepared a scheme which stipulates for payment in gold of the interest on the pre-War Roumanian stocks held by German nationals, but provides that the percentages applicable to the payment of coupons shall range from 30 to 75 over a period of thirty years in the case of the Four and a Half Per Cent. Loan of 1913 and from 15 to 50 per cent. over the same period in the case of other loans. The first-named Loan, it will be remembered, was the subject of an agreement, dated July 4 last, between the Roumanian Government and Messrs. J. Henry Schröder and Co., with a view to the reinstatement of the quotation of the Bonds of this Loan on the London Stock Exchange. That agreement was noticeable for the sweeping clause which provided that payment as arranged was in future to be made "in time of war as well as in time of peace and whether the holders be citizens or subjects of a friendly, hostile or neutral State, without requiring any declaration or evidence as to the then present or former nationality, domicile or residence of such holders or any previous holders." It would be difficult to tie up a Government more tightly than that.

The Greek Free Zone at Salonika.

The success of the Greek Free Zone at Salonika is in striking contrast to the comparatively small amount of trade that passes through the Yugoslav Free Zone alongside. A proposal is now on foot to consider a further extension of the Greek Zone, both to the east and to the west. If it were not for the fact that its *amour propre* is so largely engaged in the matter, the Yugoslav Government might be expected to take advantage of the new order in Greece to withdraw from an arrangement which has not fulfilled the expectations formed of it. Theoretically it was at the time sound policy to require a Free Zone for Yugoslav trade through Salonika. Greek administration of the port was apt to be lax, the management of the railway line leading to and from it still more indifferent. The mere fact, however, of being compelled to admit her inefficiency in this direction would seem to have stirred Greece to greater efforts. She promptly established a Free Zone of her own and proceeded to show how it ought to be run. At the same time she improved the administration of the railway from Ghevgeli. Yugoslavia has nothing to regret in the matter; she has been instrumental in placing the port of Salonika on a satisfactory footing of efficiency and she stands to reap the benefit without the trouble of managing a free zone of her own.

Conditions in Syria.

During the three years which have elapsed since a "Report" was issued by the British Consul at Damascus, the trade of Syria has, as Mr. Satow points out in his statement, extracts of which are published elsewhere in this issue, suffered very severely from the effects of the Druse rising in 1925. In 1925 the British Consul's Report predicted a reasonably comfortable future for Syria; few, indeed, could foresee the months of bitter fighting in which the Mandatory authorities had to take part before tranquillity and security could be achieved. This political upheaval naturally reflected itself in the economic sphere. Imports largely exceeded exports, and although there are various reasons for regarding this fact with more equanimity than would be possible in other countries, one need but mention that in 1927 the value of imports into Syria was 1,291 millions of francs as against exports to the value of 540½ millions of francs to realise that it is in the economic domain that the hardest efforts will have to be made in Syria in order to achieve real stability and prosperity. To a certain extent, of course, the condition of Syria is dependent upon developments elsewhere in Western Arabia. If, for example, the terminus of the trans-desert pipe-line and railway be chosen in Palestine, instead of in Syria, as the French hoped, the effect on Syria's trade will be considerable. For one thing, the rail-line from Beyrout to Tripoli, which it was originally hoped to construct and extend to Haifa (thus making Calais linked by rail with Cairo, may be found ultimately to stop short at Tripoli.

Developments in Syria.

Conditions in Syria for the last few years have militated against any ambitious programme of public works. Steady progress, however, has been made in road construction, enabling the country to record a considerable increase in motor transport. In 1927 there were 4,500 motor cars and more than 400 lorries and trucks, the majority being registered in the Lebanon. The anxiety with which future developments at Haifa are being watched in Syria is explained by the lack of harbours in the French mandated territory. Beyrout is the only real port. Plans are now in hand, Mr. Satow states, for the enlargement of the harbour, work on the widening of the eastern arm having been in progress for some time. There is also a scheme for the construction at Lattakia of

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a jetty 200 metres long and of dredging operations to secure a depth alongside of seven metres. One development on which the French are concentrating is the popularising of the Lebanon as a place of summer residence. Syria has always attracted visitors, but the French are aiming at making the Lebanon an important tourist resort. The 1927 season was regarded as a great success, and, encouraged by this fact, the authorities are making further efforts to let the attractions of the Lebanon be known. Although it must always make a strong appeal as a summer resort to dwellers in the plains of Iraq, it has a formidable rival in Cyprus when there is a question of a sea voyage first.

Co-operation for Cotton.

In view of the stimulus now being given the world over to the co-operative movement it is not a matter for surprise that an attempt should be made to introduce the system into Egypt's cotton industry. The prime mover is Amin Yussuff Bey, who has come over to England to make inquiries regarding the kind of reception that Lancashire might be expected to give to the movement. As he is careful to point out, he has no cut-and-dried scheme; the general advantages for the Egyptian grower are obvious, provided that the scheme does not affect prejudicially his market. At present cotton is said to pass through seven or eight hands between the grower in Egypt and its arrival in Lancashire. Whether some useful service is preformed at each stage remains to be proved; it is at least unlikely. On the other hand, the success of a co-operative movement would depend on the capacity of those concerned to render to the Lancashire buyer the services to which he is accustomed and which presumably he requires. Here the proof of the pudding will be in the eating. Lancashire is not going to turn down a proposal that offers her the same cotton at a lower price, and if the Egyptian grower is to obtain a higher price at his end, clearly the scheme is one well worth investigating carefully. Middlemen are easily denounced, but often on examination they are found to do some work for their living. If in the various stages of cotton's life history, there are drones battenning on the industry, their removal can be contemplated without compunction.

Athens Light and Power Problems.

According to an Athens journal the relations between the Greek State and the Power and Traction Finance Company, which holds a concession for a long period of years for the provision of light, power, and traction, are to be the subject of a letter to the company from the Minister of Communications, M. Christomanos, in which the question will be raised of the control of the company by the State as regards finance and technical matters. While no information is as yet available in London, it appears that conversations have been proceeding in Greece between M. Christomanos and directors of the company, among the points raised being the question of the voltage. The present current is 220 volts, which is the rate approved by the International Convention held at Chicago in 1926, but because there have unfortunately been one or two fatalities the view is taken in Greece that the rate is an extremely dangerous one, and a current of 110 volts is asked for which, of course, will entail the alteration of the existing installations. As a matter of fact, I understand that accidents have been known to occur with the lower current, and those who know the Greek mentality will probably agree that Greeks are at least as likely as any other people to attempt experiments in their houses once they have electric lighting, so that it as a very moot question whether the reduction of the current will prove quite the "safety first" device that is desired.

COMMENTATOR.

ROUMANIA: OIL AND FINANCE.

To carry through the wise decision to stabilise her currency legally, at the level at which practical stability had been secured for it for at least a year, Roumania found herself obliged to have recourse to foreign financial assistance. As soon as negotiations to this end were opened the Roumanian Government was given to understand that certain outstanding financial matters would first have to be settled. Among these was the settlement of the Roumanian War Debt to France, the regulation of the 1913 Four and a Half Per Cent. Loan and of Roumanian pre-War Stocks, held principally in France, Belgium and Switzerland, and the financial dispute with Germany. Settlements regarding the first three questions have been arranged, by substantial concessions on Roumania's part, but the points at issue with Germany are proving harder to solve. On the one hand Roumania claims compensation for the German occupation of Roumania, with special reference to the issue of bank notes to the amount of 2,173 million gold lei, which the Roumanian Government had to buy up; Germany, on the other hand, claims payment for Roumanian pre-War Government stocks held by German Nationals, while she maintains that under the Dawes Plan all special reparation claims by Roumania have been wiped off the slate. To complete the tangle, Roumania claims that she is absolved by the Treaty of Versailles from meeting her obligations in regard to the 600 million gold lei of pre-War Stocks held in Germany.

Although this inability to come to terms with Germany remains the only, so to speak, official obstacle in the way of co-operation of British, French and German Banks in the scheme for Roumania's currency reform and reconstruction programme, there is another matter which cannot well escape the attention of the Bucharest Government. On general lines the way for British participation in negotiations for an international loan for Roumania has been cleared, but there is still the possibility of a variety of subjects being raised in the course of those negotiations. It is certain that British financial interests that have invested capital in the Roumanian oil industry will be strongly opposed to the issue of a loan unless and until steps have been taken by the Roumanian Government to remove some of the disabilities under which foreign oil companies in Roumania suffer.

The Roumanian Mining Law.

By the Mining Law of July 3, 1924, Roumania nationalised her sub-soil and laid down the principle that exploitation of her oilfields could in future be carried out only by "nationalised" companies. The rights of existing companies were safeguarded in respect of concessions already granted; but to enjoy the advantages of Roumanian Mining Companies they were required within a term of ten years to conform to the regulations of the Law, which include that fifty-five per cent. (as compared with sixty per cent. for new companies) of the capital must be held by Roumanian citizens and that the majority (as compared with two-thirds) of the members of the Board, inclusive of the Chairman, must be Roumanian.

When it is recalled that for the initial exploitation of her oilfields Roumania was entirely dependent on foreign oil companies, to whom she had to turn not only for capital, but also for the necessary technical experience, it will be seen how unfairly these provisions of the Mining Law press upon those companies. In the first place they have taken the risk attendant on the development of an unproved field, and have then incurred heavy expenditure on installations in establishing the industry. An oil property, however, is at best a wasting asset; and the only means by which an oil company can make sure of the future is by a policy of expansion. The effect of the Rou-

manian Mining Law, it is urged, is virtually to deprive foreign companies of the prospect of expansion, by imposing conditions which it is difficult, if not impossible, for them to carry out. In view of the fact that they were invited by Roumania to come to her help at a time when, in the matter of oil, she could not help herself, and that they have been the means of making the industry what it is, the foreign companies claim that they have a right to more considerate treatment. Side by side with the actual disabilities imposed on them, it is complained that favouritism was at once shown to so-called "nationalised" companies to the prejudice of those who had borne the expense and burden of founding and establishing Roumania's oil industry. This was done, so it is alleged, even to the disregard of the country's interests, when an offer on the part of foreign companies to explore at their own expense all still unproved State lands, to take them over and to exploit them on the usual terms, and in addition to make a loan of £8,000,000 to the Roumanian Government, was rejected, and the Government proceeded to distribute the best of the proved State properties without any *quid pro quo* in regard to exploration work on the rest of the State lands.

Another sword of Damocles hanging over the heads of foreign companies is the regulation that 75 per cent. of their staff must be Roumanian. A period of seven years' grace is allowed from the promulgation of the Mining Law for the change-over to become effective, and it has been enacted that for the present the regulation need apply only to the technical staff in producing fields. Within three years, however, the companies are threatened with the necessity of changing their personnel on purely arbitrary grounds, without consideration for the interests of the industry.

When once Roumania had resolved to take over into her own hands as far as possible the development of her own country there was bound to be some conflict of opinion with established interests; but in view of the fact that the Government must for many a long year remain dependent financially on foreign capital, it behoved it to tread warily in dealing with those interests. Unfortunately, the decision that the country must work out its own salvation was reached by those who imagined that Roumania could at once dispense with all foreign help in every direction. Gradually these mistaken ideas are being thrown overboard, as the course of events that have followed the overtures for a loan have clearly shown. Pre-War debts, for instance, are to be paid on a gold basis; stabilisation of the currency will be carried out at the present level—both courses M. Bratianu refused to entertain a few years ago. As the present Prime Minister has had to meet the wishes of foreign financial interests, the foreign oil companies are no less anxious that he should now realise that they too have not been wholly arbitrary in asking for fairer treatment than was meted out to them when the Mining Law was passed. It may be in the interests of Roumania to introduce an oil monopoly; but, if any regard is to be had to her reputation abroad, it would have to be done with due consideration for vested interests on the basis that foreign companies whose co-operation was sought at one time are entitled to security of tenure or adequate compensation. Again, in the matter of assessing taxation there has been arbitrary discrimination between pre-War capital, which after being rated at four times its nominal value is now rated at six times, whereas the leu stands in the neighbourhood of 800 to the £, or thirty-two times the nominal value. In this respect, however, there is no discrimination between foreign and Roumanian pre-War companies.

In general, it is not to be expected that there should be any elaborate examination of detailed grievances between the oil companies and the Roumanian Government, before the Reconstruction Loan, which the country needs so badly, is arranged. It should, however, be possible for the Roumanian Government to satisfy all foreign interests that it has definitely abandoned the belief which at one time it seemed to hold, that it can afford to con-

sider its own interests alone and has no occasion to attempt to placate foreign interests. In regard to this question of Roumanian relations with foreign business interests there is no reason to suppose that the nation as a whole is under any illusion on the subject. It has suffered from the lack of sympathy which a mistaken policy has engendered abroad, and it is anxious to see better relations established. The exceptional conditions of the country, however, have left the people without much say in the matter, while being the chief sufferers.

Motors and Motoring

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Mr. Norman Hardie, who is responsible for the business side of The Associated Equipment Co., Ltd., informs me that he is about to embark on an extensive tour in connection with the development of the overseas trade of that great manufacturing concern. I am glad to hear that he is visiting India, the Federated Malay States, Dutch East Indies and Egypt, amongst other places, so evidently he agrees with my contention, so frequently urged in these columns, that there is big business waiting in the Near, Middle and Far East for enterprising British firms, if they will only take the trouble to go and get it.

The Progress of the Ariel.

Ariel Works Ltd., one of the oldest manufacturers of motor cycles, is an outstanding example of modern production methods. With a total floor space of some 500,000 sq. ft.—replete with up to date machines driven by electric motors of nearly 2,000 h.p.—it is undoubtedly in the foremost position of the industry. In full production approximately 1,000 motor cycles and 2,500 cycles can be turned out per week—providing constant employment for nearly 3,000 hands.

In response to many suggestions from all parts of the world that a lightweight motor cycle should be produced. Ariel Works have now made arrangements to put on the market, at the rate of a thousand a week, a smaller machine of 250 c.c. capacity. It is, in every way, a really well designed motor cycle—in fact, a miniature of the 500 c.c., and the price is very competitive. This new venture will, in no way, effect the production of the larger machine, as very considerable extensions to the factory have been made to facilitate matters.

Some three years ago, the modern Ariel motor cycle was produced, after exhaustive tests, and took the eye of agents and public alike. Such was the great increase in orders, that it became essential for speedier methods of manufacture to be introduced. The problem was solved

FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

Country.	Method of Quoting.	Parity of Exchange.	Latest Quotations.
Alexandria.....	Piastre to £	97½	97½
Amsterdam ...	Florins to £	12.107	12.10½
Athens	Drachms to £ ...	25.22½	375
Belgrade.....	Dinars to £	25.22½	276
Berlin	Marks to £	20.43	20.36½
Berne	Francs to £	25.22½	25.19½
Bombay	Sterling to Rupee	18d.	17 31/32—18
Brussels	Belga to £.....	35	34.90
Bucharest	Lei to £	25.22½	795
Budapest	Pen to £	27.82	27.83
Calcutta	Sterling to Rupee	18d.	17 31/32—18
Constantinople	Piastres to £	110	932½
New York	Dollars to £	4.86 2-3	4.85 1/16—½
Paris	Francs to £.....	25.22½	124.20
Prague	Kronen to £.....	24.02	163½
Rome	Lire to £	25.22½	92.75
Sofia	Leva to £	25.22½	670
Teheran	Krans to £	49½	49½
Vienna	Sch to £	34.58	34.41
Warsaw	Zlotv to £	25.22½	43.28

by the employment of the "track system" for the assembly of motor cycles. This method proved entirely satisfactory. Not only was larger production made easy, but the standard of workmanship became even better than with the old way. One man, one job; repetition makes perfect. This system has, as far as possible, now been introduced in all branches of production. The enamelling plant, on endless chain lines, is an illustration of what engineering and modern science can accomplish—the parts being quite ready for assembly in less than an hour and a half from being dipped. There is no waste of time and no waiting. An order placed in the works, can be put in hand, the machines built and packed ready for despatch, within six or seven hours.

Apart from producing a very attractive machine at a reasonable price, it is realised that unless sales are backed by service success cannot be held. A separate factory of considerable size, and employing nearly a hundred expert hands, is entirely devoted to repair work and the supply of spare parts. Ariel Works Ltd. look forward confidently to even greater prosperity in the future.

Hooting.

The outcry against unnecessary "hooting" on the part of motorists is rapidly growing and it is probable that some steps will be taken in regard to the matter before long. Mr. Arthur Murray writes suggesting that the Home Secretary should insist that the police do all in their power to reduce this nuisance and adds: Some legislative powers are necessary to mitigate this intolerable hooting nuisance.

A close observer of road matters says that the hooting is worst where traffic is congested. Wherever there is a block or partial block, every motorist who joins the waiting or slow-moving throng begins to hoot for some mysterious reason. Some appear to think that if they only hoot sufficiently loudly for a sufficiently long time, the other traffic will get out of their way. Motor hooting has been called "the curse of modern existence." I do not think it is as bad as that. I think it is only a sign of the ignorant and inconsiderate driver.

TENDERS INVITED.

Tenders are invited for the following contracts, and must be made by the dates mentioned.

(Particulars of tenders marked D.O.T. are to be obtained from the Department of Overseas Trade, 55, Old Queen Street, S.W.1.)

EGYPT.

Lock Gates, Etc.—The Resident Engineer, Delta Barrage Directorate, at Delta Bridge, invites tenders for (1) Construction of eight lock gates for Damietta and Rosetta locks both at Delta Bridge and their delivery at site and erection in position; (2) construction of twenty regulator gates and their delivery at sites. November 1.

Clothing, Etc.—The Director of Stores, Department of Public Health, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of clothing, soft and

woollen, sheets, linen, napkins, blankets woollen, white and brown, material by metres, etc., required for the unexpired period of the year 1928-1929. October 11.

Door and Window Fittings.—The Ministry of Public Works invites tenders for the supply of door and window fittings. October 1. (D.O.T.)

Machine Tools.—The Public Works Ministry, Tanzim Department, invites tenders for the supply of machine tools, etc. (universal boring, drilling surfacing, tapping machines, plate bending rolls, drilling machine, lathe, blowing fan, hydraulic press, steel shafting, ball-bearing pedestal). October 3. (D.O.T.)

Water Meters.—The Public Works Ministry, Tanzim Department, invites tenders for the supply of water meters. October 6. (D.O.T.)

Chloride of lime.—The Egyptian Department of Public Health invites tenders for the supply of 20 tons of stabilised chloride of lime, October 2. (D.O.T.)

TURKEY.

Steamship.—A steamship company in Turkey is desirous of purchasing two large vessels. (D.O.T.)

Rotary Printing Machine.—A Turkish newspaper intends to purchase a rotary printing machine in the near future. (D.O.T.)

Newsprint and Printing Ink.—A Turkish newspaper desires quotations for the supply of newsprint and printing ink. (D.O.T.)

Copper Wire.—The Post and Telegraph Administration, Angora, invites tenders for the supply of copper wire. October 3. (D.O.T.)

Iron and Steel Girders.—The State Railways and Ports Administration invites tenders for the supply of iron and steel girders for roofs. September 20. (D.O.T.)

ROUMANIA.

Electric Portal Crane and Goods Lifts.—The Acting British Vice-Consul at Constantza reports that the port authorities are calling for tenders for the supply of one electric portal crane and two goods lifts. October 1. (D.O.T.)

YUGOSLAVIA.

Tin.—A firm in Sarajevo invites tenders for supply of tin in bars. (D.O.T.)

Sandwich Tins.—A firm in Sarajevo desires to receive quotations for the supply of half a ton of plain, round sandwich tins. (D.O.T.)

FORTHCOMING SAILINGS.

The following are the sailings for the Near East and India, the ports of departure and closing dates for cargo being given in parentheses:—

Anchor Line.—S.s. Assyria for Bombay (Birkenhead, September 25). (For passenger sailings and dates see advertisement.)

Anchor Brocklebank Line.—S.s. Macharda for Calcutta (Birkenhead, September 20); s.s. Mahout for Calcutta (Birkenhead, September 27).

Bibby Line.—S.s. Lancashire for Port Said, Port Sudan, Colombo, and Rangoon (Birkenhead, September 19).

British India Line.—S.s. Mashobra for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, September 22); s.s. Dumana for Bombay and Karachi (London, September 29); s.s. Mandala for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, October 6).

Cunard Line.—S.s. Bactria for Gibraltar, Malta, Patras, Piræus, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, and Constantza (Liverpool, Glasgow, and Swansea, September 29); s.s. Bantia for Casablanca, Gibraltar, Genoa, Leghorn, Naples, Palermo, Messina, Catania, Corfu, Bari, Gruz, Venice, Trieste, and Fiume (Liverpool September 15, and Swansea September 18).

Johnston Line.—S.s. Jessmore for Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, September 29); s.s. Dromore for Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, October 13).

P. and O. Line.—S.s. Rawalpindi for Bombay (London, September 14); s.s. Bangalore for Calcutta (London, September 15); s.s. Rajputana for Bombay (London, September 28); s.s. Novara for Calcutta (London, September 29).

Prince Line.—S.s. African Prince for Tunis, Malta, Alexandria, Jaffa, Haifa, Beyrout, and Cyprus (Manchester, September 15); s.s. Cyprian Prince for Tunis, Malta, Alexandria, Jaffa, Haifa, Beyrout, Tripoli, Alexandretta, Mersina, and Cyprus (London, September 22).

Ellerman and Papayanni Lines.—S.s. Volturro for Gibraltar, Malta, Alexandria, Jaffa*, and Haifa* (Liverpool, September 15); s.s. Lesbian for Oran*, Algiers*, Piræus, Volo*, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, and Constantza (Liverpool, September 22); s.s. Flaminian for Malta, Alexandria, Jaffa*, and Haifa* (Liverpool, September 29); s.s. Oporto for Genoa, Leghorn, Naples, Palermo, Messina, Catania, Bari, Gruz*, Ancona*, Venice, Trieste, and Fiume (Liverpool September 29, Swansea October 4); s.s. Roumelian for Patras, Piræus, Volo*, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, and Constantza (Liverpool, October 6).

*Subject to sufficient inducement. Cargo taken on through Bill of Lading to:—Algerian ports via Algiers; Tripoli (Barbary) via Malta; Syria and Cyprus via Alexandria; Greek outports via Piræus or other convenient port; Moroccan ports via Gibraltar.

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LARGE STEAMSHIPS. UPPER DECK CABINS.

MODERATE FARES.

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Indian Government Vouchers accepted.

Passenger sailing dates:—

*CIRCASSIA ...	Sept. 20	CALIFORNIA ...	Oct. 24
*ASSYRIA ...	Sept. 28	*ELYSIA ...	Nov. 9
*BRITANNIA ...	Oct. 9	*CASTALIA ...	Nov. 27

*First class passengers only. †First and Third Class Passengers. Specially low fares. ‡Calls Port Sudan.

SPECIAL NOTICE.

NEW T.S.S. CALIFORNIA, 17,000 TONS, carrying 1st, 2nd and 3rd class passengers, sails from LIVERPOOL, October 24; MARSEILLES, October 30. All 1st and 2nd class state rooms are fitted with Punka Louvres and with Fans.

This vessel has exceptionally fine 3rd class accommodation.

ANCHOR LINE.

48, FENCHURCH STREET, LONDON, E.C.3.

THE WEEK'S FINANCE.

(By Our Financial Expert.)

London, September 11.

Business remains restricted on the Stock Exchange, the favourable weather having the effect of prolonging the holiday season. It is noteworthy, however, that the limited demand is mainly confined to securities of an investment character, the speculative markets mostly lacking support. Gilt-edged securities are fairly firm, but in the main home rails are neglected and uncertain. There was a considerable demand for bank and insurance shares, which provide an excellent outlet for the small investor's savings. Iron and steel shares again received steady support. Certain gramophone shares were active and showed considerable rises. The dividend and report of the Columbia Graphophone Company were announced. The total dividend for the fifteen months ended June last was 60 per cent., against 40 per cent. for each of the three preceding financial years ended on March 31, when, however, the capital was smaller. A capital bonus of 100 per cent. is also announced. Artificial silk shares were weak on the report of further price cuts, the disappointing balance-sheet published by Wardle and Davenport being a further depressing factor. The Chilean Government loan offered at the beginning of the week was heavily over-subscribed. The interesting statement was made that Gamages, the well-known Holborn stores, contemplate the flotation shortly of a subsidiary company, to be called Gamage (West End), Ltd., which will erect a modern store close to Marble Arch.

Mexican Debt Position.

The position of the Mexican Debt has attracted considerable attention during the past week. In certain quarters there has been a more hopeful feeling in the belief that the terms of a new agreement will shortly be made available. At any rate, the Secretary of the Mexican Treasury, in a public statement, has declared that Mexico would continue to pay not merely the interest on her debts, but would, "under a new agreement," proceed with the amortisation of those debts. This is the first information that the British bond-holders have received regarding the existing situation. The International Bankers' Committee, which has negotiated the new agree-

ment, has made no statement, but a report has gained currency to the effect that the London representatives have received advices from New York regarding the whole position. This statement, it has been pointed out, will be made known in the course of a few weeks. In the meantime, the Mexican bond market is in a state of considerable uncertainty. There is, however, a tendency to view the future hopefully. There is said to have been good buying of Mexican bonds, while the Mexican financial situation shows a recovery.

Brewery Shares.

During the past week Brewery shares, under the stimulus of public interest, have been somewhat active. The reasons for this activity are not altogether clear. There is no evidence which suggests a general improvement in the position of brewery companies, though of course this summer has been more favourable to the companies than the last. The general trade position, however, does not at the moment warrant great optimism. In a word, the investor should, as we indicated a few weeks ago, approach this section of the Stock Markets with the greatest caution. During recent years a considerable number of companies, and especially the smaller ones, have not found it easy to maintain revenue. Indeed, it seems probable that many small companies will find it advantageous to amalgamate with the larger undertakings. In these circumstances, the investor should confine his attention to the shares of the larger and more progressive companies, whose interests are widely spread. The shares of distillers have also received attention. In particular, there is a growing confidence in the future of Distillers Company. At present the shares return no more than £5 3s. per cent., but it is probable that sooner or later the shareholders will receive a windfall of some kind.

Gas Companies' Stocks.

With the approach of autumn the gas companies are entering upon the most profitable months of their financial year. It is, therefore, opportune to direct attention to these companies' stocks. In the main, gas companies have an excellent record so far as earnings and dividends are concerned. Consequently their stocks, both prior charge and junior, offer attractions for those who, while desiring a considerable element of security, seek a not unreasonable return. In particular the ordinary stock of the Gas Light and Coke Company deserves careful attention. The stock is offered at 19s. 1½d. per £1 of stock with six months' interest payable in March, and yields 5½ per cent. on the basis of the interim dividend of 5½ per cent. which the company has just paid. The market anticipates that the final dividend, which will be declared next February, will be something over 5½ per cent., and thinks that there is a good chance of the dividend on account of 1929 being put on a 5½ per cent. basis. The company can increase its dividend as the price of gas per therm is reduced, and with every probability of coal remaining cheap for a long time to come, there is a good prospect of gas being reduced to such a price as would permit the company paying a dividend of 6 per cent. The company is in a strong position and has considerable possibilities. As for prior charge securities, the 6 per cent. irredeemable preference stock of the South Metropolitan Gas Company gives a return of £5 10s. A yield of £5 11s. per cent. is obtainable on the Liverpool Gas Company's 4 per cent. perpetual debentures.

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PORT ELIZABETH, MOSSEL BAY, and CAPE TOWN.

Excellent Passenger Accommodation.

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To SOUTH AFRICAN PORTS.

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Information for Freight and Passage may be obtained
from the following:—

RANGOON—J. & F. Graham & Co.
CALCUTTA—Andrew Weir & Co.
COLOMBO—Skrine & Co.
BEIRA—Beira Shipping Agency.
DELAGOA BAY—John T.
DURBAN—Rennie & Sons.
DURBAN—Andrew Weir & Co.
EAST LONDON—Messrs. Dunn
& Co.
PT. ELIZABETH—Mackie, Dunn
& Co.

MOSSEL BAY—Messrs. E.
Searle & Co.
CAPE TOWN—Thomson,
Watson & Co.
HONG KONG—The Bank Line,
Ltd.
BANGKOK—Siam Forest Co.,
Ltd.
SINGAPORE—Hattenbach Bros
& Co.
MAURITIUS—Adam & Co.

LONDON—ANDREW WEIR & CO., 21, Bury Street, E.C.3

A message from Cairo states that the Egyptian Government has placed an order for 20 locomotives for the State railways with the Italian firm of Breda, of Milan.

Mr. G. H. Griffith, who has recently retired from the post of Deputy General Manager of the Egyptian State Railways, and Mrs. Griffith leave Egypt to-day for Europe.

The Provincial Assembly at Zagreb met on September 7 in ordinary session, and elected as President, in succession to the late M. Stepan Raditch, the Vice-President of the Croat Peasant Party, M. Predavetz.

Engineering Topics.

By G. B. B.

Concrete Roads.

A report has now been issued by the Chief Engineer, Local Government Department, Irish Free State, regarding an experimental length of concrete road laid down under what were then regarded as suitable conditions and in accordance with the most modern practice, in 1925. The road has been carrying heavy traffic for about three years, dealing with from 4,000 to 5,000 tons per day. The surface shows no deterioration, no disintegration is anywhere apparent and there are no surface cracks visible. Nothing whatever has been done to the road since it was laid, with the sole exception of filling the expansion joints with bitumen after the concrete had set firmly. The report says that the "running in a motor car" is not quite so smooth as over the adjoining asphalt surface, this being due to slight unevenness of the expansion joints, and the existence of a very slight waviness in the surface. This is more noticeable in one particular section. That further from the town is quite as smooth as the asphalt roads beyond. The engineer says: "I made several measurements on the surface with a straight edge, 5 ft. long, to ascertain the magnitude of the depressions. The deepest trough between two more elevated portions, 2, 3 or 4 feet apart was only three-eighths of an inch and this depth was only found twice out of several score of trials. The depth causing the unevenness of the running was not usually so much. This depression is not abrupt, but is in a length of an average of about 2ft. 6 in.

It is almost impossible for anyone to state whether the concrete is or is not better value than the asphaltic sections laid in other parts of this road. It appears, however, that the cost of a two-coat asphalt surface is one shilling per square yard less than that of the concrete road, a fact which will come as no surprise to engineers who have had experience with both kinds of surfacing."

The reports shows that the experimental asphalt surface portions are also in excellent condition, and as a matter of fact, provided the roads were well laid in the first place and the surfacing work was done as it should be, three years has not been a long enough time in which to determine the life of the respective surfaces. But from his personal observation, the engineer says that he is inclined, on the whole, to believe that the concrete is the better investment, chiefly in view of the fact that the sub-base or old road surface need not be so sound or so substantial as for asphalt.

In my view and that of most road engineers, it is essential, if a concrete road is to last, that its sub-base should be as sound and substantial as possible. The engineer goes on to say that an asphaltic surface cannot safely be laid unless on a really strong, well drained, existing road. Its length of life depends on the soundness of the foundation on which it is laid, and he concludes by saying that there are not many roads in the Irish Free State which are sufficiently strong and well drained to carry asphalt surfacing with safety.

If that be the case, it would seem evident that unless substantial reinforcement be used, which will add to the cost considerably, the roads are not strong enough to carry a concrete surface either.

British Firms and Indian Tenders.

I have been reading with some surprise that a year ago a British firm submitted a tender to the India Office for a quantity of rivets at as low a price as seemed possible, but that the order was placed eventually in Germany. An examination of the figures shows that the foreign price was £5 7s. 6d. per ton beneath that of the British firm, and in view of that difference, and looking superficially at the facts there seems every qualification for the order being given to the German firm. I note that *The Times* is hardly satisfied, however, and the point it raises is important. In the schedule attached to the tender it was clearly specified that the British firms should observe the recognised hours of labour obtaining in England in the trade and that it should pay the regulation trade union wages. The question thus is as to whether equivalent wages were paid and equivalent hours worked by the German firm. Another point that has been raised is that the British firm has to pay about four times as heavy taxation as the foreigners. Further tenders are being asked for and it is to be hoped that these matters will be borne in mind. The Government of India can make any stipulations it pleases in its tenders and can fix any conditions, but surely the facts that British firms pay high wages, contribute on a high scale to taxation, and run their works under modern conditions, and for hours judged to be fairest to their employees, should not be allowed to militate against their chances of securing Indian orders.

Town Planning.

The subject of town planning is one that is certain to secure more attention in the future than it is doing at present, and municipal authorities and others seem to be already recognising that consultation regarding proposed schemes with outside interests is essential. There seems to be far too little appreciation by the public of the way in which a district will be controlled by a town plan. If interested persons are frankly consulted and tactfully approached at the commencement it is not usually difficult to get them to agree to reasonable proposals, though as Mr. Johnson, of the City Engineer's office Nottingham, says, "these may not be altogether to their liking." It must be remembered further, that town planning schemes do not involve the local authority in immediate expenditure on works of any kind with a consequent increase in rates. Money will have to be spent on new roads as a district expands, and such work will not be more costly because it forms part of a well-conceived scheme. By judicious expenditure in this direction, greater rateable value will ultimately be secured.

The Turkish Government has notified the United States that it will adhere without reservations to the Kellogg Pact.

H.E. General Moheddine Pasha, Turkish Minister to Egypt, returned to Cairo at the end of last week from leave spent in Turkey.

The Dutch Minister at Teheran, who is in charge of Danish interests, has signed a provisional agreement between Persia and Denmark.

Ismail Sidky Pasha, Sherif Bey Sabry, and Ahmed Bey Abdel Wahab, Under-Secretary for Finance, returned to Egypt from Europe on August 26 by the s.s. *Ausonia*.

Fuad Sherin Bey, who was recently appointed Director of the Egyptian Educational Mission in Berlin, left Egypt on September 8 for Berlin to take up his new duties.

His Highness Sir Martanda Bhairava Tondiman Bahadur, Raja of Pudukota, G.C.I.E., of The Palace, Pudukota, India, and of Villa La Favorite, Cannes, France, Raja of Pudukota since 1886, who died on May 28, left (exclusive of property in India and France) estate in England of the gross value of £3,487, with net personality £2,069.

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British Consular Reports

V.—SYRIA.

The following extracts are taken from the report on the trade, industry and finance of Syria of Mr. H. E. Satow, O.B.E., H.M. Consul-General, Beyrout:—

The Trade Situation.

The marked exchange fluctuations of 1925 and 1926 make any comparison on a sterling value basis with 1927, when the franc was fairly steady at about 124, almost impossible. Even on a currency value basis comparisons have but little value, seeing that many goods reach Syria from countries with a high exchange. On a volume basis 1927 was slightly better than 1926. The following figures as to imports are taken from official sources:—

		Metric Tons.		Francs.
1925	...	448,984	...	957,598,200
1926	...	417,970	...	1,267,140,680
1927	...	438,664	...	1,291,177,900

During the last few months of 1925 and practically the whole of 1926 the country was not in a normal state, and it was not, indeed, until the beginning of 1927 that the Damascus merchants seriously set about the replacement of their depleted stocks. The figures are therefore rather disappointing. As regards exports (including re-exports), during the same three years the official figures are as follows:—

		Metric Tons.		Francs.
1925	...	77,366	...	459,191,000
1926	...	76,696	...	544,813,400
1927	...	114,098	...	547,738,500

These figures are more satisfactory, inasmuch as they show a much greater volume of goods exported. The balance of visible trade is still unfavourable, but the phenomenon is a normal one in the economic life of the country.

Imports.

It is depressing to have to record the very considerable inroads made by Italian, Belgian, Czechoslovak and French competitors in the sphere of cotton manufactured goods, which is the main British import. The causes, as they are known here, have already been brought to the notice of those concerned. Cost is, of course, the predominating factor, but it must be remembered that tastes have changed. The women of Syria, even outside the towns, have in many instances reached the silk-stocking stage and require something attractive, even if less durable. According to the import manifests the total imports of textile goods of all kinds, i.e., cotton, woollen, silk, etc., at Beyrout were in 1927 39,402 packages. Of these, the main sources were as follows:—From Italy 14,347 packages, from United Kingdom 5,864 packages, from France 4,139 packages, from Belgium 3,083 packages. There were also imported in transit via Egypt 7,012 packages, as regards the origin of which nothing definite can be said.

Cabots and madapolams still come principally from Great Britain, but Japan is a serious competitor in cabots. Madapolams are said to be less in favour, and a preference shown instead for oxfords and jacquards. Italian specialities, prints, satinettes, zephyrs, oxfords, jacquards and flannelettes are much in demand. Belgium is said to have lost some of her previous advantage owing to stabilisation. France supplies better quality goods, mattress ticking comes from Italy and Belgium, and poplins from Great Britain and Italy.

Cotton yarns no longer come almost entirely from Great Britain. Indian, Italian and Japanese competition is severe. At Aleppo, India is considered to have acquired practically the whole of the yarn business. Damascus, on the other hand, reports that Great Britain

still maintains her position in the higher counts, usually gassed, while two-thirds of the glazed or polished thread comes from the United Kingdom, the remainder coming from Belgium and Switzerland. These yarns are used for making the better class cloths known locally as "dima" and "alaja." In this connection it may be noticed that an Indian Trade Delegation paid a short visit to Damascus and Beyrout early in the year. The yarns are used mainly by weavers at Aleppo, Damascus, Homs and Hama. The quantities imported in 1927 of all kinds of yarns, but mainly écrus, were about 430 metric tons, and stocks at the end of the year were normal. At Aleppo, British artificial silk yarn is now being given a trial, and at Damascus there is a large and increasing market for this article, hitherto solely supplied by Italy, which does not seem to interest the British producer.

Underwear and hosiery.—There was, during the whole of 1927, a steady and regular demand. Italy, as a supplier of cheap cotton or mixture goods, met with competition from Germany. This was favoured for a time by the rise of the lira, and a good many orders went to Chemnitz. The United States also send a fair quantity of goods, and one well-known make of hosiery which is well advertised seems to find a ready sale. Great Britain and France on the whole supply a better class of article. A local competitor has appeared in the shape of Palestine, where two factories near Jaffa supplied relatively considerable quantities of goods which found a ready sale.

In woollen manufactures Great Britain supplies a high grade article, but France is a formidable competitor. Czechoslovakia also competes seriously, and at Damascus is said to have swamped the market with quite presentable cloths in striking designs at prices much lower than the British prices. Italian cloths were, at any rate for a time, less in demand, prices not being suitable. To meet this situation concessions were made by the Italian manufacturers. In general, competition is very keen in this line. In silks and novelties France is predominant. About half of the silk goods imported are the result of purchases made in France from the manufacturers. Italian competition in this line fell off. Large quantities of Shanghai silk now make their appearance in Damascus.

British-made paper seems to be too expensive for the market. One firm sent to Damascus a complete range of samples, but only a few orders were secured for low grade papers. Quantities imported in 1927 were:—Writing 360 tons, packing 700 tons, printing 330 tons, cigarette 170 tons, and cardboard 535 tons. Germany and Czechoslovakia seem to be the main sources of supply.

The market for drugs, chemicals and groceries, though a small one, is worth cultivating. These have been the lines in which most British travellers have been seen. A British grocery store now exists in Beyrout. As regards soap, the Marseilles article has a very strong hold on the market and competes successfully even with the locally-made article. Though British soap has lost ground, there is still a certain demand for it, price being the determining factor. Palestine produces a soap resembling a well-known British article in its make-up, which is reported to be making great progress in Damascus. The demand for toilet soaps is limited and is supplied by France, the United States of America and Great Britain.

The building trade continues active and the import of building materials increased in 1927. As regards cement of which the total imports were some 22,000 metric tons, Palestine competed seriously and successfully, and especially at Damascus, with the Italian and Belgian article. France supplies a better and more expensive

article. Wood comes exclusively from Anatolia and Roumania. Girders, sheet-iron, iron bars and pipes come from Belgium, Luxemburg and France. Germany cannot compete in price and the competition from Luxemburg is severe. Damascus reports that there the galvanised iron market has been captured by the United States, an attractive (though not durable) polish making a great appeal to the native. In corrugated iron Great Britain is meeting and just holding severe competition from the same quarter.

It should be noted in this connection that the use of reinforced concrete is increasing, and also that there is a tendency to build houses in a more modern style and with modern fittings. This has already led to a demand, which as time goes on must increase, for sanitary appliances. At present Germany and Czechoslovakia are the main suppliers at relatively cheap prices.

Sole leather comes mainly from France, with small quantities from Belgium and Italy. Upper leathers come mainly from the United States.

It is only in the event of a bad harvest, such as this year's will be, that Beyrout, which draws normally upon Damascus and local supplies, imports foreign flour. When obliged to do so it obtains flour from the United States, Australia or Marseilles (Gruau D). The millers of Damascus have formed a syndicate in order to keep up prices.

Kerosene, petrol, and oils and greases are mainly supplied by four large companies having their own organisations. There is also a variable amount of competition from speculators. There was in 1927 an increase of 10 per cent. in the case of kerosene, and of 25 per cent. in the case of petrol, over the imports for 1926. Imports in bulk are likely to be rendered possible in the near future by the erection of tanks—one tank was built at Tripoli last year—which should reduce prices by eliminating packing costs, etc. Coal supplies from the

United Kingdom, which is the main source, were in 1926 interrupted by the coal stoppage, and a considerable quantity of German coal came in. Matters have now righted themselves, but the possibility of German competition must not be overlooked. Coal is imported mainly for the railways, for the French Navy and for bunkering purposes. An attempt to introduce a cargo of Turkish coal this year met with no success.

Motor-cars come mostly from the United States. Owing to the keen competition, sales were in many instances made on the instalment system with, in some cases, unhappy results. French and Italian cars take second and third place. A few British cars of a well-known make have made a belated appearance. Unless a car can be seen and handled on the spot it is useless to hope to introduce it. Taxi-cabs appeared on the streets of Beyrout and Damascus in 1927, but the business was overdone, and several failures resulted. Great Britain has a share in the trade in motor tyres, which should increase. In machinery, Germany is reputed to supply 40 per cent. of the motors imported, being followed by Belgium and Great Britain. Pumps, which are in demand, are partly supplied from the United Kingdom. Agricultural tractors, etc., are imported from Great Britain and from the United States. At present in Aleppo there is rather a slump in this line, which is otherwise a promising one for British trade. Electrical material was, and should continue to be in greater demand, as the installation of electric lighting in various towns and large villages continues. The United Kingdom does not seem to supply any of this material, which comes from Belgium, Holland, Germany, France and Czechoslovakia. The quality is, as a rule, poor, and prices low.

Exports.

The chief countries taking Syrian goods and produce in 1927 were in order of importance:—France, United States, Palestine, Egypt, Turkey and Trans-Jordan. The United Kingdom was eighth on the list. Aleppo has a total export trade of somewhere about two million pounds sterling per annum, between 60 and 75 per cent. of these exports leaving via Alexandretta. Wool is the chief item. Then come livestock, butter, hides, cotton, olive oil and pistachios. The balance up to 4-5ths of its total consists of re-exports, of which the greater part consist of foreign piece goods or goods made up in Aleppo from foreign raw material. Damascus exports wool, apricot kernels, dried apricots and paste. Hemp is doing well, and Damascus is looking for more markets. Beyrout exports silk, dried cocoons, wool, skins and miscellaneous provisions.

British Trade.

In 1927 the value of the imports from Great Britain was approximately 178,580,787 francs (gold piastres 181,484,540). France was the chief supplier (gold piastres 195,811,451), and Great Britain thus a good second. Italy (gold piastres 122,959,864) is steadily creeping up. It seems to be almost entirely, so far as most articles are concerned, a question of price. Competition is extremely keen, and the consumer is unable to pay the high prices asked for British goods, even though he gets something good in return. British goods are known to be reliable, and British business methods are respected, but credit is the order of the day here. Whether the granting of credit is really to the benefit either of the giver or the receiver may be doubtful, but foreign competitors of the United Kingdom seem to find it a paying proposition to give it generously. A discount for cash is really a preferable alternative. In Damascus credit is rather a new experience, and whatever is given more will be asked. British trade seems at the best to be almost stationary. We are, beyond any doubt, losing ground in cotton textiles, which is the staple British import of real importance. Other British imports are coal, woollen cloths, machinery, motors, metals (copper), biscuits and confectionery.

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Near East Markets

CYPRUS TRADE.

The Returns of Imports, Exports, and Shipping for Cyprus for the second quarter of the current year show that although the value of the imports, amounting to £419,783, is somewhat lower than that for the first quarter, it is greater by nearly £15,000 than that for the corresponding period of 1927. Exports, valued at £375,225, are nearly £20,000 over those for the June quarter of last year, and £51,690 over the figure for the first quarter of this year. In imports the most notable increases were in machinery, motor cars, and wood manufacture. Cotton yarn and thread decreased by over £16,000 and there were also decreases in edible oils, sugar and unmanufactured tobacco. In exports seasonal decreases in carobs, barley, and oranges were more than balanced by the increase in asbestos; raw cotton, wool, raisins, silk and almonds also showed a substantial improvement.

In the foreign trade the total tonnage entered and cleared was 479,178 as against 410,953 for the corresponding period of 1927.

The report on Cyprus trade in July shows that the value of the imports during that month was £160,420—£32,520 more than in the corresponding month of 1927 and £48,291 more than the quinquennial average. The increase is more or less general, but is most noticeable in the following items: flour, manure, motor cars, motor car and other tyres, oils (non-edible), and timber. Large consignments of the last-named commodity continue to arrive from Roumania.

The total value of the exports for the month was £132,593, practically the same as for the corresponding month of last year. There is a slight decrease of £660, but as the total is £30,864 above the quinquennial average the position is satisfactory.

The principal increase in exports appear under the following heads: almonds, asbestos, raw cotton, pyrites, and raw silk.

The value of exports would have been higher had the normal exportation of barley commenced. This did not take place owing to an unusual local demand which raised the price to 3s. 2d. and 3s. 4d. per bushel.

Shipping maintained a good average.

THE SMYRNA FRUIT MARKET.

Messrs. C. J. Giraud and Co., of Smyrna, report as follows for the week ended September 11—

Sultanas.

Estimated arrivals on the Smyrna market since the opening of the season amount to 4,770 tons as against 7,100 tons for the corresponding period of 1927; estimated sales to date amount to 3,800 tons as compared with 5,700 in 1927.

Closing prices at Smyrna per cwt., c.i.f. London, were for types 13 to 18 respectively as follows:—37s. 6d.; 41s.; 44s.; 48s.; 54s.; 62s.

Market Conditions.—Prices over the week have ruled very steady. Notwithstanding very little increase in new business reaching Smyrna, unsettled weather conditions, lower exchange rates, and a shrinkage in supplies reaching the market, are all factors that have contributed to the visibly firmer closing this week-end. On balance, prices are up by 6d. to 1s. (fl. $\frac{1}{2}$ to 1) over last Saturday's closing level. Some bear shippers, however, discounting a decline, have been cabling out quotations for September shipment at fls. 2 to fls. 3 below actual ruling prices. Indeed, in the lower grades, such as our type 3, tentative quotations have been made as low as fls. 4 to fls. 5 below to-days' level. Even at this decline, however, little business is being booked on inferiors, the demand running mainly on the better grades, say types 15 upwards. The closing is uncertain in feeling. The market appears a bit nervy owing to the unsettled state of the weather. Rain over the next week would materially affect the position, as probably half the crop is exposed on the drying sheds just now. On the other hand, given that the weather becomes normal, the demand from markets abroad does not appear to be developing on to a scale that would enable sellers to hold out at the present level of prices, except perhaps for the best sorts. A factor to be taken into consideration is that the reduced demand on the Smyrna market is, in the main, due to the very limited purchases for shipment on consignment. Buying is restricted to the execution of firm orders received. Shippers are impressed with the bearish advices in connexion with Californian prices, and, consequently, are unwilling to risk unsold consignments. A shortage in supplies may result on the main centres of distribution, from where many consumers are in the habit of drawing their requirements.

Figs.

Estimated arrivals on the Smyrna market since the opening of the season total 3,926 tons as against 5,015 tons for the same period of 1927; estimated sales to date amount to 3,805 tons as against 5,209 in 1927.

Market Conditions.—The market has ruled active throughout the week, all supplies on offer meeting with ready buyers.

Arrivals have remained on a comparatively small scale for the time

of the season. This may be explained as due partly to the late maturing of the crop and partly to the restrictions forcibly imposed by certain local authorities in the interior in limiting quantities allowed to be moved down to market.

Prices have remained steady with little variation over the week, but the closing tone is very firm for the better grades and, if anything, weaker for the ordinary qualities. The general standard of quality in recent arrivals does not show the improvement expected.

As will be seen above, the total supplies marketed to date this season amount to about 4,000 tons against close on 6,000 tons last year. The comparative figure in 1926 was 5,000 tons.

NEAR EAST MARKET REPORTS.

The September issue of the Monthly Review of Barclays Bank, Ltd., contains the following reports:—

Egypt.

The month under review has been dominated by the favourable weather and good crop prospects for cotton both here and in America a steady decline in prices having occurred. The Government acreage figures, published on August 2, show an unexpected increase on last year's figures for Sakel and indicate a crop of round about 7,000,000 kantars. The publication of the American Bureau Report was followed by a sharp rise in price, which was short-lived on account of the improvement in crop conditions said to have taken place since the compilation of the figures, and the fall has continued on further good weather reports. The spot market has remained fairly active, there being a steady demand for all grades of both Sakel and Uppers, and premiums have hardened considerably. The actual stock is small. Throughout the country, the prospects for the growing crop are excellent and picking has already commenced in Upper Egypt and Southern districts. The Sakel crop is a little late and will, therefore, be affected by the weather during the next few weeks, but, so far, the condition is good. The cotton seed market has experienced a very dull period, and the adjusted stock figures of Ardebs 517,820 are given with reserve, as they are still under examination.

The demand for cotton goods has been very poor and merchants in the consuming districts show little inclination to operate, owing to lack of business. Under the influence of New York and Java, the tendency of the sugar market has been weak and prices have declined, but lately the lower quotations have induced consumers and speculative interests to operate and, therefore, at the time of writing business shows signs of revival. In the flour market, the demand for local consumption and for export has been satisfactory, but the conflicting reports from America have caused irregularity for the greater part of the month. Prices have fallen considerably and at the present low level more interest is being shown by importers. The rice market continues to favour the Egyptian product, but prices are declining owing to the good advices regarding the new crop. The market in gunnies has been active and business in this article continues to improve. The cabot market is reported to be firmer, and as stocks are reduced, holders are not pressed to sell. Rising prices and an active demand for Santos Superior are in evidence in the coffee market.

The Sudan.

The general situation in the Sudan has remained satisfactory, but, as usual at this time of the year, business is slack and no improvement is anticipated during the next two months. The demand for gum, sesame, and dura has remained steady and increased planting of these products is taking place. As there has lately been considerable rain in the Sudan, the prospects for the coming crops are very good.

Palestine.

Commercial depression is evident throughout the country, but nevertheless development is still going forward in certain districts, although even in those areas it cannot be said to be general. The present depression may be expected to continue until alleviated by the forthcoming orange season. It is too early yet to make precise estimates regarding this crop, but reports show that the Spanish variety, which is the severest competitor to Jaffa, is good and abundant. As anticipated, the new cereal crops are poor in quality and quantity, and a reduction in the high prices prevailing is not expected. Local millers are ordering their required stocks of wheat from Egypt, owing to the shortage of the home produce. Large quantities of Australian flour continue to be imported, although it is of interest to note that Palestine now possesses up-to-date mills, capable of milling sufficient flour for at least two-thirds of its needs.

The past month has witnessed the arrival of several parties of tourists, and a beneficial effect has been felt in the retail markets, particularly in the case of Oriental goods.

General Hassan Tewfik Pasha, Commander-in-Chief of the Egyptian Army, and a cousin of King Fuad, died from heart failure in Paris on September 6 in his 53rd year.

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THE LIVERPOOL COTTON MARKET.

Messrs. Reynolds and Gibson report as follows for the week ended September 5:—

Egyptian Futures.—Sakel Contract.—We have again experienced a rather quiet week in this market, and, as both local trade and speculative interests continue their watching policy, the somewhat erratic fluctuations that have taken place are almost entirely due to operations for Alexandria and Continental accounts. During the earlier days minor bouts of long liquidation gradually depressed values; but later cables reporting crop damage were backed up by buying orders from the other side, and prices quickly hardened about a farthing over last week's rates. To-day weak Alexandria reports have been followed by what appears to be the reselling of the cotton bought earlier on, and a sharp reaction has been witnessed, to-night's close showing values 7 to 13 points lower for near and 7 to 10 points for more distant positions.

Later information from conservative sources has failed to confirm the rather alarming crop reports circulated earlier in the week; but, as even in favourable circumstances the yield cannot be greatly in excess of requirements on last season's consumption basis, even rather vague detrimental rumours are likely to have effect, if only of a temporary character, on values.

Trade reports from fine spinning centres continue to reveal an unsatisfactory state of business, and the demand for long stapled cotton at the moment is negligible; this is confirmed by statements from Egypt to the effect that new crop contracts entered into to date have rarely been for such unimportant quantities.

At the moment there appears little in the situation to warrant the taking of a definite view either way, the crop position appears for the time being to be about neutralised by the existing state of trade; further, those taking up a decided standpoint will have to face the effects of the coming American Bureau report.

Upper Contract.—Rather more interest has been shown in this contract during the past week; but values, after fluctuating round previous levels, have latterly shown a slightly easier tendency. Spinners continue to make consistent, if moderate, purchases; but we rather doubt whether the present support accorded is sufficient to counter-balance the growing effects of the crop movement. Some detrimental crop reports have been in circulation; but we must have now reached the point where a satisfactory yield is practically assured, and these have had little or no effect on values. The American new crop basis appears decidedly stiff, and if maintained this may later react beneficially on the Upper position.

Egyptian Spot.—With another Bureau report rapidly approaching, business in this department has gradually quietened down, and, although a very fair inquiry has persisted, the total spot sales for the week show a heavy decline from those of the previous seven days.

Fluctuations have been of a minor character only, and the quotations of Sakel show no change on the week. Except for the untenderable qualities, say, cotton at from 14d. to 17d., it remains very difficult to dispose of Sakel cotton, so limited is the inquiry; and under such conditions it might well have been expected that values would decline. The explanation is to be found in the recent attempts which have been made in Egypt to force up the Sakel contract on rumours (they are nothing more as yet) that very serious deterioration has taken place in Lower Egypt.

In Uppers, on the other hand, the customary steady trading has been in evidence, but this, to some extent, has been offset by hedge selling in the futures market and the moral effect of increasing arrivals (in Alexandria) from Upper Egypt. Cotton at from pass to 50 on has once again provided most of the business. Pilon, at from 100 to 200 on, has been in fair request, and rather more business has been done. "White" growths have not been active, but an odd inquiry here and there has been met with. Sudan growths have moved off with rather more freedom, but the tendency to purchase the lower qualities in preference to the better ones has been marked. Actual c.i.f. business has been quiet, but the inquiry for forward cotton shows signs of expansion.

Forwardings for the week ended August 31 were returned as 4,680 bales Egyptian and 1,386 bales Sudan.

On the whole, in spite of the falling off in the week's sales, we are inclined to the view that the Egyptian side of the trade shows signs of becoming more active, and after this week, when the Bureau report will be out of the way and the majority of the mill holidays will be over, we look for a gradual improvement.

Estimated spot sales for the week: 1,400 bales Egyptian and 1,000 bales Sudan.

Quotations: Sakel unchanged, but 25 points lower for Upper and Pilon. F.G.F. Sakel to-day, 19.05d. F.G.F. Upper to-day, 12.65d. F.G.F. Pilon to-day, 14.10d.

THE EGYPTIAN MARKET.

The Alexandria Commercial Company, in their report for the week ended August 20, state:—

The market since our last report has been quiet and steady; the tone is fairly firm. The week's summary of price movements is as follows:—Sakellaridis: November, 36.76 dollars, 0.13 dollars up; January, 36.88 dollars, 0.14 dollars up. Ashmouni: October, 23.17 dollars, 0.18 dollars down; December, 23.53 dollars, 0.15 dollars down; February, 23.85 dollars, 0.18 dollars down.

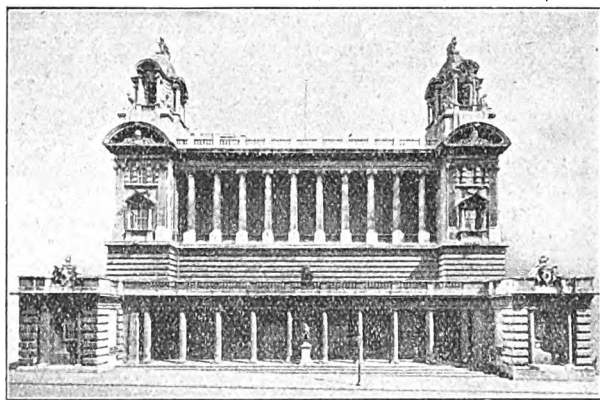
Sakellaridis.—The past week has been one of the quietest we have had for a long time; prices seem to have settled down, and the market has not the same attraction for the speculator. The demand from abroad is more or less the same; spinners are apparently of opinion that values are still too high and they are not at all anxious to put into stock at present prices. There are no indications of a revival in the fine goods market, and, with the new crop getting nearer every day, the position is certainly not one to inspire confidence; in spite of this, however, the tone generally is firm. The Sakellaridis/Ashmouni straddle stands at 1,359 points against 1,328 points a week ago.

Uppers.—The market has shared in the general steadiness. Fluctuations have been small and 23 dollars seems to be a point below which October will not go; good class buying has invariably come in whenever prices have fallen to round about this figure. Spinners, especially American, have shown a certain amount of interest during the past week; but prices have been the stumbling block to the conclusion of business. As we have repeatedly remarked, it seems that the demand is there, but for the time being, buyers' ideas of price are somewhat at variance with those of sellers. It is but natural for spinners to try to obtain their requirements at the lowest possible prices; but, on the other hand, present prices do not seem unreasonable compared to competing growths, and provided that American keeps steady, a further decline does not seem very likely. The Ashmouni/American straddle is now 427 points against 442 points a week ago and 760 points a year ago.

General.—There is nothing of a general nature to report this week. The scheme of the Government for financing the crops of the small growers is taking shape; operations start on the 1st proximo, and it remains to be seen whether the growers will avail themselves to a greater extent than they did two years ago.

The week's receipts amount to 9,954 kantars, against exports 69,930 kantars; the stock in Alexandria stands at 1,197,259 kantars.

Spot.—Total sales this week amount to about 4,100 bales, of which



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we estimate 1,300 bales Sakellaridis, 2,700 bales Ashmouni and Zagora, and 100 bales other varieties.

Sakellaridis: There have been a few arrivals of new crop cotton, totalling about 50 bales. All grades from Fully Fair to Fully Good Fair/Good have been dealt in, but the demand has not been very active. Spot differences remain unchanged.

Ashmouni and Zagora: About 1,000 bales of new crop cotton have arrived so far; but we prefer to see more cotton before expressing an opinion of the crop. Contrary to the past few seasons, very little interest is shown in these arrivals, and, holders having rather high ideas as to premiums, little of this cotton has changed hands. The demand has been somewhat spasmodic, but has covered practically all grades. Spot differences have eased somewhat.

Other Varieties: There has been a little business in White at about last week's differences.

It is announced in an Italian newspaper that oil has been tapped on one of the Italian concessions in Albania at a depth of 400 metres. The petroleum yielded is said to be of excellent quality and its presence in considerable volume is indicated.

In connexion with the proposed drainage of the marshes of Karaboaze, near Nikopol, in Northern Bulgaria, the most favourable tender received has been from a German firm, whose offer is lower than the original estimate of the Bulgarian authorities.

Steaua Romana (British), Ltd., are advised that the production of the Steaua Romana Company, Bucharest, for the month of August was 58,270 tons (compared with 52,180 tons for the corresponding period last year). This is the largest monthly production yet obtained by the company.

DIVIDENDS DECLARED.

CHARTERED BANK OF INDIA.

At a meeting of the Court of Directors of the Chartered Bank of India, Australia and China, held on September 5, it was decided to declare an interim dividend for the half-year ended June 30 last, at the rate of 14 per cent. per annum, free of income tax, payable on and after September 12. This rate is the same as that of last year.

EASTERN BANK.

The Eastern Bank announces an interim dividend of 4s. a share, less tax at 3s. 9d. in the £, after allowing for relief in respect of Indian taxation, payable on October 1. This rate is the same as that of last year.

Owing to the epidemic of dengue fever in Greece, the opening of the new Greek Parliament has been postponed until September 17.

Both Greece and Hungary have communicated to the Albanian Minister for Foreign Affairs their official recognition of the new Monarchical régime.

Lieutenant-Colonel Henry Hargrave Deane, V.D., late Chief Engineer of the Rajputana Malwa Railway, India, of Ailesbury Road, Dublin, who died on June 12, left personal estate in England valued at £2,659.

Gaafar Wali Pasha, Egyptian Minister of War, returned to Egypt on August 26 from the Western Desert, where he had been inspecting the preparations being made for H.M. King Fuad's visit to Siwa in October.

Stock and Share Markets.

LONDON EXCHANGE		Prices on Aug. 10	Railways.		Prices on Aug. 10	Banks		Prices on Aug. 22
Government Stocks.								
Egyptian 4 p.c. Unified Debt ...	...	87	Assam-Bengal ...	...	92½	Imperial Bank of India ...	...	1,460
Do. Pref. 3½ p.c. 1890 ...	...	75	Bengal Nagpur ...	...	101½	Bank of India ...	...	904
Do. Turk 4 p.c. 1891 ...	...	91½	Egypt Delta Light Rly. ...	...	34	Central Bank of India ...	...	24½
Do. 3½ p.c. Eg. Trib. Bonds. '94 ...	...	85½	Ottoman (Smy. t. Aid) ...	...	70½	Coal.		
Bulgaria 7 p.c. ...	...	88½	Southern Punjab ...	...	205	Baraboni ...	...	1
Greek 5 p.c. 1881 ...	...	66	South Indian ...	...	122½	Bengal ...	...	367½
Do. 5 p.c. 1884 ...	...	66	Rubber.			Burrakur ...	...	124
Do. 4 p.c. Rentes, 1889 ...	...	52½	Ceylon Para Rubber Ord. ...	...	7½	East Indian ...	...	174
Do. 5 p.c. 1890 ...	...	66	Doolgalla (Ceylon) Rub. Est. ...	...	19½	Equitable ...	...	181
Do. 5 p.c. Funding Loan, 1893 ...	...	65	Grand Cent. (Ceylon) Rubber ...	...	24½	Pench Valley ...	...	55
Do. 4 p.c. Rents, Loan, 1902 ...	...	60½	Hewagum Rubber Co. ...	...	10½	Ranegunge ...	...	51½
Do. 4 p.c. Loan, 1910 ...	...	63	Kepitigalla Rubber Estates ...	...	14½	Standard ...	...	55
Do. 5 p.c. Loan, 1914 (l.on. issue) ...	...	76½	Malayalam Rub. and Produce ...	...	29½	Cotton.		
Do. 7 p.c. 1924 ...	...	103	Shipping.			Bengal Nagpur ...	...	304
Do. 6 p.c. St. Bds. ...	...	92½	Anchor 5½ p.c. Pref. ...	...	8	Bombay Dyeing, etc. ...	...	815
Palestine 5 p.c. ...	...	105½	Cunard ...	...	85½	Bowreah ...	...	330
Persia 5 p.c. 1911 ...	...	87½	Furness Withy ...	...	39½	Buckingham and Carnatic ...	...	185
Do. 4 p.c. Consolidation ...	...	71½	Khedivial Mail Ord. ...	...	245	Cawnpore Textiles ...	...	21
Sudan 5½ p.c. Guar. Bds. ...	...	169½	P. and O. Deferred ...	...	245	Century ...	...	366½
India 3½ p.c. ...	...	604	Tea.			Central India ...	...	488½
Do. 3 p.c. ...	...	102½/16	Assam Co. ...	...	21/16	Elgin ...	...	101
Do. 5½ p.c. ...	...	93½/16	Bengal United Tea Ord. ...	...	23/16	Khatau Makanji ...	...	90
Turkish 4 p.c. Unified ...	...	23½	Bramapootra ...	...	35	Muir ...	...	352
Banks.			British Indian Tea Ord. ...	...	4	New Ring ...	...	289
Agri. Bank of Egypt ...	...	711/16	Cachar and Dooars Tea Ord. ...	...	215/16	Phoenix ...	...	367½
Bank of British West Africa ...	...	44	Carolina ...	...	313/16	Svadeshi ...	...	468½
Bank of Roumania ...	...	86½	Ceylon Tea Plantations Ord. ...	...	5	Jute.		
Barclays Dom. Col. Pf. ...	...	29½	Consolidated Estates ...	...	33/16	Alliance ...	...	653½
Lloyds ...	...	67½	Darjeeling Co. ...	...	223/32	Barnagore ...	...	202½
Eastern ...	...	71½	Dimbula Valley (Ceylon) Ord. ...	...	34	Budge Budge ...	...	639½
Chartered Bank of India ...	...	225/16	Dooars Tea Ord. ...	...	37/16	Clive ...	...	46
Ottoman Bank ...	...	12	Dooloomgram Tea ...	...	11½	Dalhousie ...	...	585
Imperial Bank of Persia ...	...	11½	Doom Dooma ...	...	315/16	Delta ...	...	631½
Land Bank of Egypt Ord. ...	...	17½	East Assam ...	...	4	Fort Gloster ...	...	1,020
Mercantile Bank of India A. ...	...	35	Empire of Ind. ...	...	2½	Gourepore ...	...	1,080
National Bank of Egypt ...	...	35½	Halem Tea ...	...	24	Howrah ...	...	61½
National Bank of India ...	...	54½	Imperial Ind. ...	...	221/32	Kamarhatti ...	...	769
Westminster ...	...	204	Jhanzie Tea Association ...	...	5½	Kankannarrah ...	...	505
Land.			Jokai (Assam) Tea Ord. ...	...	39/16	Khardah ...	...	683½
Kassala Cotton ...	...	6.3	Jorehaut ...	...	41	Kinnison ...	...	1,150
Sudan Plantations ...	...	41/32	Lanka Plantations Ord. ...	...	215/32	National ...	...	523
Mines.			Lungla (Sylhet) Tea Ord. ...	...	13/32	Standard ...	...	824½
Balaghat Gold Mining ...	...	7.6	New Dimbula ...	...	64	Union ...	...	84½
Burma Corp. ...	...	15½	Nuwara Eliya Tea Estates Ord. ...	...	53/16	Miscellaneous		
Champion Reef Gold ...	...	11.9	Nedem ...	...	215/16	British India Corporation ...	...	31
Mysore ...	...	16.3	Ouvah ...	...	31/16	Pengal Paper Mills ...	...	34
Nundydroog ...	...	15.9	Pabhojan ...	...	64	Bengal Timber Trading ...	...	41
Ooregum Gold Mining Ord. ...	...	14½	Standard ...	...	52	Burn and Co. ...	...	270
Oil.			Scottish Assam ...	...	21	Cawnpore Sugar ...	...	362
Anglo-Egyptian B. ...	...	27/16	Scottish Tea and Lands ...	...	34	Champaran Sugar ...	...	221
Anglo-Persian Ord. ...	...	329/32	Upper Assam ...	...	213/16	Howrah Oil Mills ...	...	104
Do. 8 p.c. Cum. 1st Pf. ...	...	26/10½	Insurance.				...	8½
Do. 9 p.c. Cum. 2nd Pf. ...	...	28/4½	General Accident Fire and Life (£5, £1½ paid) ...	...	14½	ALEXANDRIA		
Do. 5 p.c. Debs. ...	...	98	London & Lancs (£5, £1 paid) ...	...	31	Prices on Aug. 31 supplied by G. L. Morton, Alexandria & Cairo.		
Brit. Burmah ...	...	7.3	Royal Exchange (£1) ...	...	73/16	Agricultural Bank of Egypt ...	...	£71
Burmah Oil Co. Ord. ...	...	4½	Sun Fire (£10 (£2 paid) ...	...	41	Assoc. Cotton Ginners ...	...	£810
Do. 8% Cum. Pref. ...	...	27½	Trade Indemnity (£10) ...	...	16	Alexandria Water Co. ...	...	£173/16
Phoenix Oil and Transport ...	...	11.6	Miscellaneous.			Assoc. Cotton Ginners ...	...	£23/32
Steaua Romana ...	...	11/3	Alexandria Water Co. ...	...	17½	Behera Ord. ...	...	££109/16
			Associated Cotton Ginners ...	...	23/32	Ciments d'Egypte ...	...	£131
			Egyptian Hotels ...	...	25/3	Div. ...	...	£184
			Do. Markets Ord. ...	...	28/6	Comptoir Fin. & Com. d'Egypte ...	...	£6/16
			Do. Salt and Soda ...	...	84	Credit Foncier Egyptian ...	...	£1,169
			Mortgage Co. of Egypt 5 p.c. Pref. ...	...	84	Fondateur ...	...	£2,900
			INDIAN EXCHANGES.			Crown Brewery Priv. ...	...	£153
			Government Loans.			Frigrifique d'Egypte ...	...	£181/16
			3½% Government Paper ...	...	72½	Immeubles d'Egypte Soc. An. des ...	...	£179/16
						Land Bank of Egypt Actions ...	...	£171
						Parts de Fond ...	...	£254
						Menzeleh Canal Navigation ...	...	Pt. 190

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PENINSULAR AND ORIENTAL SAILINGS.
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Steamer	Tons	London	M'se's	Destination
SCITRAL	15,000	Sept. 13	Sept. 13	Colombo and Australia
MACEDONIA	11,000	Sept. 14	Sept. 14	Bombay and Japan
Rawalpindi	16,600	Sept. 14	Sept. 21	Bombay and Karachi
KARMALA	9,000	Sept. 22	Sept. 22	Straits, China, Japan
KHYBER	9,000	Sept. 20	Sept. 20	Straits, China, Japan
MAJOJA	21,000	Sept. 21	Sept. 28	Australia via Bombay
TRAJUTANA	16,600	Sept. 28	Oct. 5	Bombay and Karachi
KASHMIR	9,000	Sept. 28	Sept. 28	Straits, China, Japan

Taking passengers: *for Malta. †for Port Sudan. ‡Calling at Southampton.

BRITISH INDIA SAILINGS.

(Under Contract with the Govts. of India and Queensland.)

Steamer	Tons	M'boro.	London	Destination
MASHOBRA	8,288	Sept. 15	Sept. 22	Madras and Calcutta
MODASA	9,070	Sept. 19	Sept. 28	East African Ports
IDUMANA	8,600	Sept. 22	Sept. 29	Bombay and Karachi
MANGALA	8,246	Sept. 29	Oct. 6	Madras and Calcutta
IDOMALA	8,441	Oct. 13	Oct. 20	Bombay and Karachi
MANTOLA	8,963	Oct. 13	Oct. 20	Madras and Calcutta
MADURA	8,975	Oct. 17	Oct. 26	East African Ports
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City of Nagpur	10,138	Sept. 27	Bombay & Karachi
City of Simla	9,468	Oct. 5	Bombay & Karachi
City of Exeter	9,447	Oct. 13	Colombo & Calcutta
City of Paris	10,902	Oct. 17	Bombay & Karachi
City of Venice	8,308	Oct. 24	Colombo & Calcutta
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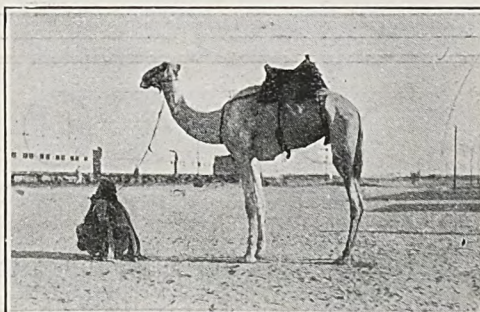
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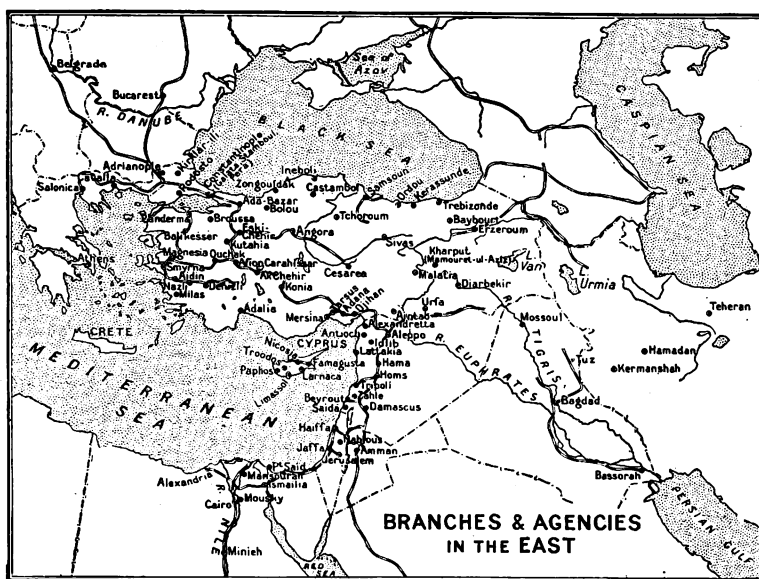
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Notes of the Week.

The Yugoslav Crisis.

If reliance can be placed on reports from Yugoslavia, both parties to the deadlock are becoming aware that a state of affairs exists which is no credit to the country and is gravely prejudicial to its interests. This position is at least an advance on the situation that has lasted since the Skupshtina murders until quite recently, during which time Serbs and Croats have been occupied in denouncing one another, without much regard for what might happen, if the breach between them were allowed to widen indefinitely. A mutual desire for a reconciliation should imply that each party to the dispute has come to recognise the necessity for making some concession to the other. The difficulty now is to bring the opponents together for a round-table conference. Yugoslavia would seem to have few, if any, outstanding personalities who are recognised as being entirely above politics, and whose services might be utilised on the present occasion. In these circumstances it has to be inferred that the task of bringing the warring groups together will devolve on King Alexander. The rôle is not entirely suited to his Majesty, as it must inevitably involve much preliminary testing of the ground before the round-table can be set up. Yugoslavia's stumbling-block is her hard-and-fast highly-centralised Constitution, enforced not only before unification was accomplished, but also while some of the component parts were on different planes of political experience and culture. Fortunately the Constitution offers no serious obstacle to its own revision. Amendments may be proposed either by the King or by the Assembly, and are passed by the same process as parliamentary Bills, save that they require a three-fifths majority. For the amendment of the Constitution on lines agreeable to themselves the Croats can be expected to attend the Skupshtina.

The New Bulgarian Cabinet.

A solution of the Ministerial crisis that had arisen in Bulgaria has been found in the return to power of the Cabinet that had just resigned, with the vacant portfolio of Railways given to M. Rashko Majaroff, who had held the same post for the last year of M. Tsankoff's Government. General Volkoff, accordingly, remains at the

Ministry of War in spite of the efforts made to dislodge him. As M. Bouroff also retains office as Minister for Foreign Affairs, it is to be hoped that the differences of opinion in the Democratic Entente have been satisfactorily explained away, at least for the time being. That body gave M. Liaptcheff a unanimous vote of confidence on his resumption of office, and the Government majority in the Sobranye refused to agree to the Opposition's desire for a debate on the crisis, disguised under a motion for a statement of the new Ministry's programme. The ground is now clear for M. Molloff, Minister of Finance, to give effect to the approval of the League of Nations for a further Bulgarian loan, for which negotiations are shortly to be opened in London; but it is difficult to believe that the solution now reached represents more than a temporary settlement of the differences that gave rise to the crisis.

M. Venizelos's Foreign Tour.

M. Venizelos, having happily recovered from his attack of dengue fever, is able to take advantage of the disorganization of every-day affairs in Greece for which the epidemic has been responsible to visit a number of foreign capitals, where various questions of concern to Greece can be discussed. As these questions involve the domain both of foreign affairs and of finance, it will be noticed that the Greek Prime Minister still relies on his own personality and powers of persuasion to win for Greece settlements which subordinate members of his Government might not be able to secure. In regard to foreign affairs special interest attaches to the visits to Rome and Belgrade. The ground for the conclusion of an Italo-Greek agreement has already been prepared, and it may be supposed that the document merely awaits the signatures of the representatives of the two countries. With Yugoslavia an understanding is not so far advanced. M. Venizelos made it clear in his Salonika speech before the elections that returned him to power that he hoped to regulate as soon as possible the Salonika Free Zone question in a manner satisfactory to the two countries; Greece furnishing the widest facilities possible for Yugoslav traffic, and Yugoslavia on her part advancing no claim

calculated to encroach upon Greek sovereignty. This friendly overture, which was entirely in keeping with M. Venizelos's avowed policy to cultivate friendly relations with Greece's neighbours, has given rise to misgivings in the Greek business world that the new Government was contemplating large concessions to Yugoslavia. M. Venizelos consequently sets out on his foreign tour with a reminder that his own flair for international politics is not shared by the Greek people as a whole to the exclusion of their business instincts. On the subject of Greek finance it will be remembered that M. Venizelos's challenge of M. Kaphandaris's policy did not receive endorsement in foreign financial circles. There would still seem to be points at issue between the Greek Government and the new Bank of Greece, and M. Venizelos's intention presumably is to uphold with the Governments concerned his Minister of Finance in any differences of opinion with the Foreign Adviser attached to the Bank of Greece.

The Press in Egypt.

The suspension for four months of two newspapers in Egypt has not necessarily to be interpreted as the inevitable tightening of a dictatorship screw. In Western countries the freedom enjoyed by the Press is a fair index of constitutional liberty; but in the East, whether north or south of the Mediterranean, the sense of responsibility displayed by the majority of the newspapers falls a long way short of the standard to which the West is accustomed. In Egypt what may be termed the mechanical side of journalism has been developed far more rapidly than the intellectual; the Press is well served by the latest machinery and makes full use of telegraphic facilities; but for the most part the standard of editorial comment leaves the Western reader aghast, when he compares it with the intellectual standard of Egyptians with whom he is brought in contact. When the new Government came into office, it found it necessary to deal with the tendency for newspapers of an elementary and essentially scurrilous type to spring up like mushrooms and with equal rapidity to disappear when they were held to have served their purpose, or if difficulties arose. At the same time the regular Press was urged to avoid the embittering of feeling on one side or the other, and a system of warning newspapers that are inclined to overstep the boundary-line of fair criticism was introduced as a preliminary to more drastic measures. The two papers now suspended had previously been served with warnings, but the licence to which the Egyptian Press has been accustomed under the stimulus of political passion was not so easily to be checked. The incident is not creditable to the Wafd organisation, because, in view of the pains taken by the leaders to keep within the law, it looks as if they had taken advantage of the political inexperience of the Press organs to encourage these to carry on a campaign in which they dare not indulge themselves. Fortunately the Press diatribes find little or no echo in the country at large; for, if they did, it would have been impossible for the Prime Minister to visit Tanta, the former stronghold of the Wafd, and to be accorded a friendly reception. It is also a good sign that a newspaper that has been Wafdist hitherto makes an appeal to the Wafd to aim at the restoration of unity in Egypt, in other words to give the Government a fair chance to show what its administration means to the country.

Reforms in Afghanistan.

King Amanullah is not only accepting advisers from Turkey, but is also modelling his actions in other directions on those of Mutapha Kemal Pasha. Not content, like the latter, however, with reforming the headgear of his Afghan subjects, he could seem to have condemned their whole wearing apparel, at least for those who aspire in a parliamentary or other public capacity to come within reach of his Majesty. Hitherto the Afghan townsman has conformed more or less to European modes of dress, but the villagers and the hillsmen have retained those of their forefathers, subject to such modifications as the

frequency of their visits to a big town may have inspired. When for the purpose of one of the infrequent sessions of the Afghan Parliament representatives of all parts of the country reached the summer capital of Paghman, they found that by King Amanullah's order their country costumes had to be discarded for black frock coats and trousers, with boots in the place of sandals and felt hats for turbans. This modern application of the Biblical wedding-garment went even further, for facilities were provided for the removal of the beards of those among the delegates who were amenable to the process, in order that they might be more presentable for their rôle in the management of the nation's affairs. Yet these innovations in Afghanistan are not as drastic as the abolition of the fez in Turkey. Court circles and Kabul society have for two or three decades dressed in European fashion, at least for all appearances in public, for there was a tendency to revert to native costume in the privacy of the house. King Amanullah is now bent on extending the civilising influence of dress to all parts of his Kingdom, and the ready-made clothes trade has yet another market provided for it. A new era will be open to Afghanistan when the tribesman, instead of reaching for his rifle at sight of a stranger, hastens to don his best reach-me-downs.

The Disciplining of a Country.

Reforms in Afghanistan, however, are not to be confined to sartorial improvements. The country in the past has been a synonym for lawlessness, and clearly at the back of King Amanullah's active brain is a resolve to discipline his subjects, in no despotic sense, but merely for their own good and for that of Afghanistan. As a step compulsory military service is to be made a real measure by the abolition of all exemptions, and the term of service is to be extended from two to three years. The proposal to introduce a system of preaching certificates for mullahs has also presumably been taken over from Turkey, and with the same idea, because reforms are bound to be hampered, if the minds of the people can be poisoned against them by fanatical mullahs. A national levy to cover the purchase of armaments may be necessary after the Monarch's expensive tour abroad; but it would have been better for the nation, if the money so raised could have been devoted to education or equally needed productive works. King Amanullah is losing no time in applying the ideas that he gained on his tour in European countries. In his first trial of strength with reaction on the subject of the veiling of women and their position in the land he has seemingly won a complete victory, although, according to the story, when a large gathering of women in Kabul had acclaimed the Queen's two-hour speech against the veil, shouting "Long live Queen Souraya! Away with the veil!" and snatched their veils from their faces, they were careful to put them on again as they went out of the Palace into the street. King Amanullah, it is to be noted, is adhering strictly to constitutional procedure. His measures are formally passed by the Grand Assembly, and that body, which met only once in three years, has now delegated its powers to a Legislative Assembly of 150 members selected from its own number, who are to sit for eight months every year for a term of three years. All this spells progress indeed, and nowhere will the King's reforming zeal be followed with greater interest and sympathy than in Great Britain. It is not fair, however, to expect things to move too quickly in Afghanistan. The country is handicapped by poverty and absence of communications; there are only three or four towns which, such as they are, might be expected to serve as centres for radiating the reforms, and of these only the capital is in close touch with the King. Afghanistan's great asset, however, is the virility of its people who, though more backward in civilisation, form a striking contrast to the easy-going Persians and to the Turkish race honeycombed with disease, and there are some observers who believe that, if King Amanullah's reforms can secure a firm hold in the country, the time

will not be far distant when Afghanistan will play an important rôle in Western Asia.

Progress in Abyssinia.

With Afghanistan beginning to forge ahead under the reforming zeal of its King, comparison is almost inevitably challenged with the state of affairs in Abyssinia, already a member of the League of Nations. Among the Abyssinians too a tour abroad of the ruler heralded the inauguration of a new era; but the wheels of reform would seem to revolve more slowly in Addis Ababa. It is a mistake, however, to regard even the most backward country as incapable of progress. In Abyssinia the reformers recognise the necessity of proceeding cautiously; Ras Tafari has difficulties to contend with beside which King Amanullah's mullahs pale into insignificance. Each reform has, as it were, to feel its way. Electric light was to be installed in Addis Ababa; but instead of the whole town's coming immediately under its convenient rays, a start was made with this building and with that. Only much later—a few months ago—have electric lamps made their appearance along a few of the main roads radiating from the Town Hall, where the plant is installed. In no direction, however, has the Regent greater cause to be satisfied with the results that he has achieved than in regard to education. The lead that he has given is being followed now in the most conservative quarters, and a desire for education promises to assume the proportion of a wave passing over at least a portion of the land. If this desire can be adequately satisfied, and if the education imparted to the people is based on sound principles, a brighter era may well be in store for Abyssinia.

At Cross Purposes.

A small incident, but one which is by no means without its effect on international relations, is reported from Abyssinia. By agreement among the Great Powers the traffic in arms in backward countries is not encouraged; but it is recognised that restricted importation is justified when duly authorized. Recently, with the approval, it is understood, of the British Government, a consignment of seventy rifles purchased in Great Britain was dispatched to Addis Ababa to an Abyssinian official. The rifles, however, have been detained at Jibouti by the French officials, ostensibly on the ground that they ought not to be imported into Abyssinia, and so far, according to report, all efforts to obtain the removal of the French ban have failed. As an Abyssinian agent was actively engaged not very long ago in France in arranging a large purchase of arms, about the importation of which into Abyssinia no question was raised, the inference left on the Abyssinian mind is that the difficulties in the way of trade with Great Britain make it more practical to deal with France. It is not suggested that the obstacles are inspired from Paris, but experience points to a conception on the part of French colonial officials that the acid test of patriotism lies in efforts to thwart the interests of other nationalities. If the facts in regard to this Abyssinian incident are as stated, it would seem as if the efforts of the Paris authorities some time ago to inculcate other views among their overseas officials had not been successful in French Somaliland.

Persia and Iraq.

The recent election of Persia to a seat as a non-permanent member of the Council of the League of Nations should be a cause of unqualified gratification. It is to be doubted, however, whether her first public utterance as a member of the Council was either wise in itself or calculated to promote that community of interest and general peace which it is the object of the League of Nations to secure. For on September 14, at the League Committee, the Persian delegate, H.H. Mahomed Ali Khan Faroughi, indulged in a general complaint against the treatment of Persians in Iraq. In this complaint there is, of course, nothing new; it has been made

several times at Geneva and elsewhere. What is something of a novelty is the nature of the making of the complaint on this occasion, which apparently caused general surprise. Ali Khan Faroughi maintained that Persian subjects in Iraq (who before the War, in Turkish times, had enjoyed a special judicial régime in Mesopotamia) were not receiving fair and equal treatment; and he further complained that Iraqi taxes on foreign nationals hit very hard Persian pilgrims who wished to end their days in the Holy Cities of Najaf or Karbala. To this attack upon the good-will of Iraq the British spokesman, Mr. Godfrey Locker-Lampson, replied on the following day. He pointed out—that we have already emphasised in THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA—that special judicial privileges could not be granted to Persians in Iraq without completely disorganising the legal system of the Arab States. It is not reported that he added—that he might well have added—that the Courts in Iraq, which have been supervised by British officers, are at least as efficient as the new Courts in Persia. With regard to the Persian charge that Iraq has shown unfriendliness towards Persia by harbouring brigands or by affording refuge to unruly tribesmen, one might have thought that the Persians would have remembered with gratitude, for instance, the action of the Baghdad Government in connexion with the arrest of the rebel Salar ud Daulah, or would have recalled with some other emotion the fact that Shaikh Mahmoud, who for so long was a thorn in the side of the Iraqi authorities, had repeatedly taken refuge in Persian territory. But no; Persia prefers, apparently, to blazon her grievances to the world in forgetfulness of her own shortcomings. For Persia's own sake we regret the step that has just been taken by her at Geneva, because any League opinion on Perso-Iraqi relations is bound, on balance, to favour the claims of Iraq. Would it not be far better to continue the line of personal and private negotiation?

The Need for Reconciliation.

It is not going too far, indeed, to say that never was the need for restraint and care in expression of differences between Persia and Iraq so great as it is now. There is evidence, in fact, that, so far from improving, relations between the Teheran Government and the Baghdad Government have become increasingly delicate. Now it is trouble on the borders, now in the Holy Cities, now in the region of the Gulf. Almost in every respect there is urgent desirability of amelioration in Perso-Iraqi relations. Early this year the Teheran Government made the very welcome gesture of appointing Mirza Hassan

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Ali Khan Hedayat as Acting Consul-General in Baghdad, and an inquiry was instituted into the alleged wretched condition of Persian nationals resident in Iraq. Since that time, however, there has been no record of better feeling between the two countries; on the contrary, one or two frictional "incidents" have been reported on the south-east border of Iraq. A certain amount of "propaganda" has been indulged in southern Iraq. Is not the moment ripe, therefore, for a comprehensive and heart-to-heart talk upon all the outstanding problems between the two States? We recognise, of course, that in the past Arabs and Persians have seldom made easy neighbours, but with the enlightened advice of which both countries are now able to avail themselves, a working solution should surely not be impossible. It is to the interest of neither land to stand on unworthy ceremony, particularly as one is now a member of the League Council and the other within measurable distance of gaining admittance into the Geneva Assembly.

Dead Sea Salts.

It is seldom that so learned a subject can contain suggestive matter for the present as does the recent lecture by Dr. S. A. Cook at the XVIIth Orientalist Congress at Oxford upon "Why was Jerusalem called the City of Righteousness?" a report of which we publish elsewhere in this issue. But if Dr. Cook's thesis is tenable concerning the part played by the salt of the Jordan and the salt trade in very ancient times, how striking a confirmation it may receive if the scheme for retrieving the minerals of the Dead Sea comes to fruition! As is known, optimists assert that the Dead Sea salts are capable, not only of "making" Palestine and Trans-Jordan, but also of revolutionising agriculture all over the world. To the academic it may be something more than a coincidence that Lord Melchett, whose interest in all that concerns Palestine is by no means negligible, bears a name which recalls the old word salt (Hebrew: *melah*, "Salt Sea"). Truly the past belongs, more patently than it sometimes seems, both to the present and to the future in the Holy Land.

INDIAN NOTES.

Europeans and the Commission.

The memorandum which the European Association has submitted to the Statutory Commission, and of which we give a summary in another column, is a document of very considerable importance. And it is further evidence, if such were needed, that the non-official Europeans in India are in no way opposed to the extension of representative institutions. On the contrary, the Association definitely claims that its attitude throughout has been that of constructive criticism when the reform proposals were under

discussion, and of loyal co-operation when the reformed Constitution came into being. Like the Associated Chambers of Commerce, the Association recommends the grant to the provinces of full responsible government. But it is opposed—as are the Chambers—to the introduction of the principle of responsibility in the Central Government, being of opinion that proof must be first forthcoming of the satisfactory working of the autonomous provincial Governments. And it goes even farther than this and recommends that the executive in the Central Government should be strengthened. To this end it would increase the number of nominated non-official seats in the Legislative Assembly. The Association also considers that the Assembly has been constituted on a wrong basis, and that it is, in consequence, entirely unrepresentative. The existing system of direct election should be, the Association holds, abolished, and be replaced by a system of indirect election by the provincial legislatures and approved public bodies representing landed, commercial, labour and minority interests. Agricultural interests must also, it considers, be given adequate representation, the specific proposals being that of the elected members 40 per cent. should be elected by provincial legislatures, and 20 per cent. by commercial and industrial bodies, landed and agricultural interests and other minority interests, respectively. Apart from the vexed question of communal representation, the most difficult problem which the Statutory Commission will be called upon to solve will be to determine the composition and status of the Central Government. With the Associated Chambers, the Council, inferentially at least, agrees that responsible Government can only be conceded in the Provinces subject to safeguards primarily designed to "secure the strengthening of the executive, upon the vital necessity of which the Association is unanimous." But while the Memorandum refers with approval to the emphasis laid by the Montagu-Chelmsford report on the disadvantages of giving powers of criticism without responsibility, the Association is unable to suggest any alternative to the present Constitution of the Legislative Assembly which commands a sufficient measure of support from its members to justify its inclusion in the present document. Detailed consideration of this, as of the many other hardly less important issues on which the Council of the Association has wisely been content to express a general opinion, must be reserved for a subsequent issue. In many important respects the recommendations are themselves conditional in character, the concurrence in the grant of full responsible government in the Provinces even being subject to the approval of the "Provincial Committees of the Association having a special knowledge of the conditions of their own Provinces." But the Memorandum, like the representations of the commercial bodies, is a well-reasoned and eminently fair statement of the position of those on whose behalf it is submitted and a real contribution to the problem as well as to the promotion of a better understanding between the communities.

The Bombay Council.

The course of the last session of the Bombay Legislative Council at Poona exhibited the parlous condition of weakness into which the Government of Bombay seems to have fallen. All the Government proposals which savoured of controversy had to be withdrawn. The Bardoli dispute is, indeed, settled for the moment. Such settlement, however, as has been arrived at, is claimed by the Nationalist papers as a victory: and not unnaturally, since Government has had to surrender the important principle that a re-settlement duly promulgated after the prescribed inquiry can be legally introduced and enforced. Such a surrender must, it may be feared, be a presage of agrarian strife in the future. It is, however, satisfactory that the Council decided by so large a majority to co-operate with the Simon Commission, and selected their most capable members to put their case

(Continued on page 329.)



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THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 1928.

THE POSITION IN EGYPT.

The two months that have elapsed since the promulgation of the Royal Decree dissolving the Egyptian Parliament and postponing fresh elections for three years have afforded an opportunity to outside observers to take stock of the situation in Egypt and to appraise more accurately the policy to which the new Government stands committed. It would be idle to disguise the fact that the first impression conveyed by the Decree of July 19 was that one more country was seeking salvation in a dictatorship. The event, however, has proved that so far many of the familiar aspects of such a régime are missing. In the first place the Prime Minister, Mahomed Pasha Mahmoud, has shown himself to be no dictator in spirit, and it is evident that the motive power for administrative reform comes from the Government as a whole and is not dependent on the intellect and driving force of one man only. The interest of the experiment lies in no small measure in the ability of the Cabinet to continue to secure the advantages which the suspension of Parliament provides without falling into the more common errors and abuses of a dictatorship. The latter may well become inevitable when a people has shown itself bankrupt of all administrative capacity. Egypt, however, had not reached this stage. Her difficulty was that, between her and the application of the capacity that she had, intervened the surfeit of talk without action which was Parliament. The cautious attitude of the recent conference of the Inter-Parliamentary Union suggested that even that body recognizes that there are Parliaments and Parliaments, and that it is conceivable for elected representatives so to behave that they reflect no credit on themselves, bring parliamentarism into disrepute and inflict material harm on the country which they are supposed to represent. This was virtually the condition of the Egyptian Parliament under the domination of the Wafd Extremists. The requisite knowledge of Egypt's real needs was there, as well as the capacity to give effect to it; but nothing could be done, because the Wafd's policy ordained that, while it indulged in its purposeless baiting of Great Britain, the machinery of government should be at a standstill. This situation became less a matter for surprise when it was remembered how the principle of Parliamentarism had been applied in Egypt. A Constitution of a most advanced type had been hurriedly conferred on a people only recently arrived at political liberty. With an overwhelming percentage of illiterates among them, they had been given virtually "universal suffrage." The second Chamber, elected on lines that made it a mere echo of the Assembly, could not be expected to exercise the functions of revision that were its *raison d'être*, while the royal power of veto was reduced to a minimum. Under the masterful direction of Zaghloul Pasha the

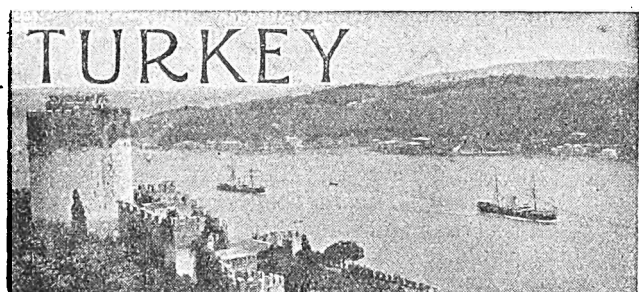
Assembly could be kept more or less within bounds; but with him passed all sense of realities on the part of the majority of the deputies.

It was under such conditions that the Liberal minority, increasingly conscious of the material needs of the country in regard to public works, industrial development and social progress, found itself obliged either to acquiesce indefinitely in the degradation of parliamentarism and in the moral and political undoing of Egypt, or to risk the odium of unconstitutional methods for the ultimate strengthening of the parliamentary régime and the material advancement of the country. Political differences between the Liberal Party and the Wafd in so far as ultimate aims are involved are practically non-existent. Neither yields to the other in devotion to the cause of Egypt's independence. The point at issue concerns the methods to be adopted for reaching the common goal. The Wafd contention may be summed up without unfairness in the slogan that there is no possible view on any subject other than the view that it holds, which is, therefore, right and must prevail against the world, if necessary. The Liberals say in effect: We believe that Egypt is right, but cannot convince Great Britain of the fact at present; consequently, rather than hold up the development of the country through barren controversy, we will take steps to meet the British on their own ground—efficiency and security—and to convince them ultimately that they are wrong. To this end, it would seem, the policy of the new Government is being directed. A programme designed to bring Egypt real and rapid progress is being carried out, and not the least satisfactory part of the situation is that the action of the King and the Government appears to have struck a responsive note in the mind of the country as a whole, for the general acquiescence in the new régime is essentially born of a resolve to wait to see what the Cabinet makes of its self-imposed task.

What then of the Wafd, which also contains able and patriotic Egyptians, whom circumstances had condemned to sterility for all the practical good that they could do for their country? The present Government, we believe, is too shrewd to desire, even if it could detach from the leaders the bulk of their followers, to see Egypt permanently deprived of the co-operation of any of her people. With the opportunity for reflexion now given to them, these leaders must realize that the ground on which they felt so secure is rapidly slipping away from under them. (There are matters of more immediate importance to Egypt's hard-working millions than their precise share in the control of the Sudan or whether some British soldiers are in Cairo or Kantara.) Improvements in the irrigation system, more water for agricultural needs, the provision of hospitals, the stamping out of disease and the establishment of industries—those who only bade them shout "Long live Saad Pasha" made no mention of these things. Can the majority of the nation help feeling grateful to those who are now providing for their wants and calling for no distracting political services in return? Does the Wafd really want the fellaheen to take it at its word, and to believe that all the advantages that they now stand to enjoy come to them from the British, as the "masters" of a "traitor Government," rather than from their own countrymen? The Liberal Party has chosen the only means open to it of demonstrating that there are Egyptians able to run their own country, although there was no room for them in the Wafd, because the latter decreed that good Government must be subordinated to political slogans. If the Wafd is wise, it will beware now of allowing the fetish of constitutionalism to make it pose as the enemy of the economic and social development of which the country stands in urgent need. Instead of regarding the Liberal Government as its enemy and attempting to decry it as a danger to Egypt, let the Wafd realize that Liberal patriotism has taken the more practical form, and, by closing up the ranks of the Egyptian people, let it see to it that no one has any interest to try to convert the temporary suspension of part of the Constitution into a permanent dictatorship.

*The Near and Middle East

From Our Own Correspondents.



Constantinople, September 12.

Italo-Turkish Amenities.

On the morning of September 6, the Italian liner *Cesare Battisti* cast anchor in the outer road of Constantinople, having on board just over 950 young "Fascisti," among whom were the two sons of the "Duce," Vittorio and Bruni Mussolini. The visitors were given a hearty welcome, by both the Turks and their Italian compatriots, a strong detachment of Turkish Boy Scouts, in regulation khaki kit, going on board the vessel to receive their black-shirted comrades.

Guided by the Turkish scouts, the "Fascisti" were shown over the town, where they visited everything of note, including the principal mosques, museums and archæological sites. They were then taken in hand by the Italian diplomats and Consular authorities and were given an insight into the numerous Italian institutions of which Constantinople can boast, such as schools, hospitals, the "Dante Alighieri" and the "Opera Italiana."

The Turkish newspapers, alluding to the recently concluded Italo-Turkish Pact, offered their Italian guests a hearty welcome and seized upon the occasion for dilating upon the historical parallel offered by the activities and the character of the Duce in Italy and the Ghazi in Turkey—"those two noble and strong friends whose hearty collaboration had laid the foundations for peace throughout the Near East."

The young Fascisti, notwithstanding their somewhat peculiar get-up of riding-breeches, pigskin or khaki putties, black shirts and black betassled forage caps, certainly looked a nice set of boys, and the Italian authorities are to be congratulated on their effort to bring the young people of the two countries together.

Before the *Cesare Battisti* sailed from Constantinople for Rhodes, an interchange of flags took place on board between Fascisti and Turkish Boy Scouts, when, a bugle having sounded, the Italians standing at the Roman salute, the two youngest members of each contingent solemnly gave each other the *accolade*.

It is regretted by many members of the foreign colonies in Constantinople that, by a Government ordinance, the Boy Scout movement in Turkey is now restricted entirely to Turks. This measure is open to criticism on the grounds that Turkish Boy Scouts are undoubtedly trained with an eye on the future military necessities of the

country—somewhat on the lines of the O.T.C. in England—whereas the foreigners in Constantinople used to support the movement from entirely different motives—as affording an open-air life and a healthy pastime for their youngsters.

Greco-Turkish Relations.

The Turkish papers to-day announce that M. Pappas, Greek Minister to Turkey, during his recent visit to Angora, handed to Tewfik Rushdi Bey, the Turkish Minister of Foreign Affairs, an autograph letter from M. Venizelos suggesting that the differences which still unhappily divide the two countries should form the subject of a direct interchange of views between them.

Could only the obstacle to a good understanding arising out of the Exchange of Populations be satisfactorily disposed of, there is little doubt that diplomatic relations between Turkey and Greece—provided always that a competition in naval armaments is not indulged in—might shortly show signs of great improvement.

The Kellogg Pact and Turkey.

The reply addressed to the American Ambassador in Constantinople by the Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs concerning Mr. Kellogg's suggestion for the abolition of war stated that the Turkish Government had studied carefully the text of the multilateral Treaty, and announced the unconditional adhesion of Turkey to the Pact.

ROUMANIA.

Bucharest, September 13.

The Question of the Loan.

The fate of the loan negotiations started by the Roumanian Government last spring with an American financial group through France continues to be the main preoccupation in Roumania. As the necessary legislation authorising the National Bank to float the loan was passed at an extraordinary session of Parliament in July last, and the objections of British finance appear to have been removed by the concession by Roumania of the demands of Messrs. Schroeder and Co., in regard to the recognition of the gold value of certain "pre-War and post-War Roumanian stocks, it now only remains to obtain the support of the Reichsbank, with which negotiations are still on foot. If these negotiations are successful, it is expected that the loan will be floated in the autumn. The pessimistic articles which have recently appeared in an English Commercial paper and a London evening paper have roused a good deal of comment and indignation here, and there seems little doubt that they were inspired by the Opposition party in Roumania, whose only hope of getting into power is the failure of the present Government's loan negotiations. However just many of the Opposition's criticisms of the policy of M. Vintila Bratianu may be, there seems little doubt that by an anti-loan campaign at the present juncture they are rendering a great dis-service to their country, and the countenance lent to such political intrigues by the above organs of the British Press is calculated to redound unfavourably on British trade with Roumania. British traders have shown an inclination to distrust this market, and on every side their German competitors are gaining ground; for the latter fully appreciate the importance of Roumania as an actual and potential market and are making strenuous efforts to recapture it.

The total value of the proposed loan is 250 million

*Under this heading appear weekly or at regular intervals communications from correspondents in Egypt, the Sudan, Roumania, Yugoslavia, Greece, Bulgaria, Albania, Turkey, Cyprus, Palestine, Iraq, and Persia.

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dollars, of which the first instalment is to be 80 million dollars. This is to be used (a) for the stabilisation of the currency, (b) to provide working capital for the Railway Administration and (c) to provide funds to start work on the Railway reconstruction programme. In this connexion, a recent investigation of the railway system seems to have led to the conclusion that the need for reconstruction work is very urgent indeed, for the capacity of the existing workshops and the funds at their disposal are far from adequate to retain the rolling stock at the required level, and the whole system is badly in need of overhauling.

Economic Situation.

All financial, industrial and commercial circles in the country may be said to be waiting breathlessly for the conclusion of the loan negotiations, for, unless these are successful, the immediate economic outlook will be very dark indeed. The lack of money and exorbitant interest rates charged for loans are strangling all enterprise, and many firms of good standing have recently been obliged to apply for a moratorium. The cost of living mounts incessantly and is likely to attain an undreamed-of figure this winter, owing to the long drought and the semi-failure of the maize crop, which provides the staple food of 80 per cent. of the population, namely of the peasants. Although it cannot be said that the failure of the maize crop spells famine, as there may be plenty of barley, rye and wheat, it must still be considered to mean serious want in the villages, for the main crop of the peasantry is always maize, and it is on that that they depend for their living. In many districts the stalks of maize, having developed no cobs, have had to be cut down for fodder, and the peasants who would normally be employed during September in gathering the cobs, are already gravitating to the towns in search of work, which they do not always find immediately.

For these peasants it is no doubt a fortunate circumstance that in Bucharest at least, there is at present a

great deal of building and relaying of streets going on, so that a good many unskilled labourers are being employed. Nevertheless, the situation was recently brought vividly home to the writer on being accosted in the street by a group of obviously self-respecting peasants, who had failed to find work and who were reduced by hunger to ask for bread.

Building in Bucharest.

During the last few years three whole new quarters have been added to the north end of Bucharest, and in the town itself new houses—generally apartment flats of four or five storeys—have been going up in every other street. In spite of this fact, however, the demand does not yet appear to have been satisfied, for rents continue to soar, and small flats consisting of three tiny rooms and a bathroom are offered at £150 per annum. The Bucharest Municipality have this year undertaken a number of much-needed improvements in the streets themselves, many of which have been relaid. New electric tramway lines have been started, connecting some of the outlying quarters with the centre of the town, and to relieve the congestion in the narrow streets of the city, which used to be caused by the tramways, the "one way" traffic rule has been introduced with the best possible results. Further, the old portion of the Boulevard Bratianu, one of the main arteries from the centre of Bucharest to the residential quarters in the north of the town, has been widened by pulling down the neglected old houses on its eastern side and a really splendid boulevard of about a mile and a half long is being formed, with a riding track between trees in the middle, which reaches from the Bratianu Statue in the Boulevard Carol to the Piazza Victoria, where the Foreign Office is situated. Everywhere houses, which until recently bore traces of the air bombardments during the War, are being repaired, and Bucharest is gradually taking on the aspect of an important capital.

PALESTINE RAILWAYS

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BETWEEN

EGYPT AND PALESTINE AND VICE VERSA

To Palestine (Daily)			To Egypt (Daily)		
Alexandria	...	dep. 1500	Haifa	...	dep. 0800
Cairo	...	dep. 1800	Jerusalem	...	dep. 0835
Port Said	...	dep. 1815	Jaffa	...	dep. 1005
(Change at Kantara West)			Kantara East	...	arr. 1730
Kantara East	...	dep. 2345	Kantara West	...	dep. 1910
Jaffa	...	arr. 0750	Cairo	...	arr. 2230
Jerusalem	...	arr. 0917	Alexandria	...	arr. 0530
Haifa	...	arr. 1000	Kantara West	...	dep. 2125
			Port Said	...	arr. 2215

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Jerusalem	4.355	3.525	4.845
Jaffa	4.070	3.240	4.560
Haifa	4.945	4.115	5.435

R. B. W. Holmes,
General Manager,
HAIFA.

Miscellaneous News.

The inquiry is proceeding into the recent fraudulent sale of certain of the State oil lands. An attempt has been made to inculcate foreign firms in this fraud, but so far the facts seem to show this to have been entirely unjust.

Queen Marie is at present staying in Sinaia, where she is receiving the visit of Prince and Princess Hohenzollern, nephew and niece of the late King Ferdinand.

THE VISIT OF THE SULTAN OF MUSCAT AND OMAN.

The official visit of His Highness the Sultan of Muscat and Oman (Sir Saiyid Taimur bin Faisal bin Turki, K.C.I.E., C.S.I.) began on September 15, when he was met at King's Cross Station, on arrival from Skegness, by Lieutenant-Colonel S. B. A. Paterson, Political A.D.C. to the Secretary for India, representing Lord Birkenhead, Mr. Bertram Thomas, O.B.E., His Highness's "Grand Wazir," and Mr. Ernest E. Beare, C.B.E., Secretary of the Government Hospitality Committee. As already recorded in THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA, His Highness had been received by the King at Buckingham Palace on July 25, and had come successfully through his operation at Skegness at the hands of Colonel Lessel Stevens, late Civil Surgeon at Karachi. During the period of recuperation he has stayed at the home of Sir Percy and Lady Cox at Clapham, Bedfordshire, and at the home of Lady Wilson at Much Hadham, Herts. (Sir Arnold Wilson is away in Central America until December.)

On September 15 His Highness's party, which includes his A.D.C., Saiyid Theeyab, proceeded to the Hyde Park Hotel, which is their headquarters in London. The Daimler car in which all His Highness's journeys by motor car are being made displays the Union Jack and the national flag (plain red) of Muscat and Oman. On this Saturday night, His Highness began the series of visits to theatres which are to occupy every evening when he is in town.

The following day, Sunday, His Highness spent partly in visits to Hyde Park, and to Kew Gardens and Richmond Park.

On the morning of September 17, His Highness, wearing native dress, laid on the Cenotaph a large wreath, consisting of white chrysanthemums, lilies and scarlet carnations, and bearing the inscription on a scarlet silk ribbon, "From the Sultan of Muscat and Oman." Then he visited Westminster Abbey and placed on the grave of the Unknown Warrior a large chaplet of palm leaves and scarlet carnations. He afterwards arrived at the Houses of Parliament, where he was received by Sir Thomas Butler, K.C.V.O., Secretary to the Lord Great Chamberlain. In the afternoon he journeyed by car to Windsor Castle, arriving by the Henry VIII Gateway and Visitors' Entrance, where he was received by the Inspector of the Castle.

On September 18 the Sultan's party were to have gone to the Oval to see the end of the Lancashire v The Rest of England match, but the Champion County succumbed to the representative team on Monday.

Yesterday, September 19, the party were due to arrive at the Royal Mint, to be received by Sir Robert Johnson, K.B.E., Deputy Controller; and in the afternoon at the British Museum, where the Director, Sir Frederic Kenyon, was to receive them.

To-day (Thursday) His Highness is to visit Croydon Aerodrome in the morning, and in the afternoon the Tower of London, where he will be received by Colonel Dan Burges, V.C., D.S.O., Resident Governor. The evening will be spent at the Crystal Palace in witnessing a fireworks display and in listening to a concert and organ recital.

For the remainder of His Highness's stay, the following programme has been arranged:—

September 21.—Leave Hyde Park Hotel in the morn-

ing for Portsmouth, where ships will be inspected. Lunch with Admiral Superintendent at Admiralty House. In the afternoon, leave Portsmouth by submarine for Southampton. Leave Southampton for Bournemouth.

September 22.—Leave Bournemouth for Savernake Forest, and thence by way of Spread Eagle Hotel, Thame, Oxon, to the Mitre Hotel, Oxford.

September 23.—Leave Oxford for the Bull Hotel, Cambridge. Thence to Stamford.

September 24.—Leave Stamford for Barnby Moor, and then York, where a civic welcome will be given at the Royal Station Hotel by the Lord Mayor.

September 25.—Leave York for Ripon and Durham.

September 26.—Leave Durham for Melrose and Edinburgh, where the party will be guests of the Corporation.

September 27.—Leave Edinburgh for the Trossachs and Glasgow.

September 28.—Leave Glasgow for Carlisle and Windermere.

September 29.—Leave Windermere for Chester (Grosvenor Hotel).

September 30.—Leave Chester for Llandudno and Holyhead.

October 1.—Holyhead to Kingstown, Dublin, and thence to Limerick (Royal George Hotel).

October 2.—Leave Limerick for Killarney (Great Southern Hotel).

October 3.—Leave Killarney for Cork and Tramore (Grand Hotel).

October 4.—Leave Tramore for Rathdrum, Dublin, and Holyhead.

October 5.—Leave Holyhead for Llangollen and Shrewsbury (Raven Hotel).

October 6.—Leave Shrewsbury for Hereford and Cheltenham (Queen's Hotel).

October 7.—Leave Cheltenham to lunch with Sir Percy Cox at Clapham, Beds, and to tea with Lady Wilson at Much Hadham, Herts, and thence back to the Hyde Park Hotel.

October 8.—His Highness will be received in the morning at the Guildhall by the Lord Mayor.

October 9.—The party will embark in the morning on S.Y. St. Katharine at Westminster Pier for a visit to the Port of London.

October 10.—His Highness will visit Cambridge.

October 11.—In the morning a Royal Air Force Display at Hendon will be witnessed.

October 12.—In the morning the party will be received by Sir Charles Holmes, Director, at the National Gallery; and in the afternoon the Law Courts, where the Lord Chief Justice will receive His Highness, will be visited.

October 13.—Kempton Park Race Course will be visited in the afternoon.

October 14.—His Highness and party leave England for the Continent.

It is thus to be seen that an admirably comprehensive tour of England, Scotland, Ireland, and Wales has been arranged for His Highness the Sultan, who will, it is to be hoped, not only make a complete recovery of health during this period, but will also be enabled to take back to the Persian Gulf a new conception of the strength and beauty of the countries which he is about to visit.

Major-General C. D. H. Moore, C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O., who died last week at his residence, Prospect Hill, Bamber Bridge, near Preston, at the age of 53, had seen much war service in the East as well as in France. When the Great War broke out he was still a captain, but in October, 1914, he was appointed temporary major and was confirmed in that rank in the following December. He went to Gallipoli as D.A.Q.M.G. in 1915, being awarded the D.S.O. and the Legion of Honour, and was subsequently A.A. and Q.M.G., and A.Q.M.G. from July, 1915, to February, 1916. Then he was D.A. and Q.M.G., 9th Army Corps, until October, 1916, when he was appointed to command the 157th Infantry Brigade (Lowland Scots), Egyptian Expeditionary Force, and took it to Gaza. For his services in Egypt and Palestine he received the Order of the Nile.

CALCUTTA LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

All-Parties Conference.

Calcutta, August 30.

All eyes are turned to Lucknow, where the Report of the Committee of the All-Parties Conference, or the Nehru Report as it is known for short, is on the anvil. How much support the draft produced by the Nehru Committee commands, as the *Statesman* remarks this morning, it will not be possible to assess till we have the account of the final sessions at Lucknow. It may be argued that even then assessment will be impossible. It must not be forgotten that these constitution-makers are volunteers. They have not been empowered by Parliament to say what the Constitution should be, with the knowledge that it would be made whatever they might say it should be. Theirs is very largely an academic discussion. The delegates are in some measure, indeed a large measure, in the position of the House of Commons in the days when the powers of the House of Lords to prevent legislation were greater than they have been since the Parliament Act. Then it was not rare for a supporter of the Liberal Government of the day to vote for the measures introduced by his party, in the full knowledge that no vote of his could be fatal; for the House of Lords would assuredly reject the Bill. The delegates at Lucknow, or not a few of them, will vote for principles, knowing full well that the Simon Commission will turn a deaf ear, and that consequently how they vote does not much matter. An unperturbed looker-on will bear that in mind.

This particular unperturbed looker-on regards the financial side of things as the most important; for it is important, and it is the consideration that is apparently the last to enter the heads of any of these busy men. A statement over the signatures of Sir Ali Imam, the Maharaja of Mahmudabad, and other Muslims, was issued yesterday. It contains the following, among other things: "We suggest that the recommendation about the separation of Sind should be more clear and specific. It should be worded thus:—Sind should be separated as an administrative unit and, if financial deficiency is discovered, adequate measures should be adopted to make it up." The implication is that there is no lack of money somewhere, and that all that need be done is to direct the needy hand to the right purse. The truth is, of course, that there is a lack of money everywhere. That seems to concern no one else. I search the public prints in vain for some warning that the constitutional coat must be cut according to the financial cloth. One hopes that there is a member of the Statutory Commission strong on the side of finance. There may not be one: Parliament may have overlooked that as much as anyone here.

The Communists.

The Government of India having decided to deal with Communist agitators in India of foreign extraction, a Bill has been prepared with the object of conferring the power on the Government of ordering any such person (he must be of foreign extraction) to leave the country and not return without permission. As permission to return would never be given, the expulsion from India would be final. Those who will be liable to expulsion under the new Act, should it become part of the law of this land, will be those who:—

Seek to overthrow the Government in British India, or the abolition of all forms of law or organised government;

Seek to ferment or utilise industrial or agrarian disputes with the direct object of subverting the authority of the law or organised government in British India; or

Are members of, or are associated with, any society in British India or elsewhere which advocates these doctrines.

Grand Trunk Canal.

The Bengal Chamber of Commerce has associated itself with the river steamer companies in advocating that the Government of Bengal should proceed with the

project of the Grand Trunk Canal, the abandonment of the Sunderbans route being, it is stated, only a question of time. The object of the project is, of course, to provide a reliable waterway between the districts of Eastern Bengal and Calcutta. That object might be worth the price; but what the price is must be clearly stated. Attention may here be invited to the passage on page 18 of the lecture of Sir William Wilcocks, entitled "The Restoration of the Ancient Irrigation of Bengal," beginning with the words: "The country, supported by the Bengal National Chamber of Commerce, is strongly opposed to the construction of an alternative steamer canal continued athwart the whole of Central Bengal. I criticise it as an hydraulic expert." The passage is too long to quote in full; for it extends over a few pages. What, in Sir William's opinion, would be the effect of yet another bar thrown across the natural drainage of the country, would be to intensify yet further the havoc wrought, the havoc whereby Central Bengal has been converted from a fertile province into a pestilential swamp at one season of the year and an arid desert at the other.

It might pay to keep the water-communication between Eastern Bengal and Calcutta open, even to having a desert or a swamp between, but the thing must be gone about by men with open eyes. The human population of Central Bengal must not be left to be starved or poisoned to death. It would have to be transported, and settled elsewhere. That would be part of the price to pay. In many men's views it would be far too high a price: what is clear is that it is the price. It is clear, but it is not clear to everyone, and that is the gravamen of the situation. It is not to be expected that it should be clear to the agents of river steamer companies, outside whose beat lie all questions of the interactions of dietary for men and cattle and the expectations of life among men, of mosquitoes and the decline of a population. Those are beyond the ken of river steamer companies and the Chambers of Commerce that they influence. They also lie beyond the ken of canal engineers, or all but one in ten thousand of them. Thence the peril of the present situation.

The Brahma Samaja.

Very much less is heard nowadays of the Brahma Samaja (the name is usually, but inaccurately, spelt *Brahmo Samaj*) than used to be heard, and that Mr. Bipin Chandra Pal thinks ought not to be. One may agree with him. Mr. Pal has been addressing a meeting, part of the centenary celebrations of the *samaja*. It will be a surprise to many to learn that the movement is so old, but so it is. The decline of public interest in the *samaja* can be traced, through many ramifications, to Lord Curzon and his methods of government; for so interpenetrated a thing is this world.

BOMBAY LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

The Lucknow Conference. Bombay, September 1.

The All-Parties Conference which met last Tuesday at Lucknow was more successful than the other two sessions held at Delhi and Bombay. This was due chiefly to the fact that the Conference had only met to discuss the Report of the Nehru Committee. Among the prominent leaders present at the Conference were many of the Liberal party who had not attended the previous Conferences. The absence of Mr. Jinnah, who has not been able to return to India on account of his wife's health, was much regretted, as he should have taken his place with the other leaders. There were present Mrs. Besant, Sir C. P. Ramaswami Iyer, Sir Tej Bahadur Sapru, Mr. C. Y. Chintamani, Pundit Kunzru and Dewan Bahadur Rangachariar from the Liberal Party. The moderate wing of the Congress was, as was expected, in greater strength than at other conferences held recently; the two chief representatives of this section being the veteran Congressmen, Pundit Malaviya and Mr. C. Vijayaraghavachariar.

The representatives of the Hindu Mahasabha, the Muslim League, the Khilafat Committee, the Sikhs and the Depressed Classes all spoke at the Conference in support of Lala Lajpatrai's resolution recording appreciation of the Nehru Committee's Report and conceding general support to it. There was only one dissident and that, as luck would have it, was a Muslim, Maulana Hasrat Mohani from the Congress. The Maulana declared that he stood for complete independence and so was not able to accept the Report. On the second day, when the Assembly reassembled, Pundit Madan Mohan Malaviya moved his resolution that the Government to be established in India should be responsible to a popular elected legislature possessing full and plenary powers and that India's status should not be lower than that of any self-governing Dominion. In moving the resolution, he said that he was not against complete independence; if he was for Dominion Status to-day it was because he thought it was in the best interests of the country to keep the British connection for the present. The resolution was strongly opposed by Mr. Jawaharlal Nehru who found supporters in the left wing of the Congress party. Mr. Hasrat Mohani then moved an amendment that the part relating to Dominion Status should be deleted, which was put to the vote but was declared lost for want of a supporter. The original motion was then carried without opposition.

The Hindu Sabha representatives are to be congratulated on the reasonable spirit in which they approached the question of the separation of Sind and other controversial subjects. On the Sind question, they have agreed to the separation provided it is advisable from the financial point of view and that the same concession is given to them in Sind as is given to the minorities in other provinces. In Punjab they have consented to give up their claims for separate electorates or reservation of seats for the next ten years. In Bengal they have accepted the recommendations unreservedly—at least so I infer from the telegrams received up to the time of writing. There has therefore been unanimity in almost every resolution passed at the Conference. The All-Parties Conference has progressed so far. I do not know how long this unanimity is going to last and whether it goes much deeper than the surface. One incident is far from reassuring: Pundit Jawaharlal Nehru, as one of the speakers put it at the Conference, was not satisfied with his father's ideal. He said that to attain unity at the Conference he would abstain from recording his vote against the resolution moved by Pundit Malaviya, but he said he considered himself free to carry on an intensive propaganda for his principle of complete independence. If all the minorities adopt this attitude there can be no meaning in the resolutions passed at the Conference because the decisions arrived at there have no bearing on the opinions of even those institutions who send representatives to the Conference. In other words, the Conference is held mainly with a view to impressing foreigners. The younger Pundit charged the Nehru Committee with forgetting the force of world opinion when he said that they have written a report as if there were only two countries in the world—India and England. But he himself is guilty of the still greater offence of forgetting the very existence of India, as he abstains from attempting to gain a victory for "complete independence" while at the same time conducting a campaign in favour of this very ideal outside the Conference. Would it not have been more considerate on his part—at any rate more honest—if he suspended his campaign till the result of the Nehru Report on the British Government was known? One can understand Mr. Hasrat Mohani and respect him, but the younger Nehru should be at least consistent.

Dr. Besant and the Nehru Committee have been appointed to frame a constitution on the lines laid down by the Report. Mrs. Besant is a valuable addition to the Committee as she has much experience of Indian politics. Further, as she has already drafted a constitution she can offer invaluable help to the Committee in its work. The Conference ended to-day amidst scenes of wild en-

thusiasm. In concluding Dr. Ansari said that all the members there assembled should make up their minds to stand or fall by the Report. The last resolution passed at the Conference ran as follows: "This Conference declares that the agreements and decisions contained in the foregoing resolutions are based upon the assumption that the general scheme sketched out in the Nehru Report adopted by this Conference shall be given effect to as a whole inasmuch as the various provisions thereof are interdependent and all parties assembled in this conference hereby agree that every one of them will stand by it as a whole and will refuse to accept any single part of it without giving full force and effect to all the other parts provided that any modification of this scheme may be accepted by the consent and agreement of all parties." All things considered the Conference has been a success, but it remains to be seen whether disappointed minorities will not work against it in the country. Already a league called the "Independence for India League" has been formed by Mr. Jawaharlal Nehru and Mr. Subhas C. Bose.

Signing the Kellogg Pact.

The signing of the Peace Pact at Paris has been welcomed in the country as a step towards world peace. But the fact that the High Commissioner was not asked to sign on behalf of India, nor even the Secretary of State for India, has caused much dissatisfaction in this country. The presence of Mr. Srinivasa Sastri at the Treaty of Versailles, the admission of India to the League and the subsequent part taken by her representatives in the various Imperial Conferences is looked upon by all persons in India as a precedent which should have been followed in this case. The extremists point to the exclusion of any person who could even by the wildest stretch of imagination be said to represent India as fresh evidence of the bitterness existing in England against Indians. Mr. Srinivas Iyengar said in his speech at the Sir Cowasji Jehangir Hall that he attached great importance to world opinion and particularly to the establishment of the League of Muslim Nations. Even the most ardent admirer of the British cannot fail to feel that there is perpetual bungling, and that is the most charitable construction put on the action of the Imperial Government in recent years. Sir Sivaswami Iyer in his recent book on "Indian Constitutional Problems" writes: "The growing estrangement between the Government and the people of British India is a source of sincere sorrow to persons like myself who have been firm believers in the value of the British connexion. I can only point out the dangers ahead and the remedies which seem necessary and practicable for the purpose of putting an end to the unrest in the country. But the chances are that the Government will be unable to distinguish friends from foes and will regard all criticisms as equally inspired by a spirit of hostility to the British connexion. The present policy of England is essentially based upon distrust of the loyalty of the people. History records no instance of a country as large as Europe, minus Russia, and containing a population of over three hundred millions being held in permanent subjection by another nation. For how long would it be possible to hold such a country by force or by the policy of *divide et impera*? If India is to be a lost dominion it will be lost by the adoption of a policy advocated by the Imperialist Jingo of sitting tight upon national aspirations, and not by a policy of graceful concession to national sentiment." Sir P. Sivaswami Iyer has been a member of the Executive of the Madras Government. He is considered to be the military expert in the Assembly. He represents all that is best in the Indian Liberal Party and is little experienced in the art of playing to the gallery. After such a book he could have figured as a popular leader but he was not present at the Conference.

The Strikes.

The strikes, it is generally believed, are nearing their

end. The credit for this can only be set down to the lapse of time. At Jamshedpur the Tatas have started recruiting new men; at Bombay the point of dispute is the standardisation of wages. - Mr. S. C. Bose, who should not have interfered in the Jamshedpur strike, now announces that there is a possibility of settlement. Such settlements, to say the least, are unreliable. One wishes that these "peace-makers" would refrain from entering the field of industries. But very often the trouble is that the management of a concern invite leaders to assist them and then find it would have been better to have let sleeping dogs lie. Mr. S. C. Bose, even if he acts with the best intentions, as the writer thinks he does, cannot expect to mediate successfully between two parties with neither of which can he identify himself. But intolerance is infectious and those very extremists who in the past accused the Government of suppressing criticism are now fast creating an atmosphere in which it is impossible to express an unpopular opinion or to criticise a popular hero whatever may be the credentials of the dissident.

THE EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION AND THE STATUTORY COMMISSION.

Summary of Proposals.

One of the most important documents which the Statutory Commission will be called upon to consider is the Memorandum submitted on behalf of the Council of the European Association, which has been made public to-day. The Memorandum, it is stated, has been fully discussed and approved by all the Branch Committees, who themselves will submit memoranda and give evidence, more particularly on provincial affairs, when the Commission reaches the various provinces. At the same time the responsibility for the wording of the document, it is expressly stated, rests with the Council of the Association, the governing body, which is elected annually by the members of the 31 branches, sub-branches and agencies throughout the country. Membership of the Association is open to all European British subjects as defined in the Rules under the Government of India Act, and of the 21,780 Europeans eligible according to the 1921 Census, 8,000 are members of the Association.

Following an introductory chapter, in which the position in general of the non-official European community in India, and in particular of the European Association, is explained, the Memorandum proper is divided into two parts. In the first part, which is entitled "General Considerations," the Association sets out its views on the present constitutional position and its recommendations as to the general lines on which changes should be made. "Representing a community with large interests in India, many of whose members have had practical experience of the workings of the Central and Provincial Governments under the Government of India Act, 1919, the Association hopes that the views expressed will be of use to the Commission."

In the second part the Memorandum deals with the special position of the European and Anglo-Indian non-official communities, and the manner in which their interests might be affected in the event of any extension of responsible government. Suggestions are made as to the desirability, especially in matters of taxation, trade and commerce, for safeguarding the present position under which Europeans and Indians have equal rights.

The Association deals first with local self-government, recommending (1) the encouragement and development of village panchayats and municipal and district boards to be elected on the widest possible franchise, with power to the executive to take over, in the event of mal-administration; (2) the formation of a local government executive service in each province; and (3) the adequate representation of European interests on local self-governing bodies.

In respect of provincial Governments, it is the opinion of the Association that the system of communal electorates must be continued, and the existing electorates

so reorganised as to give greater representation to agricultural, landed, and business interests, and the depressed classes. The Association would also empower the provinces to deal with the difficult question of social reform.

The moral and material progress of the people is largely dependent on the ability to existing ancient customs to suit the requirements of a modern India, and advance will be more rapid, it is contended, if the provinces are empowered to enact their own social legislation instead of waiting for the advance of public opinion throughout the whole of India.

It holds that there should be no extension, or at any rate no considerable extension, of the present franchise. But it would establish full responsible government in the provinces, subject to the following safeguards: (a) that Second Chambers should be established; (b) that all Bills passed by a provincial legislature should require the assent of the Governor-General in Council; (c) that there should be adequate constitutional safeguards against legislation discriminating against any particular section or community in matters of taxation, trade or commerce, and that it should be a charge on the Governor to use his power of veto on any legislation which may appear to be unfairly directed against any particular section or community; (d) that the recommendations of the Lee Commission as to the Services should be adhered to; (e) that the financial relations between the Central and the Provincial Governments should be re-examined and adjusted to overcome the inequalities of the Meston award; (f) that the Governor-General in Council should have power to take over and to administer a province in which the administration breaks down; and (g) that a Public Services Commission should be appointed in each province.

The Association is opposed to the introduction of the principle of responsibility in the Central Government. It would maintain the Council of State as at present constituted. But, as regards the Legislative Assembly, it would abolish the existing system of direct election, and would substitute therefor a system of indirect election by provincial legislatures and approved public bodies. With the object of strengthening the hands of the electorate, the Association would increase the proportion of nominated non-official seats in the Assembly.

It also proposes the appointment of a special Finance Committee to make recommendations on the financial relations between the Central Government, the Provinces and, if they agree, the Indian States. The Viceroy's Executive Council should, the Association thinks, remain as it is constituted at present, except that a British Minister for Defence should be substituted for the Commander-in-Chief as a member of the Council. The Association would also empower the Government of India to co-ordinate the work of the provincial Road Boards.

Other recommendations which the Association makes are: (a) that there should be built up a federation of the Indian States, working through the Chamber of Princes, with a view to the ultimate development of an all-India Government; (b) that there should be no further reduction of the British element in the Services at present; and (c) that, with a view to attracting the best men, any legitimate grievances of the Services should be examined and removed.

With regard to the European community, the Association recommends: (1) that the powers of responsible government should be subject to a statutory safeguard prohibiting discriminatory legislation against any particular communities in matters of taxation, professions, trade, industry and commerce, and that the existing instructions to Governors with regard to discrimination should be continued; (2) that adequate representation should be given to European interests on local self-governing bodies, especially in Assam; (3) that the present rights of voting and representation in the provincial and central legislatures should be preserved; (4) that European representation in the Legislative Assembly should be provided for the Punjab; (5) that the right to a jury containing a majority of Europeans should be preserved; and (6) that

the right to State grants for the Schools for Europeans should be protected.

The final recommendation which the Association makes is that the legal position of the Anglo-Indian community should be considered and defined; that the community should be re-organised as one of the communities of India; and that it should be given increased representation in the Central Legislature.

The Memorandum closes with the following statement :—

"The Council of the Association believes the Commission will recognise in the Memorandum which it has put forward, as well as in the work of the community's individual representatives in the various Legislatures, the good will of the British community towards India's political progress. The Council of the Association, in view of its responsibilities to its members, has only been able to make recommendation for a larger measure of responsible government in the Provinces on the understanding that adequate safeguards are provided, and it will be prepared to elaborate in oral evidence the nature of the safeguards which would meet these altered conditions."

THE STATUTORY COMMISSION'S PROGRAMME.

The following telegram, according to a Reuter telegram from Simla, has been received by the Viceroy from Sir John Simon :—

The Indian Statutory Commission is leaving London on September 25, and is due to arrive in Poona, where the first sitting will be held on October 12.

The Provincial Committee elected by the Bombay Legislative Council will sit with the Commission in Poona, and six out of the eight remaining Provincial Councils have also already decided to co-operate with us.

As regards the proposed Central Committee, your Excellency will remember that in our letter of February 6, which contemplated a Committee chosen by both Houses of the Indian Legislature, we laid stress upon the fact that we had no wish to dictate its precise composition but that we were concerned to secure that it should not be composed of an unwieldy number and should be as far as may be representative of British India as a whole.

Although the Council of State resolved to appoint members to such a Committee, a majority of the Legislative Assembly has taken a different view, and the Commission feels that the time has come when we ought to request your Excellency to invite the Council of State to elect its proportion of members. We should be grateful if your Excellency would complete the composition of the Committee in such a manner as you may think most appropriate. We trust that this Central Committee will be able to meet us on October 13 at Poona, and as soon as the names of the Committee are available we should propose to arrange as rapidly as possible for the supply to them of the material which will come under our joint consideration.

We should like to make it plain that we contemplate that the Committee as thus constituted should perform all these functions suggested for the Central Committee in our letter of February 6. In particular we should be glad if the Committee so desire to include its report as an annex to our own document, so that both may be presented to the King-Emperor and be made public at the same time.

The village of Karitchi in Northern Dalmatia was entirely destroyed by fire on September 11, the long drought making it impossible to stop the fire from spreading.

It is reported from Peshawar that for opposing reforms contemplated by King Amanullah, such as the abolition of Purdah and the compulsory education of women, the Muslim saint, Hazrat Sahib, who wields great influence in Afghanistan and was the favourite of the late Amir, has been arrested with some of his followers. Troops are said to have escorted the party to Kabul from Charbagh.

NEWS IN BRIEF.

The dengue fever epidemic in Greece continues to abate. Scarcely 25 fresh cases a day were last week being reported in the capital.

After a meeting of the Greek Cabinet on September 14 it was decided to postpone the meeting of Parliament for a month.

The new Albanian Cabinet met the Constituent Assembly at Tirana for the first time on September 10, when M. Kotta announced the Government programme.

The widow of Stepan Raditch has asked the League of Nations to send a representative to assist at the trial of the Deputies who are charged with the murder of her husband.

Dr. P. P. Pillai, of the Geneva International Labour Office, has been appointed to take charge of the permanent representation of the I.L.O., which it has been decided to set up in India.

The Nizam of Hyderabad has made a donation of £500 to the Extension Fund of the Central London Throat, Nose, and Ear Hospital, Gray's Inn Road, W.C.1, in recognition of its Empire work.

Two hundred and sixteen persons entered Palestine during June, of whom 145 were Jews. Two hundred and sixty-three persons left Palestine permanently, of whom 206 were Jews, including 163 who had settled since 1920.

Following upon the murder of Egide Peritch, who was involved in a case of alleged espionage in Yugoslavia, the police at Liubliana have arrested M. Verbitch, editor of a Nationalist newspaper, and an engineer named Kranjs, an employee of the same newspaper.

Mgr. Fan Noli for the "Albanian Committee for National Emancipation," last week sent a telegram to *The Times* protesting against the proclamation of Ahmed Beg Zogu as King of the Albanians as "an odious crime" against the Albanian people.

M. Venizelos is expected to leave Athens to-day on a 20-days' trip to Rome, Paris and Belgrade with a view to settling certain questions connected with Greece's foreign policy. The Minister for War, M. Sofoulis, will be Acting Premier during his absence.

The United States has recognised the Kingdom of Albania. The Tirana correspondent of the *Giornale d'Italia* states that King Zogu has received a telegram from the President of the United States congratulating him on his accession to the throne of Albania.

The Roumanian postal authorities have just issued the following air stamps :—1 leu brown, 2 lei blue, and 5 lei carmine, designs for which were secured in open competition. They are intended for use in the service connecting Bucharest with Temesvar, Galatz, Jassy, and Czernowitz.

The Latifiyah Agreement, by which the holders of the original Dila cotton plantations concession will acquire a new estate of 60,000 acres, was passed by the Iraq Chamber of Deputies in Baghdad on September 14 by 46 votes to 17, after a heated debate. Many of the Deputies were absent.

The Bulgarian political crisis ended on September 12 by the formation of a Cabinet by M. Liaptcheff, the outgoing Prime Minister. The only difference in the new from the preceding Cabinet is that M. Rashko Majaroff, leader of the Democratic Entente in Parliament, occupies the Ministry of Railways, which was vacant.

The Times Athens correspondent reports that fresh brigandage has been perpetrated outside the village of Anavrita, in Macedonia. A group of students were kidnapped by bandits, who kept three in captivity, releasing the others with a demand for a ransom of 500,000 drachmæ (about £1,300), to be paid in sterling or dollars. Troops were immediately dispatched to pursue the brigands.

"We ask you to give the love of the children of this little nation to the children of your great nation, and thus foster and lay the foundation for an understanding between the various peoples of the world," was the message given to a party of British women teachers who toured Yugoslavia in August by the Yugoslav Chief Inspector of Schools. The teachers visited all the principal towns, and receptions were arranged for them by the Yugoslav Government.

The Rev. A. F. Matthew is the first missionary to be appointed by the S.P.G. to Abyssinia. He will minister to the British community in Abyssinia, and during the last year, according to *The Times*, has been in Cairo preparing for his new work and studying the languages which will enable him to get into close contact with the people of the country. His stay in Cairo has also given him opportunities for intercourse with the Coptic Church. There is no intention of attempting to make Anglicans of Abyssinian Christians, but it is hoped that Mr. Matthew's appointment will provide a fresh means for friendly intercourse between the Church of England and the ancient Church of Abyssinia.

The XVIIth Orientalist Congress—III.

Iran, Armenia, and the Caucasus.

The paper read by Mr. A. Safrastian on "The Kurds" on August 28 we shall be privileged to publish somewhat fully in a subsequent issue.

Monsieur B. Nikitine lectured in French on August 30 upon "Urumiah Ashfars" and "Some Kurdish Animal Stories," with Dr. A. V. Williams Jackson in the Chair.

Lecturing on August 30, upon "Les caractères généraux de la langue arménienne," Professor A. Meillet, of Paris, described the general characteristics of the Armenian language. This was in its origin an Indo-European language which came to be profoundly influenced by another type. Dr. O. G. Wesendonk, talking upon "The Kalavada and the Zervanite System," instituted a comparison between the Indian and Iranian conceptions of Time as possessing religious significance. The Kalavada doctrine of India had much in common with the Zervanite system of Iran. Professor H. Lommel read a study of the Zoroastrian religion. The dualism of good and evil was, he said, by no means that of matter and spirit. The perfect state attained after the final judgment was not simply spiritual but corporeal, for the corporeal alone was active and the spiritual a passive reflection.

Perhaps the lecture which excited most interest in this section was the postponed lecture by Dr. E. Herzfeld on "The Oldest Civilisations of Hither Asia." Dr. Herzfeld, who was unavoidably late in arriving at the Congress, said that on the uplands of the Iranian plateau he had found painted pottery which he claimed to be older than that of Susa, Elam, and Sumeria. There seemed to have been a connexion between the highlands of Iran and those of the Hittite region, and Dr. Herzfeld was inclined to date the Hittite sculptures earlier than was generally done and traced the origin of stone sculpture to Hittite countries. A special feature of the very ancient pottery of the Iranian plateau lay in the geometrical designs, all different, which seemed to indicate some magical purpose.

Dr. A. V. Williams Jackson lectured on August 31 upon "Some Researches in Manichæism." He spoke of the discoveries in the Turfan oasis in Central Asia. Upon the famous word *Miyzdagtaci* he made the suggestion that the first half, *Miyzdag*, represented the solid or edible portion of the sacrifice offered by the Manichees, and the second, *taci*, represented the liquid or flowing portion. He then passed to the personality of Mani, who, born in Babylonia, founded the heretical sect in the 3rd century A.D.. He supported, in particular, the theory that Mani was not so much decrepit as lame in one leg.

Hebrew and Aramaic.

Professor A. S. A. Yahuda began the Old Testament section on August 28 with a paper on "The Language of the Pentateuch and its relation to the Egyptian language and thought." He said that the solution of Biblical studies was to be found in linguistic studies. In its wanderings Israel, though it preserved its tongue in the main, absorbed some alien elements into its own language. It was more than likely that the Pentateuch was strongly tinged with Egyptian influences. It was only after the conquest of Canaan that Hebrew developed into a literary language. Many Egyptian words appeared in Genesis and Exodus.

Dr. J. Morgenstern dealt with the legends attaching to the Eastern gates of the Temple, in a paper called "The Gates of Righteousness."

Then came a paper by Dr. S. A. Cook, entitled "Why was Jerusalem called the City of Righteousness?" It dealt with the supreme religious significance which was claimed for the city of Jerusalem, and with the idea of "righteousness" (*sedek*) which was associated with it, even before the entrance of the Israelites.

In early religion ideas of "righteousness" had a practical application: right behaviour, right consequences.

Religion was practical, and for the purpose of procuring peace, prosperity and plenty. Instead of gods as the causes of the processes whereby men live, often priestly kings or priests were supposed to be responsible for the crops and, in general, the material welfare of the people. The prophets of Israel marked the division between earlier ideas of a more mechanical, organic bond uniting gods and men, and the more ethical and spiritual ideas of this relationship. Righteousness, which in later days spelt "almsgiving," in earlier times was "right ritual," and to a late date, Jerusalem, its temple, and its priesthood were supposed to exercise influence over Nature's gifts.

The religious history of Jerusalem and the use of the Hebrew root of "righteousness" went back to the Amarna Age (XIVth Cent. B.C.) when nature-gods of Sun and Rain were prominent, and interrelated ideas of right, truth and order could be traced over the world of which Jerusalem and Palestine were an integral part.

Further, the regions of Judah and the Dead Sea, with its extremes of fertility and desolation, and the deposits of salt with its preservative and destructive properties, and its ancient religious and economic importance, would leave its stamp upon the old religion. Primitive religion tended to "economic," and in the Sinaitic Peninsula even the turquoise mines were the seat of a half-Egyptian, half-Semitic cult, many centuries before the Amarna Age. Moreover, the antiquity of religion in the region of the Dead Sea had been recently indicated by the discovery at ed-Dra on the east, of the remains of a very ancient, holy place, perhaps a place of pilgrimage and a necropolis.

Salt was a familiar symbol. The "covenant of salt" was an enduring one, and the "salt of the earth" were to save the world and preserve it from corruption. The idealism which made Jerusalem and Mount Zion the ethical "city of righteousness," the centre of universal religion, and Israel the priest-people to the world, went back to very ancient and primitive forms of thought, before the days of the great prophets, before the rise of Israel.

The mysterious district of Judaea and the mysterious powers of that valuable substance, salt, which enriched Judah and Jerusalem, and which lay in their hands, afforded abundant material for reflection upon life and death and the mysteries of existence. It was at their doors and in their hands. The life-giving and destructive properties of salt, and also the great nature gods (Sun and Rain or Storm), would encourage early speculation upon the paradoxical, though perfectly natural, character of the gods. This led on to the teaching of the prophets that Yahweh's "righteousness" naturally entailed the punishment of an erring Israel and that ethical "righteousness" would as inevitably bring prosperity. And this in turn culminated in the teaching in St. Matthew's Gospel v. 24-34.

In the evening of August 28 a lecture was delivered by Mr. P. L. O. Guy on "The Excavation of Megiddo," with Professor J. M. P. Smith in the Chair. Mr. Guy pointed out that the excavation of Tell el Mutesellim was being carried out by one of the numerous expeditions which are at work in the Near East under the general direction of Professor Breasted, Head of the Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago. It was rendered possible by the generosity of a group of gentlemen in New York, and operations were begun in 1925 with Dr. C. S.

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ORIENTAL LANGUAGES AND RELIGIONS.

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Fisher as Field Director. In the spring of 1927 it became impossible for Dr. Fisher to continue excavation in the field, and the lecturer was invited to replace him there. Since last year, however, Dr. Fisher has been able to compile a volume, dealing with the early stages of the work, which is now in the press.

Tell el Mutessellim was the Megiddo or Armageddon of the Bible. It lay some 30 kilometres south-east of Haifa, overlooked the plain of Esdraelon from a low spur of the Carmel Ridge, and commanded important roads. There was no larger tell in Palestine. It measured some 300 by 200 metres across the actual summit, and the occupied area spread out far beyond these limits in all directions.

Six strata had so far been distinguished: they were numbered, from the surface downwards, I, II, Sub-II, III, IV, and V. I, II, and Sub-II were somewhat fragmentary, and did not occur everywhere on the site. III was fairly good, and owed this fact mainly to its being in large part a reconstruction of IV, from which it was separated only by a short period of time during which a destruction by fire took place. It was itself destroyed by fire later on. V had been reached only where it was visible in IV, or where IV had been destroyed in antiquity. It was IV which had given the most connected remains. Although the lecturer had not so far found *in situ* any inscriptional material which permitted him to give a precise date to stratum IV, its pottery pointed to about the tenth century B.C. as a very reasonable date.

Among the various excellent lantern slides shown by the lecturer was one of a town, containing stables, and perhaps also chariot-houses, built all to a uniform design.

In these great stables there were 12 pillars in each row, giving, with the two end walls, 13 spaces. The first of these, next the door, was probably used only for access, and there would thus be room for 24 horses in each stable unit. In the great building there were 5 stable units with room for 120 animals. The other buildings were slightly longer, and apparently had room for 28 horses apiece. In the area so far cleared, there was stable accommodation for over two hundred. The lecturer said that it had probably occurred to those of his audience interested in Palestinian archaeology that there was something familiar about the stables which he had described. This was because buildings which resembled them have been discovered before: he had merely unearthed better examples, and had given a correct explanation of their use.

The impression given very definitely by the stables, and indeed by everything about the chief buildings of stratum IV, was that they were the work of men skilled in construction beyond the average in Palestine. These buildings were not the result of a natural development of a local building tradition, and the buildings which succeeded them did not display in any way the breadth of conception and the mastery over materials which marked stratum IV so clearly. Mr. Guy had said that so far our evidence pointed to the tenth century as being a reasonable date for this stratum: he saw no possibility of its being earlier, but it would be wrong not to consider the early part of the ninth century as a possible date because of the masonry of Samaria; he was, however, much inclined to believe that the Samaritan construction represented not so much an original conception, or a sudden improvement of a local style, as a creditable effort on the part of Omri of Israel to make his capital as fine as that of Judah by copying the work of the Tyrian and Jebelite masons introduced into Palestine by the great builder Solomon, whom the Bible credited with a building-pro-

gramme of truly remarkable extent. That programme included Megiddo. It was given in I Kings 9, 15-19.

This was substantially repeated in II Chronicles 8, 1-6, where the additional information was given that it was only at the end of the twenty years during which Solomon had been building in Jerusalem that he began construction elsewhere.

Megiddo lay on the direct road between Jerusalem and Phœnicia, and it would be perfectly natural that Hiram's masons returning after the completion of the Temple and Palace should be employed there. The lecturer was much tempted to believe that stratum IV was their work. Another thing which led him to attribute this stratum to the time of Solomon was the amount of stable accommodation which it contained. And he mentioned passages in II Chronicles 9, 25; in II Chronicles 8, 9; and in II Chronicles 1, 14-17, which was practically the same as I Kings 10, 26-29.

There was obviously a large, organised trade in horses and chariots, and he suggested that the "Affinity" which we knew that Solomon made with Pharaoh was, at least in part, a commercial treaty to regulate this trade: it looked very much as if Solomon, with his characteristic wisdom, had picked upon a commodity which would enable him to strengthen and modernise his own army, and at the same time to dispose profitably of his surplus stock, which would naturally accumulate by breeding, to the people of the North.

Megiddo, placed on the main road from Egypt to Syria, with the pastures and grain-lands of Esdraelon at its feet, simply could not help being a centre for this trade, and Taanach, hardly an hour's ride away, would form a convenient overflow dépôt.

A more northerly station on the road to Syria would be Hazor, in the Huleh Basin.

It was worth remarking, in connexion with this Hazor, that somewhere on the southern section of the road from Egypt, and associated in I Chronicles 4, 31 with Beth Markavoth, or the House of Chariots, was a place called Hazar Susim, or the enclosure for horses. The proper name Hazor was connected with the word Hazer, and the appearance of the Huleh site certainly suggests an enclosure.

What he had shown of Megiddo clearly indicated that the ordered planning of stratum IV extended beyond the area so far cleared. There were visible, in Schumacher's trenches, walls of important buildings still unexcavated, and Mr. Guy was of the opinion that the site presented an unrivalled opportunity for laying bare—complete—the most important Solomonic town that could be dug. For Jerusalem could never be dug in our time. The clearing of such a town, of unique interest in itself, would, it might be hoped, throw light on what was still an obscure page in the closely-related histories of Palestine and Egypt. The lecturer had a suspicion that it was largely Solomon's trade in horses which increased the Asiatic armaments to such a point that Shishak found it necessary to go out with fire and sword to reduce them. It was at Megiddo, if anywhere, that information about this trade was to be found.

On the afternoon of August 29 Dr. T. H. Robinson, of Cardiff, spoke on the "Oracle Collections in the Prophetic Books of the Old Testament." He showed how the extant prophetic books were largely a collection of old oracles pieced together by the ancient editors to the best of their ability. Very frequently, oracles which had really no connexion were united by the makeshift device of inserting the connecting link—"and it shall come to pass in those days"—which was thus merely an editorial device for joining two oracles, and not necessarily the conventional opening of an interpolation, as many critics supposed. Dr. Robinson also observed that several of the oracles were preserved only in prose paraphrase. This would explain the sudden transition from verse to prose in the prophetic books and as well the parallelism in language between the verse version contained in one prophet and the prose in another. The date and locale

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of the original collections were uncertain, but the lecturer believed them to be largely post-exilic.

Literary criticism was again the main theme of a paper read by Dr. A. Kaminka, of Vienna, on "Widerlegung der Hypothese von einem Deutro-Jesaja," in which he endeavoured to restore the Book of Isaiah from the vandalism of critical vivisection. Dr. Kaminka showed at great length that the recognised two "attitudes" of Isaiah were merely the obverse and reverse of one coin, and that the central idea of the Book was the antithesis between the threat of doom in the first half, and the promise of hope in the second. This antithesis, the lecturer maintained, was even traceable in the language of the two parts, as when the smirching of the glory of Jacob was opposed to the clear-shining of the glory of Yahweh. He pointed out that the supposition of a post-exilic date for Isaiah XI-XVI, ignored the fact that Hebrew at this period, e.g., Sirach, was none too classical, and that the Jews who rendered the LXX at this date no longer understood the classical idiom of the book. Finally, Dr. Kaminka traced the influence of Deutero-Isaianic turns of expression upon the phraseology of later writers, thus destroying the critical dictum that Deutero-Isaiah was unknown to these authors.

A sympathetic discussion in which Dr. Gaster and Professor Strom participated, attested the audience's appreciation of this quixotic attempt to revive the conservative standpoint.

The concluding paper of August 29 was that of Prof. Coppens, who, speaking on "La réforme de Josias, l'objet de la réforme de Josias; la loi trouvée par Helcias," brought forward a number of arguments to show that the book of Deuteronomy was *anterior* to this Reform, since it was just on the known code of this book that the reform was based. The lecturer urged that the reform of Josiah was not a departure from existent cult, but rather a confirmation of it, and the aim of the book of Deuteronomy was not the centralisation of worship as has generally been supposed. Indeed, the attempt at fixing the date of Deuteronomy by the supposed parallelism between Josiah's centralisation and that of this code was fallacious, since centralisation was not mentioned in the Scriptures as a feature of the reform. Deuteronomy might well be Mosaic in origin.

The subject of the lecture by Professor Vaccari, of the Vatican, delivered on August 30, was "Le récit de l'Eden dans l'histoire des religions et dans la théologie." In speaking of the religious and theological aspects of the story of Eden in Genesis he suggested that to the author of this story the Divine chastisement of man consisted in his deposition from a supernatural state to a natural state, without any corresponding modification of his physical state or mental aspirations.

Professor R. H. Pfeiffer, of Harvard and Boston, insisted in a paper on "Non-Islamic Material in the Book of Genesis" on a re-division of the documents comprising the Book of Genesis. He urged that the commonly-accepted "Priestly Code" (P) was never an independent document, but rather a running commentary on the

accounts of J. E. and D. In addition, Dr. Pfeiffer recognised a new Edomite source (S), which had provided, for instance, the Edomite history of Genesis xxxvi.—a conclusion partly anticipated by Eissfeldt.

In the discussion, Professor A. H. Sayce vigorously contested the possibility of the precise analysis of documents in Genesis, although he had no doubt that the Book, as we now had it, was the result of a blending together of old materials—a process paralleled in recently discovered cuneiform texts. Professors Eissfeldt, Nielsen and Coppens also spoke.

The interest of recent excavations at Ur was manifested in a short paper by Prof. W. B. Stevenson, of Glasgow, on "Three Distant Contacts with Ancient Ur," in which he attempted to find parallels in other civilisations for three things found at Ur. The first was the *ziggurat*, the form of which he would connect with the original "step-pyramid" of Egypt. In the second place, there was found at Ur a stone plaque imaging a naked man sacrificing. This Prof. Stevenson would link up with the incident in I Samuel ch. 6, in which David is censured for dancing naked before the ark. The practice was also alluded to in Ex. xx. 26. Thirdly, Professor Stevenson had noticed that a toilet-set found at Ur was exactly of the same fashion in every detail as one found in a Saxon cemetery at Luton.

Mr. C. L. Woolley, in the discussion, condemned the association of *ziggurat* and step-pyramid as fantastic. The resemblances were very superficial, while the differences were cardinal. Prof. Allbright also spoke.

Dr. B. Jacob, of Dortmund, in a paper entitled "Die literarische Einheit der biblischen Sintfluterzählung," attempted to show that the account of the Flood in Genesis was a literary unity. The distinction between *Yahweh* and *Elohim*, of which much had been made by modern critics, was theological and not literary, and the seeming disparity in the mention in one place of *forty days* as the length of the flood and in another of *one hundred and sixty* was no disparity at all, since the forty days referred to the actual downpour and the one hundred and sixty to the time the waters covered the earth.

On August 31 Dr. S. Daiches read a paper upon "The Meaning of 'am tra'ares' in the Old Testament." This phrase, meaning "the people of the land," occurred frequently in the Old Testament. It was frequently taken, he said, to imply priority, "the ignorant peasant." But he had decided that it meant rather "the landed gentry." The post-Biblical meaning of the term would be due to the fact that later the lords of the land became a by-word for wrong-doing.

The Rev. K. E. Keith, of Liverpool University, in discussing "The Significance of the word 'Selah' (found in the Book of Psalms) stated his belief that it was not strictly a word at all, but the initial words of one of the Doxologies.

Mr. V. Srinivasa Sastri, Agent of the India Government in the Union of South Africa, hopes to leave for India in January. His successor will be chosen by the Department of Education and Lands and Health in consultation with the Viceroy.

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Book Reviews

GREECE: THE LIVING PAGE.

"SILHOUETTES OF REPUBLICAN GREECE." By Betty Cunliffe-Owen. (London: Hutchinson and Co., Ltd. 18s. net.)
"THE STATION. ATHOS: TREASURES AND MEN." By Robert Byron. (London: Gerald Duckworth and Co., Ltd. 18s. net.)
"GLIMPSES OF GREECE." Edited by Brainerd P. Salmon. (Published jointly by the Hellenic Information Bureau, Washington, U.S.A., and the Anglo-Hellenic League, London. 3s. net.)

Those who read "Thro' the Gates of Memory" will know of the deftness with which Mrs. Cunliffe-Owen can wield an artist-pen and of her power to conjure up in a few words a realistic picture diffusing interest in and sympathy with her subject. Here in the compass of less than three hundred pages of large attractive type she takes her reader lightly through some arresting experiences that impressed themselves on her memory during a stay of a few years in Greece. Naturally, the reader will not find here the whole of the story of present-day Greece; he must be content with a succession of pictures, all in vivid colours. It would be a mistake, for instance, to go to Greece expecting to eat melons and grapes at Easter, although Mrs. Cunliffe-Owen, watching the country-folk near Argos "returning home with their Easter purchases," saw "water melons, bigs as moons, juicy oranges and golden grapes." Again, a reference to "the late famous General Pangalos" hardly does justice to the vitality of the ex-Director, who survived nearly two years of imprisonment to be able to leave his card on M. Venizelos and to be mixed up in a mild shooting affray at the last elections. The story of the arrest, by order of the Dictator, of M. Papanastassiou during a reception in his own house is, we may hope, literally correct, as it is told dramatically. Particularly happy is the section devoted to Corfu, into which is woven the story of Demitri's sister. Mrs. Cunliffe-Owen has the right temperament for obtaining the best that Greece has to offer; she has the knack of entering into the spirit of her surroundings and a sense of humour that never trespasses beyond the boundaries of kindness. Her book affords pleasant reading, and may be commended both to those who know their Greece already and to those to whom it may still be a treat in store.

The "Station" is Mount Athos, "station of a faith where all the years have stopped." Mr. Robert Byron describes a visit to the Holy Mountain undertaken for the purpose of photographing and describing the masterpieces of Byzantine art which the monasteries there contain. In another volume (in preparation) we are promised a more elaborate and technical presentation of the results of that visit; here the author gives a general description of the Mountain, its Monasteries and their treasures. The subject is one of sufficient interest, and Mr. Byron has enough to say upon it, with the requisite knowledge and enthusiasm, to devote the whole book to it; but he has decided that the reader will be better pleased if the more serious portions of the book are sandwiched in between narratives of the minutiae of the daily existence of himself and his companions in lighter vein. A few flashes here and there of what the Publisher's Note refers to as Mr. Byron's "witty and penetrating" style might have left the reader eager for more. When, however, this style is brought to bear on every incident of the twenty-four hours in a varied tour of many months it is apt to pall. For the author, doubtless on account of his likeness to Queen Victoria*, is not as other men are. Whereas most people are content to rise in the morning, or possibly, to get out of bed, not so Mr. Byron:—"On the last day of August we issued from the commonplace of sleep, to discover with surprise that the barrier between

ourselves and the accustomed had emerged from myth of yesterday into disconcerting reality."

It is a relief, therefore, when the author checks the youthful tendency to strain after effect and deals with the things that mostly count on Mount Athos. Here he is on safe ground, for he deals knowledgeably and enthusiastically with the architecture, painting and other works of art that come under his observation. Twentieth century architecture, Mr. Byron points out in an interesting passage, has as its underlying motive "movement in mass." In such diverse buildings as the later skyscrapers of New York, Liverpool Cathedral, the Town Hall at Stockholm and the large block known as Adelaide House at the north end of London Bridge he traces this movement in mass "in the uninterrupted stretches of flat perpendicular surface; in the avoidance of cornice, architrave, or any ornament that can disturb the sweep of the walls; and in the manipulation of perpendicular lines so that in fact or in appearance they are made to converge." For a prototype Mr. Byron turns to the two monastic dominions that the earth still possesses, the Byzantine community of Athos, and Lhasa. The similarity between the Monastery of Simopetra and the Potala at Lhasa is unmistakable, and our author is satisfied that it is due to more than coincidence. "Though one is Christian and the other Buddhist, it is plain that the contemplative life, untrammelled by the Western doctrine of justification by works, is productive, no matter what its religion, of grand conception and grand execution when its devotees are engaged on material creation." Apart from any possible historical consanguinity—as between Buddhist theocracy and Nestorian Christianity—Mr. Byron suggests the psychological relation between landscape and art. His claim that in these "God-governed states" the grandeur of the earth is unique leads him to a description of the setting of the "Station," which may be quoted at length. (In the face of this picturesque theory it is to be hoped that no one will arise to suggest a purely utilitarian origin having regard to self-defence.)

To anyone who has sojourned beneath the Holy Mountain; who has watched its peak, 6,000 feet sheer from the sea, white against the blue summer sky or magnet of fierce winter storms; has travelled the wooded ridges and sailed beneath the marble cliffs; who has gazed on the dim shapes of the horizon, Lemnos, Longos and Thasos, colouring and paling to the time of day; and has lived in sight of that inexorable sea, gleaming smooth all colours of a pearl, or silver blue roughed by some haphazard puff of air, green turquoise, spitting up white horses in the clear windy air, leaden grey, pouring over its own troughs, clanging the shore in ear-filling monotony—to anyone who has experienced this whole combination of man-made and God-made individuality, there cannot but have come an intensification of his impulse to indefinable, unanalysable emotion."

The history of the Mountain in brief will be found in a separate chapter under the heading "Government in the Fourth Dimension," but the narrative is amplified on a subsequent page by the story of the little-known attempt to establish Russian domination in the Peninsula. Visits to the more important monasteries are described, and a careful account given of their principal contents. Although the author is not blind to the faults and not too kind to the foibles of their inhabitants, we are left with the impression of a gathering of monks of a kindly, hospitable disposition, not far otherwise than their antecedents and surroundings would lead the visitor with knowledge of the East to expect.

Mt. Athos has not always been appreciated by its visitors. "The Station" is certainly to be recommended to anyone who contemplates a visit to it, as it will enable him to derive more advantage from his visit by indicating what to see and how he should try to see it. Mr. Byron's pages certainly "live," and when both books on Mt. Athos are published, he will have made a valuable contribution to our knowledge of this curious enclave on Greek territory. The illustrations in this volume are excellent.

* p. 186. "The bathe was enlivened by our imitation of Queen Victoria—had she ever swum—in propelling her rigid bust through the waves with that peculiar bustle motion which she would doubtless have employed. This pastime may seem unusual; but not unnatural, in view of the goodness of Providence, who has reincarnated the face of the monarch upon the person of the author."

"Glimpses of Greece" is a paper-covered book of 110 pages issued under the auspices of the Hellenic Information Bureau of Washington and the Anglo-Hellenic League of London. It contains a collection of sketches, bearing on different aspects of Greece, by well-known writers, together with a synopsis of practical information for travellers and plans for trips from Athens. The articles and the numerous photographs make the book a valuable and attractive *vade-mecum* for the visitor to Greece. It can be recommended as a readable supplement to any ordinary guide-book. Professor E. A. Gardner writes on Archæology and Mr. A. J. B. Wace on Crete; there are articles dealing with agriculture, certain industries, refugees and a variety of other subjects.

THE SAINTS OF ABYSSINIA.

"THE BOOK OF THE SAINTS OF THE ETHIOPIAN CHURCH." A translation of the *Ethiopic Synaxarium*, made from the manuscripts Oriental 660 and 661 in the British Museum. By Sir E. A. Wallis Budge. Four volumes. (Cambridge University Press. £3 3s. net.)

In 1805 the Abyssinian expert of the day described this work as one of the books in use among the Abyssinians in his day and in it "the miracles and lives, or lies, of their saints are recorded at large, in four monstrous volumes in folio, stuffed full of fables of the most incredible kind. They have a saint that wrestled with the Devil, in shape of a serpent nine miles long, threw him from a mountain and killed him. Another saint converted the Devil, who turned monk, and lived in great holiness for forty years after his conversion, doing penance for having tempted our Saviour upon the mountain. What became of him after they do not say. Again, another saint, who never ate nor drank, from his mother's womb, went to Jerusalem, and said mass every day at the Holy Sepulchre and came home at night in the form of a stork. The last I shall mention was a saint, who, being very sick, and his stomach in disorder, took a longing for partridges. He called upon a brace of them to come to him, and immediately two roasted partridges came flying, and rested upon his plate to be devoured. These stories are circumstantially told, and vouched by unexceptionable people, and were a greivous stumbling block to the Jesuits, who could not pretend their own miracles were better established, or more worthy of belief."

There speaks the stout Protestant! "Hagiology" is a department of literature which has a somewhat limited appeal, yet we have to rely upon it, duly sifted, for much of our knowledge of early eastern Christianity and of the history of the Near East in the extremely dark ages when Rome was rising and falling. And far be it from the people of this generation to call those of any other century superstitious.

Sir Wallis Budge's experience, industry and accomplishment in this field of careful annotation and translation are excelled by none; the Cambridge Press have issued the work in an edition limited to three hundred copies; it is beautifully printed and the limited number of those who possess it will value it highly—but whether as an impetus to piety or a source of diversion it is impossible to say.

INDIAN NOTES.

(Continued from page 316).

before the Commission. The memorandum submitted by the Bombay Chamber of Commerce to the Simon Commission for the revision of the Meston Settlement is an admirable document. It shows clearly that far more was taken from Bombay than from other Provinces, while the revenues left to it were not merely small but inelastic. Two reproaches are commonly brought against Bombay, that its expenditure is high and that it does not tax itself sufficiently. But the high scale of salaries in Bombay is due, first, to the necessity of giving a decent wage for honest work, and, secondly, to the industrial expansion,

which has raised the cost of living generally. The Government of India has taken away the taxes derived from the labour of the industrial classes, so that the burden of providing for the education and medical relief of these classes and for the maintenance of law and order in the industrial areas, falls largely on the poor cultivators. As regards provincial taxation, Bombay at least taxes itself more highly than any other province: more than three times as much as the richer Province of Bengal, and more than twice as much as Madras, the Province which received the largest amount of additional revenue under the Meston Settlement. The case for the revision of that Settlement is, therefore, from the Bombay point of view, overwhelming.

A Novel Safeguard.

Interest in the memorandum submitted by the Associated Chambers of Commerce of India and Ceylon to the Simon Commission will be enhanced by perusal of the text of an exceptionally instructive document now available by mail. One point in particular which merits closer attention than the necessarily curtailed telegraphic summary suggested concerns the proposed safeguards against legislation discriminating against British mercantile interests. As we remarked at the time, the Chambers are greatly concerned at the tendency shown by Indian politicians—and not only the most extreme among them—to seek to restrict the development, or even jeopardise the continued existence, of British commercial and industrial undertakings established in India by legislation or taxation indicating discrimination of a racial or communal character. The Chambers accordingly suggest the insertion of a clause in the statute creating the revised Constitution enabling any person aggrieved to move the Courts to treat as *ultra vires* any measure of an Indian legislature purporting to enact discriminatory legislation or taxation. The prohibition, it is suggested, should extend not only to Acts passed by the Central or Provincial legislatures, but also to by-laws or regulations issued by municipal and other local government bodies. While such a prohibition would admittedly be a novel constitutional provision, there is no lack of precedent for its basic principles. Nor is there any reason why the inclusion of safeguards of this nature should offend Indian susceptibilities, since, as we have previously pointed out in this column, such a provision is a familiar feature of commercial treaties concluded on a most-favoured-nation basis between Sovereign States of every degree. The Chambers confine themselves to asking for "national treatment" only for industries and commerce established in India; and "nothing in this demand is to be construed to prevent the imposition of tariffs for revenue or protective purposes."

THE PRINCE OF WALES AND THE DUKE OF GLOUCESTER IN AFRICA.

The Prince of Wales and the Duke of Gloucester, who had spent two nights in Alexandria, were seen off at Sidi Gaber on September 13 by Sair Zulfikar Pasha, Grand Chamberlain, on behalf of King Fuad, when they took the train for Cairo. They were accompanied by Mr. Hoare, Acting High Commissioner, and by Hassanein Bey, who has been specially delegated by the King of Egypt to attend during the remainder of their visit to his country.

They had an enthusiastic reception, according to *The Times*, from the British Colony on their arrival at Cairo Station. The Prince of Wales drove direct from the station to Helmiya to visit the 12th Lancers, of which he is Colonel-in-Chief, the Duke of Gloucester proceeding to the Kassed Kheir, King Fuad's river yacht, which was lent to the Princes during their stay in Cairo. Both the Princes took luncheon on board the yacht. Afterwards they visited the museum containing the Tutankhamen relics. The Prince of Wales then went to the Gezira Sporting Club, and the Duke of Gloucester visited Musky. In the evening they were the guests of the British Colony at a dinner at the Gezira Kitkat Club, where a cabaret show was given.

After an early visit to the Pyramids, they left the following day for Ismailia. The Princes were entertained to luncheon by the Suez Canal Company officials, and in the afternoon sailed on the British India steamer *Malda* for East Africa. They arrived at Port Sudan on the morning of September 17.

THE WEEK AT HOME

London, Tuesday Morning.

A Liberal-Labour Coalition.

Once again in the atmosphere one is beginning to detect, among the autumn-mists, the familiar scent of politics. Speculation is becoming keener on the result of the next General Election. Men among the Liberal and Labour camps are daily convincing themselves that no party will have a clear majority. And hence the old talk of "Coalitions."

Mr. Philip Snowden, whose mode of thinking is very attractive to a certain type of mind, has publicly discussed the probabilities. He thinks it very possible that the Liberals, although they may have no great "revival," will hold a balance of power. What, then, will they do? They might conceivably link up with the Conservatives, making some such stipulation as that there was to be no Protection. If they did, however, they would not only, according to Mr. Snowden, be cooking their own goose, but would also make the return of the Socialists to power in the following Election a certainty. If, on the other hand, they were to link up, on an agreed programme, with Labour, they could always take the praise for the good measures and disclaim responsibility for the bad.

The point is: would the Labour Party consent again to coalesce with the Liberals? Will they be willing, for instance, not to contest a seat for which a Liberal is standing? An electoral pact between Labour and Liberal is probably quite impracticable, but there might conceivably be a working agreement not to stand in each other's way. On the other hand, Mr. Hamilton Fyfe, formerly Editor of the *Daily Herald*, thinks that the only way to avoid another five years of Conservative rule is for the Liberal and Labour Parties to "unite" before the General Election, and advises a rallying round the old (and what I had thought discredited) banner of "Progressivism."

The Conservatives' Programme.

It is not yet clear, however, what precisely the "Progressives" will have to fight, for the Conservatives have not, apparently, yet decided which are to be their trump cards. Their opponents say that they must choose either the De-Rating proposals or the extension of Safeguarding with which to attract the votes of the hopeful populace. But we shall not know definitely until the Prime Minister makes his speech at Yarmouth next week. The

path of wisdom (which may not necessarily be followed) would probably be to go *forte* on De-Rating, and *piano* on Safeguarding.

Miners' Trade Unionism.

When the Trade Union Disputes Act was passed there was considerable speculation upon the percentage of men who would "contract in" for payment of the political levy. So far, no reliable statistics are available, but it is stated by the *Sunday Worker* (of which Mr. A. J. Cook is Chairman) that, out of the 800,000 miners who before 1926 comprised the Miners' Federation, "probably no more than 250,000 have contracted in."

This is decidedly interesting, but until the cause of the reluctance is known it is useless to draw conclusions. Some observers would have it, of course, that the mining Trade Unionists as a whole are so dejected as a result of their past leadership that they are prepared to turn their back on it and proceed more on what are called "constitutional" lines. It is more largely owing, I should have thought, to the economic depression among the miners. But it is quite possible that there may come about a split in the Federation, into the Communist and the anti-Communist camps.

Population Figures.

Figures have just been issued which will provide matter for wrangling among the sociologists for weeks to come. For it is stated, in the Registrar-General's review of 1927, that during that year there was the lowest birth-rate on record for England and Wales, that there were the fewest births for England and Wales since 1855, that there was an arrested decline of the marriage rate, and that there was an increase of 0.6 per cent. in population of England and Wales. The estimated population for England and Wales at the end of 1927 was 39,290,000.

It is noted that there was a great preference shown for autumn weddings, a preference constantly shown since the beginning of the present century; and that the number of decrees nisi made absolute during 1927 was 3,190 or 568 in excess of 1926. This total was the highest on record, except for 1921.

The number of illegitimate births was 29,023—568 below that in 1926.

The proportion of male births to one thousand female births was 1042. This proportion is now approximating that of the period immediately preceding the War.

But what the moral, social, and racial content of these figures is, I confess that I am not competent to indicate.

The Prayer Book.

Public interest in the Prayer Book died quickly down after its rejection by Parliament, but the situation created in the Church has, of course, still to be faced. The Bishops are to meet next week at Lambeth Palace to discuss the matter.

It is considered that an attempt will be made so to amend the Enabling Act that the Church of England may settle its own concerns through its Assembly and Convocations, just as the Established Presbyterian Church of Scotland does through its own Courts. By this means the Anglican Church could settle its creeds, forms of worship, and so on, without taking the opinion of Parliament. Upon the question of the spiritual autonomy of the Church there is, apparently, agreement among the Bishops, but in the practical aspect the problem still remains of what to do in cases of "indiscipline" in dioceses. Quite certainly the majority is not in favour of a complete severance of relations between Church and State.

Drapery Fusions.

Nothing, it seems, can stay the departure of the captains and kings. Amalgamation, fusion, absorption—these are the industrial watchwords of our time. The trend has been, particularly noticeable in the drapery business. It had been hoped, however, that certain "old-fashioned"



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firms—such as were to be found in Oxford Street and Tottenham Court Road—would contrive to resist the tide.

But the wave is irresistible—the latest victim is the shop of Harries, which is to be “acquired” by Lewis’s. On the death of old John Lewis (a Welshman) last June, the business begat other ideals, and now, it is understood, it is to be formed into a company.

I am told (on authority which a man would be a fool to question) that Lewis’s always specialised in velvets and silks, and that Harries appealed to slender purses with its millinery department. Whether these peculiarities will continue now that, so to speak, Bass and Worthington are to be combined, who can tell?

The Test Team.

A few hours after I write these lines the “Rest of England” team which has beaten Lancashire at the Oval will be travelling to join the nucleus of the Test team which sailed for Australia last week. The wishes of every cricketer will go with them on every inch of their way.

The team is a good team, the best, I think, that could have been chosen, although the croakers will not have Mead at any price and are quite indignant at the possibility of Geary’s crocking and Larwood’s stamina being insufficient.

In any case, they are now off; and their doings, whatever they are, will lighten the gloom of winter.

ALTER EGO.

PERSONAL AND GENERAL

TO-DAY

September 20, 1928 (New Style).

September 7, 1928 (Old Style).

Rabia II, 4, 1347 A.H., of the Muslim Calendar.

Tishri 6, 5689, of the Jewish Calendar.

Sir Ernest Budge had the honour of dining with the King and Queen at Balmoral Castle on September 12.

Sir Ronald Storrs has been ordered a complete rest and will not be able to deal with any official business for the present.

Captain and Mrs. H. C. Ross Skinner have returned from India to Stockwood, Luton, which is their permanent address.

Mr. Rudyard Kipling arrived at Balmoral Castle on September 11 as the guest of the King and Queen, and left on September 15.

Lady Heneker sailed from Southampton in the transport Neuralia, on September 14, to join her husband, Lieutenant-General Sir William Heneker, in India.

Field-Marshal Viscount Allenby and Viscountess Allenby arrived on September 16 at 24, Wetherby Gardens from Perthshire, where they have been staying for the shooting.

Lady Marjorie Dalrymple left London on September 14, in the P. and O. liner Rawalpindi for Port Said. Lady Roberts and Miss Roberts were also passengers for Bombay.

Princess Cecile of Greece, who last week visited the King and Queen at Balmoral Castle, proceeded thence on a visit to the Dowager Lady Glentanar at Glen Muick, Aberdeenshire.

Lord Melchett, accompanied by Mr. and Mrs. Henry Mond, sailed yesterday for New York. Lord Melchett will proceed to Toronto and Coniston and will be joined at Montreal by Sir Henry McGowan.

The King has approved the appointment of Mr. Charles Henry Bayley Kendall as Puisne Judge of the High Court of Judicature at Allahabad, in succession to Mr. Justice Lindsay, who is retiring on October 26.

Dr. W. H. Dye, Colonial Medical Services, has been awarded the North Persian Forces Memorial Medal for the year 1927 for his paper “The Relative Importance of Man and Beast in Human Trypanosomiasis,” published in the transactions of the Royal Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene.

The marriage took place on Saturday, September 15, at St. James’s Church, Weybridge, of Mr. Arthur Lionel Pugh Norrington to Miss Edith Joyce Carver, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Moberly Carver, and granddaughter of the late Edmund D. Carver of Alexandria. The Right Rev. Bishop Temple, Archbishop-Designate of York, officiated.

The Secretary of State for India in Council has appointed the undermentioned on probation to permanent commissions in his Majesty’s Indian Medical Service: Captain F. R. W. K. Allen, I.A. (rtd.) and Messrs. J. S. McMillan, V. E. M. Lee, M. R. Sinclair, G. B. W. Fisher, R. A. Paton, A. V. O’Brien, G. F. Condon, S. T. Davies, E. S. S. Lucas, H. W. Farrell, D. Tennant, H. S. Smithwick, and F. W. H. Caughey.

Where to stay in the East

Write for particulars of attractive offer for Advertising Hotels on this page.

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CAIRO—The National Hotel.

JAFFA—Hotel Jerusalem.

JERUSALEM—St John’s Hotel.

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Sea-View Hotel.

NICOSIA, Cyprus—

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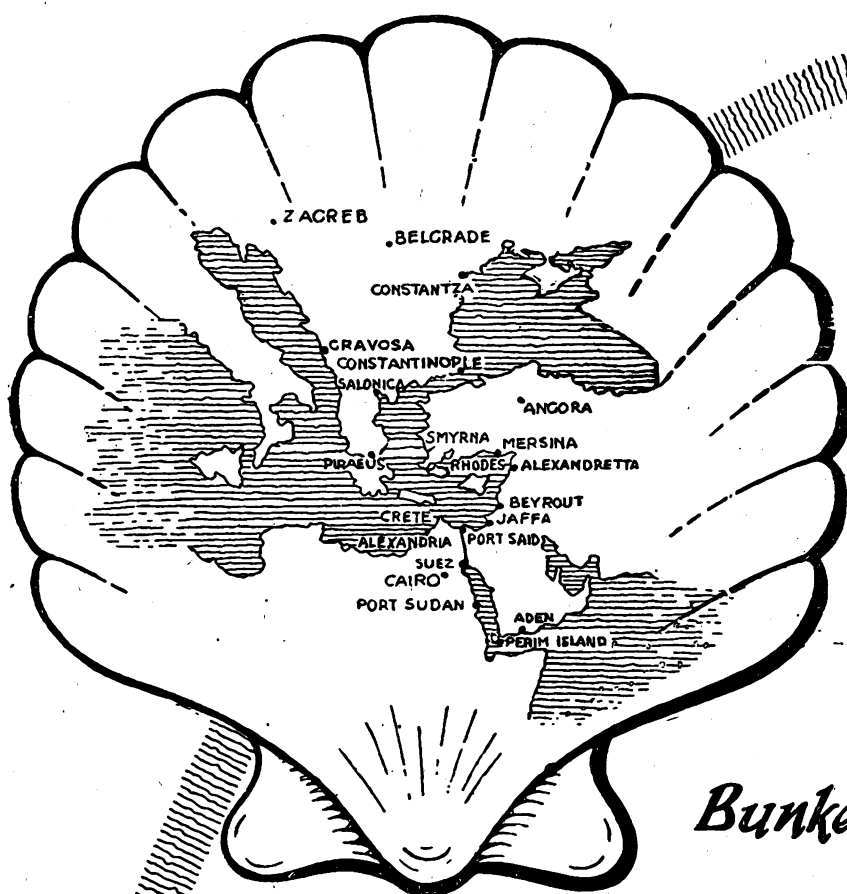
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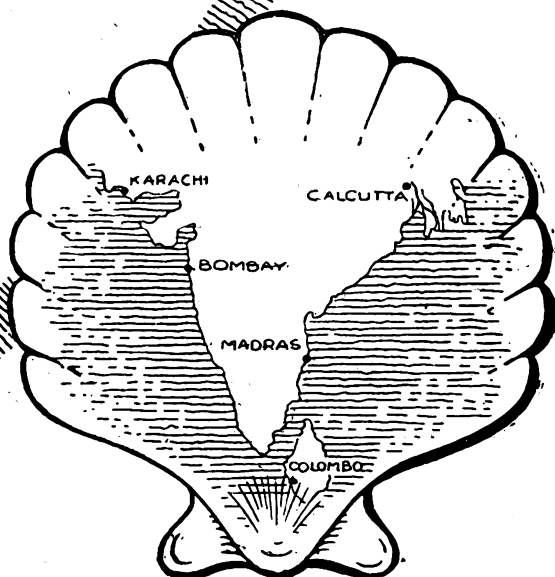
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SHELL



Commercial and Financial Section.

NOTES AND NEWS

170, Strand, London, W.C.2,
Tuesday Morning.

Tobacco Growing in Cyprus.

Efforts are now being made in Cyprus to put the tobacco industry of the Island on a surer basis, and a conference was held recently at Nicosia to discuss measures to encourage the better cultivation and preparation of tobacco for export at which the Director of Agriculture reviewed the history of the industry and dealt with its economic importance to the Island. It appears that owing, it is understood, to some inferior leaf having been placed on the market some years ago there is some prejudice on the part of manufacturers against Cyprus Latakia, and the Director of Agriculture emphasised the point that everything possible must be done to raise the standard of the quality grown so that the confidence of the overseas markets may be repaired. With a view to the improvement of the methods of cultivation the Refugee Settlement Commission at Athens has been asked if they could assist in finding suitable families, skilled in the industry, who would be prepared to settle in the Island. In the event of this course being impracticable it is proposed to engage skilled workers from Macedonia for a fixed period for the practical training of the local growers. Another important matter to which the Director of Agriculture referred was the need for the fermentation of cigarette tobacco. This has so far not been undertaken by Cyprus growers for the reason that it entails packing and storing the leaf for a further nine or ten months with a corresponding delay in payment. Here the problem is purely a financial one, and can obviously only be solved by a system of advances to growers. It must be added that the question of fermentation is very important if Cypriot tobacco is to compete with success with that of other neighbouring centres.

Position of the Industry.

The recent history of the tobacco industry of Cyprus may be illustrated by a few statistics. In the last year of the War the area under tobacco was 3,612½ dounums (1 dounum equals 1,600 square yards) and the production amounted to 206,096 okes (1 oke equals 2 4-5 lb.); while in the following year the area rose to 3,955 dounums, though the production was smaller at 140,068 okes. These were the years when owing to War conditions Cyprus tobacco had no difficulty in finding a market, and it was then that manufacturers lost confidence in the quality of the tobacco. The result was seen in the rapid decline in the area under tobacco and in the production; until in 1926 the figures took a sharp upward turn again. In that year the area was 733 dounums, and the production 6,909 okes, while last year the area rose to 3,117 dounums while the production was 141,302 okes. The manufacture of cigarettes in the Island is an old-established industry, and one which has undergone considerable fluctuations. The export of cigarettes in 1900

amounted to 7 cwt. of the value of £131, and the peak figure was reached in 1907 when the exports totalled 233½ cwt. of the value of £5,165. The next best year was 1925 in which one may trace no doubt the effect of the British Empire Exhibition at Wembley. For that year the exports totalled 244 cwt. of the value of £9,728, but since that year there has been a steady decline, which, it may be hoped, will be ended by the efforts now being made to restore Cyprus tobacco and cigarettes to favour in overseas markets.

Ottoman Railway.

The report of the Ottoman Railway from Smyrna to Aidin for the half-year ended June 30 shows a considerable falling off in revenue. The gross receipts were £168,666, a decrease of £32,259, and while working expenses were lower, the net revenue was only £45,887 as against £72,267. Traffic receipts were affected during the period by the drought which occurred in 1927, while the Turkish Government has continued to refuse to ratify the increase in tariffs specifically sanctioned in the recent Reparations Agreement. Further, the Greek Government, in spite of the most persistent representations, has not paid the balance due to the company for military traffic which has been outstanding since 1922. The immediate outlook as regards traffic is not promising in view of the failure of this year's crop.

Jerusalem Light and Water.

The news that the Mavromatis concession for the supply of electricity and water to Jerusalem has been taken over by the Power Securities Corporation and that a company has been formed in Palestine to work the concession has doubtless been received with enthusiasm by the inhabitants, who have suffered considerably from the lack of these facilities. Plans have been prepared by the Corporation, including the construction of a power station between Bethlehem road and the railway station, and these are now under the consideration of the Palestine Government. It will be recalled that to meet the water shortage a temporary scheme was carried out a few years ago, the contractors being the well-known firm of Sir John

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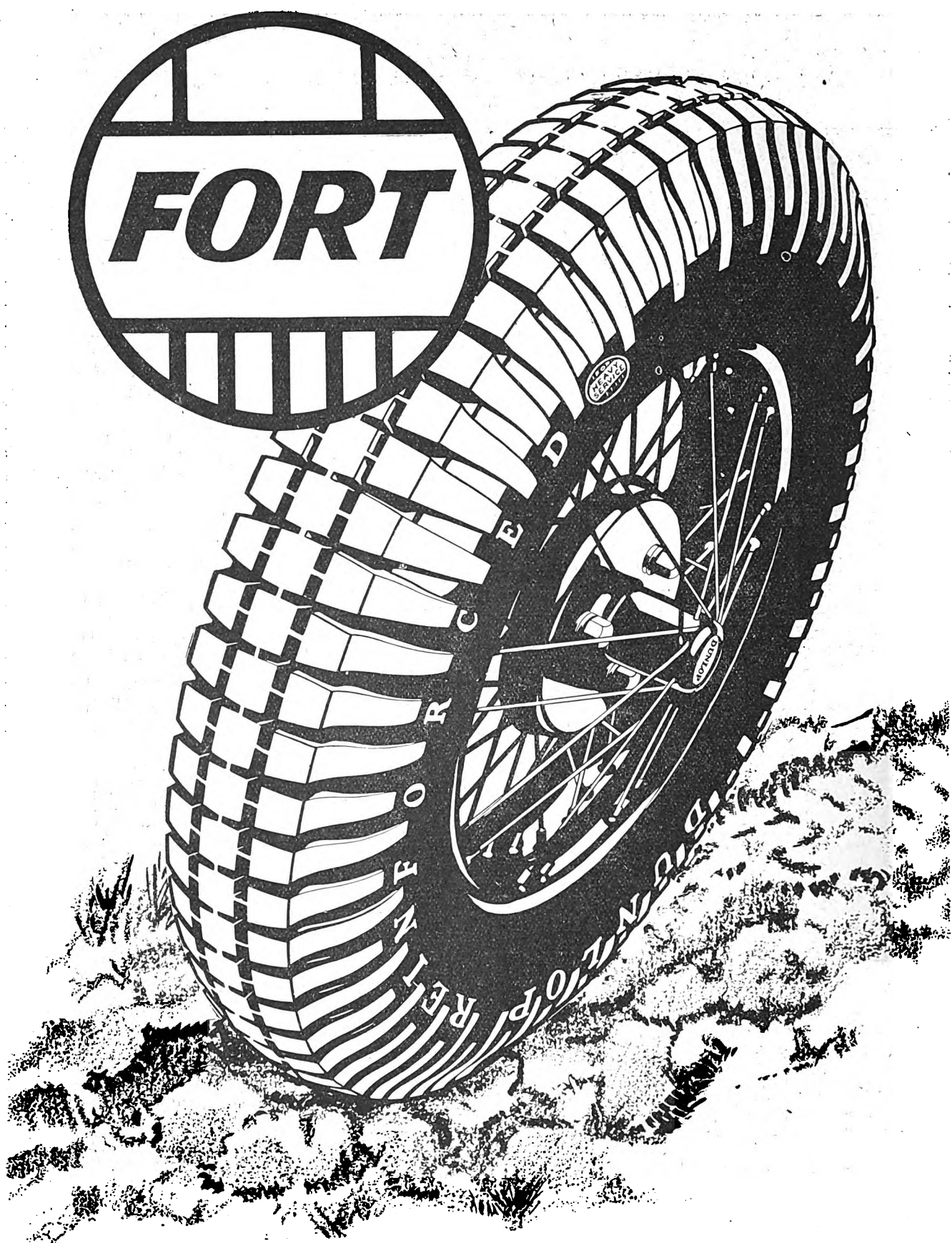
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Jackson, Ltd. While it is not yet clear whether the Corporation propose to carry out both parts of the concession themselves, it is probable that they will do so.

A Palestine Fruit Company.

I have time and again insisted that the soundest policy in Palestine at the moment is to concentrate on fruit growing, which has served the country so well in the past, and the formation which has just been announced of an important company which is to grow citrus fruit, following other developments in the same direction, suggests that there need be no fear that this side of Palestine's economic life will not receive its due attention. The new company is the Anglo-Palestine Citrus Company, Ltd., and it has a capital of £60,000, in £1 shares. The directors include Mr. M. Loshak, Mr. J. Garden, and Mr. Z. Stalbow. The land acquired by the company consists of about 800 doumums near Rehoboth, a region which I understand is specially favourable for fruit growing and in particular for orange cultivation, and it is proposed to grow oranges also grape fruit and bananas. The initial work was set in hand early this year. The number of shareholders in this enterprise is fifteen, and it is estimated on a conservative basis that the net return should be 25 per cent. It takes seven years for an orange plantation to come to the bearing stage, so there is, of course, that period to set against the prospective yield. Incidentally, as showing the increasing popularity of orange growing in Palestine, I might mention that the 32,500 orange trees acquired early this year on behalf of this company could have been disposed of since at a profit of a shilling per tree.

Improving Conditions in Palestine.

Mr. Loshak, who has just returned to England from a visit to Palestine, expressed himself as quite satisfied with the outlook for the country. He pointed out that the economic crisis which affected Palestine so severely in 1927 was confined to the towns and that the Jewish colonies went on flourishing despite the depression. The most hopeful feature for the country in his view is that the bulk of the Jewish immigrants who have remained in Palestine are of the right type for colonisation, such as the Haluzim, who are inspired by idealism and are prepared to sacrifice themselves for the sake of the cause they have at heart. Thus one finds among the Jews doing hard manual work, such as the clearance of marshes, a large percentage of University men. One particularly notable work for which these people have been responsible, he pointed out, was the clearance of the Emuk region, which ten years ago was a death-trap and to-day is a flourishing district. Mr. Loshak takes a hopeful view of the prospects for the development of small industries in the country. As a matter of fact, progress in this direction of late has been very marked, and as conditions generally in Palestine and the neighbouring countries—which are the main outlets for Palestinian produce—improve, it will no doubt be accentuated.

Sudan Cotton Production.

The final figures are now available for the cotton output of the Sudan for the 1927-28 season. The production was 471,769 kantars of Sakellarides, 374,972 kantars being from the Gezira, 41,492 kantars of irrigated

American, and 20,354 kantars of rain-grown cotton. In bales this represents 112,045 bales of Sakellarides and 14,070 bales of American, or a total of 126,115 bales, which is very considerably below the total for the previous year. Last year the Gezira crop amounted to 474,378 kantars as against 348,106 kantars for the previous year, the number of bales being 113,169. The area under cotton in the Gezira last season was 105,622 feddans, while for the 1928-29 season it will be 135,000 feddans, so that given reasonable weather it may be taken for granted that last season's total will easily be passed.

COMMENTATOR.

CORRESPONDENCE

GAS COMPANIES' STOCKS.

To the Editor of THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA.

Sir,—I see that your financial correspondent calls attention to the attractive nature of gas companies' stocks and their past good record. It is nevertheless the case that if the gas industry is to maintain its present high position as the chief source of heat and power it must before long undergo a measure of rationalisation. There are too many small concerns which could be more economically operated in conjunction with their larger neighbours, and the whole industry is fettered by the out-of-date legislation which hinders such amalgamations. For every little thing it needs a gas company is now compelled to go to Parliament for a fresh Act or Special Order with all its attendant cost and delay.

What is needed is a short enabling Bill which would allow gas companies to raise fresh capital, effect joint working, and provide for inter-connecting mains on lines similar to the facilities recently afforded to the coal and electricity supply industries. This would open up a new era of prosperity for gas shareholders and incidentally do much to relieve the unemployment in the country. Perhaps even in the last session of this Parliament the Government could be persuaded to put through a short non-controversial Bill on these lines if shareholders and consumers throughout the country will urge them to do so.—I am, etc.,

FRANK ROBERTS.

The Royal Automobile Club. September 4.

The directors of the Bank of Athens announce an interim dividend of 5 drachmæ per share on the ordinary shares.

M. Argétoianu, the Roumanian Minister of Agriculture, has published the following figures relating to the harvest. Wheat is estimated to yield 355,000 wagons, or 90,000 wagons more than last year. As 270,000 wagons are required for domestic consumption and seeding, there will be 75/85,000 wagons disposable. Barley is expected to yield 164,000 wagons, or 40,000 wagons more than last year. Domestic needs require 96,000 wagons, so that there will be 68,000 wagons available. Rye and oats show surpluses of 7,000 wagons each over last year's yield. Finally, the harvest of cereals will furnish a surplus of 168,000 wagons. Maize was cultivated on an area of 4,445,000 hectares as against 4,219,000 hectares in 1927. According to reports received the yield will be good, and even very good in 57 out of a total of 72 departments. As far as can be judged, the maize harvest this year will be at least equal as to quantity to that of last year, which amounted to 353,000 wagons.

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Motors and Motoring.

By G. B. B.

Motor Coaches.

Recently one or two of the more important newspapers have had much to say regarding the size and speed of motor coaches, and there seems some impression abroad, an impression which I shared at first, that before long we should see a good deal of police activity regarding the speed at which some of them travel. I understand, however, from a usually well-informed source that the public attitude, especially with regard to long distance services, will be sympathetic, and that there will be little or no interference with them provided that due care is taken. That is as it should be; it is evident to us all that the motor coach is filling a need, and that as such it must not be restricted unduly by any regulations that would retard speed without adding to road safety. My own view is that police supervision should deal rather with the provisions made to ensure safety for the passengers, particularly as regards overcrowding, and the fire risk. I understand also that the police are anxious that more motor coach parking places should be provided. At present many services are placed in some difficulty by reason of the lack of provision for terminus waits. Buses have to wait, in accordance with properly regulated time tables, in public squares or streets and that is a thing that should be minimised as far as possible. It is true that at present few coaches load in main thoroughfares, but wait to pick up passengers in side or back streets, but properly equipped termini would not only add to the comfort of waiting passengers but would also relieve traffic congestion and allow of more space for parking private cars.

An Eight-Wheeler.

There seems no limit to progress in the design of heavy motor vehicles and I have just been reading the specifications of an eight-wheel vehicle, representing a truly startling advance on the six-wheeler to which, at the moment, we have hardly become accustomed.

The eight-wheeler, as may be imagined, is for the heaviest loads and the wheel distribution is such as will be welcomed by road engineers, distributing as it does, the load well over the road surface. The vehicle is of the articulated type, and comprises a four-wheeled tractor on which is pivoted the load carrier, which has four wheels in line on its back axle. All eight wheels are detachable and run on roller bearings, and the arrangement is such that each tyre maintains perfect and full road contact and no tyre is overloaded. The weight of the tractor and load carrier is properly distributed, and as the axles are free to oscillate, the road shocks are halved. The engine, rated at 70 h.p., is of the usual powerful type associated with the makers of the vehicle, the pressed steel frame girders of the chassis are 14 inches deep, the body length is 27 feet and a four-speed gearbox is provided. I understand that the rated load is 15 tons and at that, the vehicle can travel 130 ton miles on a gallon of fuel..

Important Contracts.

The qualities of the Thornycroft productions seem to be well recognised, as I am informed that the L. N. and E. Railway have ordered 120 vehicles from the firm within the past two months. Messrs John I. Thornycroft and Co., Ltd., of Basingstoke, have long been known as makers of single and double-deck omnibuses as well as of lorries, and it is with no surprise therefore that I hear that a large proportion of the above order consists of single-deck road coaches. The firm have also been building lately a number of omnibuses for the Southern, London Midland and Scottish and the Metropolitan Railways.

Amongst other important orders recently placed is one by the India office who have given Guy Motors, Ltd., a repeat order for sixty-nine six-wheeled commercial chassis. A number of other vehicles have just been ordered from the firm by the Wolverhampton and the Reading Corporations, and I gather that all these represent a total value of £104,000.

There are now in cultivation in Cyprus 373,904 mulberry trees, an increase of 48,307 over the figures for the preceding year.

The value of Yugoslavia's exports for the first half of the current year amounted to 2,687,036,407 dinars, a decline of 318,777,940 dinars on the figures for the corresponding period of 1927.

The Cyprus Department of Agriculture has been sending weekly shipments of table grapes to London to the Empire Marketing Board to test the carrying capacity of Cyprus grapes for the United Kingdom market.

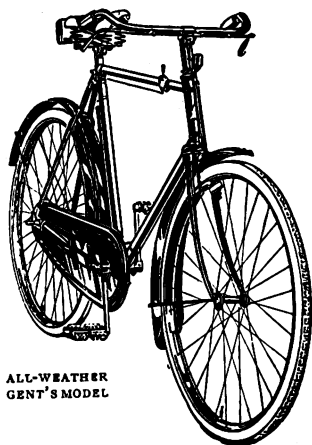
Of the tonnage using the port of Constantinople in 1927, Italy was first with 2,511,000 tons, England being second with 2,075,000 tons, and Greece third with 1,578,000 tons. The British share of the shipping was 21 per cent. as against 23.6 per cent. in 1926. Of the actual number of ship, 15 per cent. were British as against 18 per cent.

The Army Rifle Association's central meeting in India will take place on the Meerut ranges on February 18 to 22, including the Army Championship match and the King's Medal match for the best shot in all the forces. These two events are fixed for February 20 and 21. The entries will be limited to the four selected shots of a unit, with unlimited entry for British officers. Entries close on February 7. Strong efforts are being made at Simla to increase the training value of this meeting and to secure the attendance of marksmen stationed in distant places.

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THE LIUBLIANA AUTUMN FAIR.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Liubliana, September 5.

There is a tang of frost in the air, with a whiff of wood smoke. Early morning mists give place to skies preternaturally clear. The woods are preparing for russet splendours before stripping for their winter sleep. The cragsmen are making the best of the brief period of minimum snow on the rocks—in short, our glorious Alpine summer is over and autumn has come overnight. Into this pleasant interval between summer and the first cold snap falls the Liubliana Autumn Show, aptly named “Liubliana in Autumn” (September 1 to 8). It is mainly an agricultural show; this year decidedly so, as it celebrates the 160 years’ existence of the Slovene Agricultural Society. Much work has been done and great progress made since the first show of this kind in 1924. More and more attention is being bestowed on those rural industries which can flourish in Alpine regions—dairy-farming and cheese-making in the summer settlements on mountain pastures (*planine*), cattle rearing, and mixed farming in the valleys. Bohinje cheese was greatly in evidence and much improved in quality. It is practically the same as Gruyère, only the cheeses are not kept long enough here to develop the full flavour. Trappist cheese, too, is a good mild cheese of dependable quality. The Yugoslav makes of the finer sorts, which are packed in tinfoil (and usually put up in small cardboard boxes), have become reliable in quality and flavour. The Associated Dairies’ stand was all the time besieged by old and young anxious to try a pennyworth of whipped cream, or a glass of *youghourt* or *kefir*, or plain milk. *Kefir* is slightly fermented, containing about 2 per cent. of alcohol. Gone are the days when a stranger in Liubliana would ask why there was no decent butter to be had!

Apiculture is a very ancient industry in Slovenia. Carniolan bees and honey have been famous as long as the country has been known, and are to-day exported all over the world. This year has been a good one for honey, and all varieties were on show, from the palest blossom honey to green-bronze spruce honey, which is, I believe, rather a speciality of these parts. Heather honey, alas (oh, memories of Aberdeenshire!) is unknown.

Fruit, vegetable, and floral exhibits showed what might be done with systematic and scientific gardening. Great interest was aroused by the exhibit contributed by the Botanical Institute of Liubliana University and showing cereals vastly improved by ingenious cross-fertilisation. The necessary experiments are carried out by Dr. Fr. Jesenko, Professor of Botany, and his assistants.

Native industry was represented mainly by the furniture section, where there was good stuff on show as usual. The little one-man firms of these parts certainly turn out sound work with an individual note in the design. Then there were linen-weavers from Southern Carniola busy at their hand-loom, and other craftsmen.

Of special shows, the parade of national Slovene costumes was, as always, a delightful pageant. The accordion players’ competition made me want to write a song of the concertina. No Slovene gathering is complete without an “‘Armon’ka”; its strains are homely and fine to dance to!

But the great attraction of the Show was the collection of birds, fishes, and reptiles, which is to form the nucleus of the stock of a Zoological Garden, which aims at being in the first place a collection of the native fauna. It must be borne in mind that Yugoslavia, and Slovenia in particular, is rich in interesting animals. Conspicuous was a tank with fine specimens of the *proteus anguinus*, best known by its association with the Adelsberg (Postumia, Postojna) Grotto. Carniola is rich in caves, most of them as yet unexplored—a weird and often beautiful underworld of limestone formations and subterranean waters. The work of investigation is carried on by the Cave Research Society, University of Liubliana. Most of the

exhibits were caught and cared for by students under the auspices of the newly-formed “Zoo” Society and its indefatigable president, Professor A. Serko, Dean of the Medical Faculty, and incidentally an expert in catching snakes. “It is quite simple,” explained Mr. Serko, jun.; “you just have to pick ‘em up by the tail. . . .” A very popular animal in the present collection was a chamois which had obligingly come down from the Kamnik Alps, and got caught in a fence. It looked most unromantically comfortable and was not in the least shy.

Of course, there was the usual livestock show—horses, cattle, poultry, etc. Among the horses the officers’ mounts were conspicuous for English characteristics.

Slovenia is justly proud of two recent acquisitions which are indeed common property of the State though situated within her borders. The first is the big broadcasting station at Domzale, near Liubliana, which was opened on September 1. The second is a National Park. Thanks very largely to the efforts of Professor F. Jesenko, the region in the Triglav Range known as the Seven Lakes Valley and the Komna has at last been acquired by the State and set aside as a park where the interesting flora and fauna of the eastern Alps will have an assured asylum.

The Bank of England are prepared to receive the coupons due October 1 on bonds of the Greek Guaranteed £2 ros. per Cent. Gold Loan of 1898; the necessary lists can be procured on application at the Dividend Pay Office.

A Cairo message states that the condition of the cotton crop in Egypt as compared with previous year's is given as follows:—Lower Egypt, 100 per cent.; Middle Egypt and Upper Egypt, 99 per cent. The expected average yield is 3.96 kantars per acre. The crop is ten days late. An unknown disease has been observed in the pods, occasioning deterioration. Examination shows that the disease is neither entomological nor mycological. It is probably due to humid weather:



The Postal Account

It is often supposed that to live a long way from the nearest branch of a bank, or to be constantly unable to go to the bank in person, is a handicap to the enjoyment of the full advantages which, it is admitted, a banking account offers. Perhaps it is assumed that to conduct an account by post involves ‘more letter-writing’, or is costly, or is not welcomed by the Bank. It is the aim of the Westminster Bank to dispel such misconceptions by a leaflet entitled *The Postal Account*, which explains the convenience of the method, and offers some clear suggestions.

A copy will be gladly sent on application to the Secretary

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PORT FACILITIES AT CONSTANTINOPLE.

From the commercial point of view, the port of Constantinople may be divided into two parts—the outer port and the inner port (says the United States Commercial Attaché at Constantinople in a review of the port facilities at that centre). The outer port extends from the eastern entrance of the Golden Horn (a line from old Seraglio Point on the Stamboul side to the Top-Haneh arsenal on the Galata side) to the first bridge over the Golden Horn (connecting Stamboul and Galata and known as the Karakeui Bridge), a distance of about 1,800 yards. In this outer commercial port the water varies in depth from 22 fathoms on the Stamboul side to 19 fathoms on the Galata side. It is buoyed for merchant vessels, which load and discharge their cargoes into lighters.

The inner commercial port lies between the two bridges over the Golden Horn and is about 1,100 yards in length. It is used chiefly by small sailing craft arriving with local produce from the Black Sea, the Sea of Marmara, and from other Turkish littorals. The inner port is used also by lighters and barges awaiting their turn at the custom house at the outer port.

Connected with the port of Constantinople proper is the port of Haidar-Pasha, which is located on the Asiatic side at the southern entrance of the Bosphorus, and is the terminus of the Anatolian Railway.

Of the three quays within the port of Constantinople, one is on the Stamboul side near the bridge and has a length of 370 metres. One of the two quays on the Galata side, 758 metres in length, extends from the bridge up to the quay of the Seir-i-Sefain (Turkish Shipping Board); the quay of the latter company, which is practically an extension of the former, covers a length of 275 metres. The port of Haidar-Pasha is formed by quays built out from the land. These are 450 metres in length and are protected by a breakwater about 650 yards long, running parallel with the above. In addition, there is a wooden pier about 150 yards long, which is used for discharging wheat cargoes into lighters.

The quay on the Stamboul side and the first one of the above-mentioned two quays on the Galata side are operated and controlled by the Société Turque des Quais, Docks et Entrepôts de Constantinople. This company collects dues from cargoes and passenger vessels lying alongside the Stamboul and Galata quays, as well as storage and stevedoring charges for goods stored in its bonded warehouses. It owns the following loading and unloading machinery, which is in operation on the Stamboul and Galata quays: Steam cranes, 1 floating of 8 tons capacity and 3 travelling of 2, 3, and 5 tons capacity, respectively; electric-porch crane, 1 of 4 tons capacity; and 1 dredger with a working capacity of 120 cubic metres per hour.

On the quay of the Seir-i-Sefain (Turkish Shipping

Board) on the Galata side, there is the following loading and unloading equipment; 4 stable rotary electric cranes of tons capacity, 1 stable rotary electric crane of 4 tons capacity, and 1 electric crane of 100 tons capacity.

Warehouses in Constantinople may be divided into three principal categories—namely, bonded warehouses, warehouses for the storage of goods intended for clearing and importation, and warehouses for the storage of goods that have been cleared from customs, as well as for spot goods, etc. The bonded warehouses in Constantinople represent by far the most important category, especially with regard to size, storage capacity, and organisation. On the whole, however, and with the exception of a few warehouses only, the great majority of warehouses are buildings which originally were not constructed for this purpose and which therefore lack the necessary size, arrangement, and technical equipment proper for modern warehouses.

All bonded warehouses—that is, those owned and operated by the customs authorities, the Société des Quais and the Seir-i-Sefain (Turkish Shipping Board)—are placed under the control of the customs authorities. The greater number are located on the quays on the Stamboul and Galata side of the port; the others are located on the shores of the Golden Horn, at places along the shores of the Bosphorus, and at the port of Haidar-Pasha.

The Turkish customs authorities own and operate 12 warehouses in Constantinople. Neither official figures nor estimates as to the area covered or their general or individual storage capacity are available for any of these warehouses, with the exception of the Cabatash Bonded Warehouse; this covers an area of 2,376 square metres and has a total estimated storage capacity of 20,000 tons of goods packed in sacks, or 8,500 tons of merchandise packed in cases.

FORTHCOMING SAILINGS.

The following are the sailings for the Near East and India, the ports of departure and closing dates for cargo being given in parentheses:—

Anchor Line.—S.s. Assyria for Bombay (Birkenhead, September 25). (For passenger sailings and dates see advertisement.)

Anchor Brocklebank Line.—S.s. Mahout for Calcutta (Birkenhead, September 27).

Bibby Line.—S.s. Cheshire for Port Said, Port Sudan, Colombo, and Rangoon (Birkenhead, October 3).

British India Line.—S.s. Mashobra for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, September 22); s.s. Dumana for Bombay and Karachi (London, September 29); s.s. Mandala for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, October 6).

Cunard Line.—S.s. Bactria for Gibraltar, Malta, Patras, Piræus, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, and Constantza (Liverpool, Glasgow, and Swansea, September 29); s.s. Brescia for Casablanca, Gibraltar, Genoa, Leghorn, Naples, Palermo, Messina, Catania, Bari, Gruz, Venice, Trieste, and Fiume (Liverpool October 13, and Swansea October 16).

Johnston Line.—S.s. Jessmore for Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, September 29); s.s. Dromore for Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, October 13).

P. and O. Line.—S.s. Rajputana for Bombay (London, September 28); s.s. Novara for Calcutta (London, September 29); s.s. Delta for Bombay (London, October 4); s.s. Burdwan for Calcutta (London, October 13).

Prince Line.—S.s. Italian Prince for Tunis, Malta, Alexandria, Jaffa, Haifa, Beyrout, and Cyprus (Manchester, September 25); s.s. Syrian Prince for Tunis, Malta, Alexandria, Jaffa, Haifa, Beyrout, and Cyprus (Manchester, October 9).

Ellerman and Papayanni Lines.—S.s. Oporto for Oran*, Algiers*, Piræus, Volo*, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, and Constantza (Liverpool September 22, Swansea* September 22); s.s. Flaminia for Malta, Alexandria, Jaffa*, and Haifa* (Liverpool, September 29); s.s. Lesbian for Genoa, Leghorn, Naples, Palermo, Messina, Catania, Bari, Gruz*, Ancona*, Venice, Trieste, and Fiume (Liverpool September 29, Swansea October 4); s.s. Fabian for Gibraltar, Malta, Alexandria, Jaffa*, and Haifa* (Liverpool, October 6); s.s. Roumelian for Patras, Piræus, Volo*, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, and Constantza (Liverpool, October 6). *Subject to sufficient inducement. Cargo taken on through Bill of Lading to:—Algerian ports via Algiers; Moroccan ports via Gibraltar; Tripoli (Barbary) via Malta; Syria and Cyprus via Alexandria; Greek outports via Piræus or other convenient port.

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THE WEEK'S FINANCE.

(By Our Financial Expert.)

London, September 18.

There has not been a great deal of business passing in the Stock Exchange during the past week, except in one or two of the speculative sections, the Settlement, which proved to be a fairly heavy one, having occupied a good deal of attention. Gilt-edged securities, while quiet, have been fairly firm, but Home Rails eased still further on disappointing traffic returns. Argentine Rails, on the other hand, were a better market on the dividend announcements referred to below. In the industrial departments, profit-taking in Gramophones set in towards the end of the week, but among artsilks Courtaulds were a good feature. Iron and Steels were lower.

Argentine Rail Dividends.

Reference was made in this column a few weeks ago to the position of the leading Argentine railway companies. The view was expressed by the writer that, despite tariff reduction demands by the Government of the Republic and the incidence of labour trouble on some of the lines, the dividend announcements should at least be maintained. During the past week the dividend statements of three of the bigger undertakings have been issued, and they confirm the opinion expressed. The Buenos Ayres Great Southern is maintaining its payment at 8 per cent., and the Buenos Ayres Western and Central Argentine at 7 per cent. each. The companies obviously have an eye on the future. The B.A.G.S. is reducing its reserve allocation from £500,000 to £200,000, in order to increase the carry forward from £18,422 to £338,656, while the Western has carried forward a sum of £230,242, compared with £178,557, after having once more placed £100,000 to the credit of its reserve fund.

These results are, and were judged by the market to be, eminently satisfactory. It is true that, for the current year, the revised tariff charges may have an adverse effect. Against this, however, and ruling out the possibility of operating economies, it must be remembered that Argentina increases in prosperity year by year. The potentialities for future development are enormous, and

more and more railway traffic will almost certainly be carried. Moreover, it is a well-known fact that the leading lines, while paying good dividends, have always left themselves substantial profit margins, which have gone towards the strengthening of their finances. The average yield on the stocks of the principal companies is approximately 7½ per cent., which is generous enough to warrant the attention of the investor.

Rubber Company Directors.

Not long ago certain discontented rubber shareholders voiced the opinion that multiple-directorships were ruining rubber companies. The storm soon subsided, and nothing more has been heard of it. The writer noticed the past week, however, that in certain directions veiled hints are being made that the slow movement towards "rationalisation" in the industry is due to personal motives on the part of rubber company directors who draw fees from several concerns and who do not wish to have their incomes reduced by amalgamations. It is to be hoped that rubber shareholders generally will realise the injustice of such an accusation. Rubber company directors are no worse and no better than the directors of other industries. They have made bad mistakes in the past, but they cannot be accused of working for the satisfaction of their own personal desires. In fact, in not a few cases they have preferred, during recent lean years, to go without the fees to which they were legitimately entitled.

There is no doubt that amalgamations between estates, while highly desirable, are not occurring in great number. But nobody could reasonably expect a rapid rush among producers to merge their interests. There are many things to be considered. Some companies are waiting to see the effects of the abolition of restriction; others are confident of emerging successfully from the present period of trial, and to others the opportunity of amalgamation has not presented itself. There is no doubt that eventually the organisation of the rubber industry will be stronger than it is to-day, but the process of consolidation must necessarily be gradual. Undue hastening of the movement might, in fact, do more harm than good.

Investment Trust Shares.

While there have been no surprises contained in the several investment trust company dividend announcements recently made, it is apparent that fortune still smiles on this type of enterprise. The past week or two has witnessed several capital increase proposals, which indicate that there is no lack of investment opportunities. In fact, one of the undertakings, in a statement to the shareholders, observed that further funds were required because present conditions were favourable for investment.

Shareholders will be particularly gratified at this, in view of the utterances of many trust company chairmen who, at the last annual meetings of their concerns, warned their proprietors against expecting the continuance of the exceptionally prosperous conditions which have characterised recent years.

At the same time it must be confessed that while certain investment trust shares undoubtedly possess bonus possibilities, those shares are fully valued and prospects discounted. For instance, British Assets Trust Ordinary yield only £2 10s. per cent.; Great Northern Ordinary, £2 8s. per cent.; Independent Investment Ordinary, £3 7s. 6d. per cent.; Mercantile Investment and General Ordinary, £4 15s. 6d. per cent. Comparatively few investment trust ordinary shares yield more than 5½ per cent. On the other hand, a good selection of preference shares yielding over 5 per cent. is available, including Governments Stock 5 per cent. Preference, Great Northern 5 per cent. Preference, Continental and Industrial 5 per cent. Preference, and Army and Navy 5 per cent. Preference.

(Continued on page 342.)

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Near East Markets

HOP GROWING IN YUGOSLAVIA.

BY JOE MANTUANI.

On August 15 there was a hopgrowers congress at Novi Sad, which is the hop growing centre in the Voivodina. (Voivodina is the Danubian province of Yugoslavia which used to form part of Hungary.) Besides 350 Yugoslav delegates, the Congress was attended by 11 delegates from Germany, Czechoslovakia, Austria, France, and Poland.

Hop growing has increased greatly in Yugoslavia of recent years, especially since 1925, when it began to be a gold mine for the districts affected. According to the statistics of the Ministry of Agriculture the hop growing area in Yugoslavia has been quadrupled during these few years. Yugoslavia has become one of the regular hop producing countries of Europe, and in fact ranks third among them, after Germany and Czechoslovakia. In 1926 Yugoslavia exported hops to the value of 206,5 million dinars, while for 1927 the value of the exports was 6400 million dinars.

Before the War, the hop growing area in Europe totalled 64,000 hectares (158,080 acres). To-day, after the long interval of the War, it has risen to 56,000 hectares (138,320 acres). According to the report from Munich, the hop harvest for 1927 totalled from 660,000 to 670,000 quintals (2,422,200 to 2,458,900 bushels). The production and price of hops naturally depend upon the output of beer in Europe and all over the world. In 1913 295 million hectolitres (6,490 million gallons) of beer were brewed throughout the world; in 1927 only 179,6 millions (3,951.2 million gallons). Despite the first-sight impression conveyed by these figures, the post-War production of beer is steadily on the increase. From 1926 to 1927 it increased by 5 per cent., and during the same period the ground devoted to hop growing increased by 19 per cent.

The delegates at this year's congress decided to limit the area under hops, in order to prevent over production and a serious drop in prices. This year's harvest is expected to yield about 550,000 quintals of fine hops, and some 100,000 cwt. less than last year will be placed on the market.

Though Yugoslavia is not the only country which produces hops it has the advantage of producing the best and most popular types of hops, viz., the "Sanntaler" (Savinya Valley) variety. In Zalca, Styria, there is a special Hop Exchange, very helpful to growers and dealers as a storehouse and clearinghouse for hops. Those interested would be well-advised to buy hops personally in Yugoslavia, or directly through their own agents, as the price is raised considerably by the goods passing through the hands of German or Austrian brokers.

The comparatively small harvest this year warrants the expectation of high prices. The world demand for hops is 600,000 quintals. According to the hop growers' estimate the year's output will total about 500,000 quintals. And this year the growers will not allow themselves to be bluffed, like last year, when prices were manipulated so as to fall desperately low. In the meantime, there is a good opportunity for foreign speculation. I therefore repeat my advice to prospective buyers to

come personally. Conditions in Yugoslavia are perfectly civilised, and the Hopgrowers' Association is sufficiently influential to offer buyers every facility.

SUDAN GUM ARABIC MARKET.

Messrs. Boxall and Co., of Khartoum, in a report on the Sudan gum arabic market dated August 20, state:—

Arrivals in Kordofan stations from July 1 to 31 amounted to 495 tons against 712 tons during the same month last year, whilst for the first twenty days of August arrivals amounted to 239 tons as against 151 tons for the corresponding period last year. The decrease in arrivals for the whole period was 14 per cent., but the point of greater importance is the absence of free stocks. Arrivals at this time last year were also very small, but it was the stocks in existence in the country which made all the difference in the quantity of free gum available.

A large proportion of the arrivals—from one-third to one-half of the total—was rain-damaged gum.

One might say there were practically daily fluctuations in the prices of El Obeid during July, but on the whole the upward move has been constant, and the market closed on the 31st at 4s. per cwt. higher than when it opened.

During August prices continued to rise and on the 20th they stood at 86 piastres per kantar, the highest price ever touched at the auction market of El Obeid this season, whilst still higher prices were paid outside the market to local dealers to secure some small parcels that were available. The total rise during August at the auction market of El Obeid amounted to 1s. 8d. per cwt.

Demand during July as shown by the Customs' export figures was smaller than that of last year, the quantities imported by the principal markets being somewhat less.

During August demand was very slack, mainly owing, we believe, to the holiday season in Europe.

The total quantity exported from January to July exceeds, however, that of last year by 2,307 tons.

The export figures for the period January to July are made up of the following quantities:—Hashab, 15,473 tons; bleached, 179 tons; talha, 1,566 tons; total, 17,218 tons.

THE SMYRNA FRUIT MARKET.

Messrs. C. J. Giraud and Co., of Smyrna, in their report for the week ended September 8, state:—

Sultanas.

The estimated arrivals on the Smyrna market since the opening of the season are put at 9,400 tons, against 11,200 tons for the corresponding period of 1927, and the sales to date are estimated at 7,300 tons, against 9,500 tons.

Closing prices Smyrna, for types 12 to 18 and 1, per cwt., c.i.f. London, are:—34s.; 36s.; 38s. 6d.; 41s. 6d.; 45s. 6d.; 53s.; 62s.; 64s.

Market Conditions.—The gathering clouds over last week-end dispersed without rain falling in any of the vine districts, some showers being reported in the highlands.

With weather conditions again settled to fine, the market opened easy and prices gradually receded, losing 2s. to 3s. (fl. 2 to fl. 4) for

FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

Country.	Method of Quoting.	Parity of Exchange.	Latest Quotations
Alexandria.....	Piastre to £	97½	97½
Amsterdam ...	Florins to £	12.107	12.09½
Athens	Drachmæ to £ ..	25.22½	375
Belgrade.....	Dinars to £	25.22½	276
Berlin	Marks to £	20.43	20.36
Berne	Francs to £	25.22½	25.20
Bombay	Sterling to Rupee	18d.	17 63/64—18 1/64
Brussels	Belga to £	35	34.90
Bucharest	Lei to £	25.22½	797½
Budapest	Pen to £	27.82	27.84
Caleutta	Sterling to Rupee	18d.	17 63/64—18 1/64
Constantinople	Piastres to £	110	932½
New York	Dollars to £	4.86 2-3	4 851/16—½
Paris	Francs to £	25.22½	124.21½
Prague	Kronen to £	24.02	1638
Rome	Lire to £	25.22½	92.80
Sofia	Leva to £	25.22½	670
Teheran	Krans to £	47½	47½
Vienna	Sch to £	34.58	34.44
Warsaw	Zloty to £	25.22½	43.25

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all inferior and medium fruit on last week's closing level. Prices for best grades are well maintained.

The point of interest this week has been a visible expansion in the demand. Business at the decline has been brisk, and a considerably larger volume of new business from markets abroad has been booked than in any one of the preceding weeks. A better feeling exists, but we do not apprehend any marked advance in prices unless the improvement in the demand continues developing on an increasing scale.

We wish to sound a note of warning as to supplies of Carabournu fruit, No. 1 Vourla and No. 18 Yerli. Carabs are about 40 per cent. short of last year; Vourla about 30 per cent. short, and the best Yerli, although in fair supply at the moment, are being freely absorbed.

Figs.

The estimated arrivals since the opening of the season are put at 7,000 tons, against 8,700 tons for the same period of 1927, and the sales are estimated at 6,374 tons, as compared with 8,476 tons.

Market Conditions.—The activity reported last week has been fully maintained this week for all qualities suitable for packing in layers and locoums. The market is slow on Naturals, the standard of which in general is of unsatisfactory quality.

The restrictions on arrivals have been raised and the movement of the crop has been more rapid, supplies coming freely to market. Prices for better grades are, if anything, higher than last week, whereas ordinary fruit is selling cheaper.

The traffic receipts of the South Indian Railway Company for the week ended August 18 amounted to Rs.11,04,511, making the total from April 1 Rs.2,33,84,577.

The Bombay Gas Company announces an interim dividend at the rate of 7 per cent. per annum, less tax, payable November 1.

OVERSEAS AGENTS FOR THE SALE OF "THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA."

EGYPT.

Alexandria: M. Nacamulli and Co., 12, Rue Sesostris.

Cairo: M. Avatis, 1, Faggala.

Express Book and Stationery Store, P.O. Box 1113.

Port Said: English Agency, P.O. Box 240.

SUDAN.

Port Sudan: The Egyptian Library, Post Office Box No. 44.

PALESTINE.

Haifa: Newspapers Agency Steimatzky, Jaffa Street.

Jerusalem: B. Y. and W. A. Said, 23-24, Jaffa Road.
Newspapers Agency Steimatzky, Jaffa Road

SYRIA.

Beyrout: Sarrafian Bros.

IRAQ.

Basrah: Jashanmal, Bridge Street, Ashar.

BULGARIA.

Sofia: Librairie Francaise et Etrangere, 6, Bvd, Tsar
Ostrovoditel.

CYPRUS.

Nicosia: Dick Soultanian, P.O. Box 6.

GREECE.

Athens: Messageries de Journaux et Publications Etrangers, 24,
Rue du Stade.

ROUMANIA.

Bucharest: Mr. L. Hamilton, 21, Strada Regala.

TURKEY.

Constantinople: The Anglo-American Book and Newsagency,
18, Rue des Petits Champs, Pera.

YUGOSLAVIA.

Belgrade: Librairie Française, 19 and 22, Rue Prince Michel.

ALBANIA.

Tirana: Librairie Lumo Skende.

AMERICA.

New York: Brentano's, Fifth Avenue and 27th Street.
Boston (Mass): Smith and McCance, Ashburton Place

THE WEEK'S FINANCE.

(Continued from page 339.)

German Potash Bonds.

According to reliable advices from Berlin, the German Potash Syndicate is experiencing favourable conditions. Sales of potash during August are announced by the Syndicate to have amounted to 108,700 tons. This brings the sales in the first four months of the current fertiliser year up to 375,030 tons. In the corresponding period of the previous year sales were reported as aggregating 299,400 tons. The figures now announced constitute a new high record.

To some extent, of course, sales afford little indication of the course of the trade, without details of selling prices. But it is, at any rate, satisfactory to observe that activity is being maintained and that the demand for potash is on the increase. The German industry is well organised and has practically a world monopoly.

When the Syndicate, a short time ago, offered some of its bonds to investors in this country, the response was entirely satisfactory. The amount of the loan now outstanding is approximately £11½ millions. Interest is at the rate of 7 per cent. per annum, and as the current market price is in the neighbourhood of 105, the yield works out at approximately £6 12s. 6d. per cent., on which basis the loan ranks as an attractive foreign investment.

TENDERS INVITED.

Tenders are invited for the following contracts, and must be made by the dates mentioned.

(Particulars of tenders marked D.O.T. are to be obtained from the Department of Overseas Trade, 55, Old Queen Street, S.W.1).

EGYPT.

Various Stores.—The Egyptian Ministry of Education invites tenders for the supply of various materials required for model workshops, trade schools, etc., during the year 1928-29. October 1. (D.O.T.)

Steel Boiler Stay Taps.—The Egyptian State Railways, Telegraphs and Telephones, invites tenders for 128 best high speed steel boiler stay taps and 112 reamers, 47 sets best cast steel boiler patch taps and 3 sets best high speed steel taps and 5 best cast steel taps for bushes.

Coal Handling Transporters.—The General Management, Egyptian State Railways, Telegraphs and Telephones (Cairo Station), invites tenders for the construction, supply and erection of coal handling transporters. November 29.

Lock Gates, Etc.—The Resident Engineer, Delta Barrage Directorate, at Delta Barrage, invites tenders for (1) construction of eight lock gates for Damietta and Rosetta locks, both at Delta Barrage, and their delivery at site and erection in position; (2) construction of twenty regulator gates and their delivery at sites. November 1.

Marble Gauges.—The Inspector of Irrigation, Assiut Barrage Circle, Assiut, invites tenders for the supply of marble gauges. November 10.

Lubricating Axlebox Pads, Etc.—The Egyptian State Railways, Telegraphs and Telephones, invites tenders for the supply of 20,000 lubricating axlebox pads No. 10, 5 in. by 7½ in.; 316,700 mild steel split cotter pins, and 8,600 taper split pins; 450 kilos leather laces, 480 feet leather belting double and 2,700 feet balata belting, of different dimensions; 1,000 kilos mild steel tees, 3 in. by 2 in. by ½ in., and 27,000 kilos mild steel equal and unequal angles of different dimensions to specification.

Portland Cement, Etc.—The General Management, Egyptian State Railways, Telegraphs and Telephones (Cairo Station), invites tenders for the supply of 6,000 metrical tons artificial Portland cement. October 30; and for the supply of materials and works connected with the replacement of the superstructures of 4 fixed bridges of the Sherbin-Kallin line and the adaptation of the abutments to the new superstructures. This project includes, among others, the supply and laying of the following materials: Reinforced concrete, about 3 c.m. and rolled, cast, etc., steel, about 38 tons. November 10.

Lighthouse Tower, Etc.—The Director-General, Ports and Light Administration, Arsenal, Alexandria, invites tenders for the construction of a lighthouse tower and annexes on Daedalus Reef in the Red Sea. November 12.

Door and Window Fittings.—The Ministry of Public Works invites tenders for the supply of door and window fittings. October 1. (D.O.T.)

Clothing, Etc.—The Director of Stores, Department of Public Health, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of clothing, soft and woollen, sheets, linen, napkins, blankets woollen, white and brown, material by metres, etc., required for the unexpired period of the year 1928-1929. October 11.

Cotton and Cotton Goods.

THE LIVERPOOL COTTON MARKET.

Messrs. Reynolds and Gibson report as follows for the week ended September 12 :—

Egyptian Futures.—Sakel Contract.—A sharp decline in values has occurred in this contract since we last wrote, heavy liquidation having to be faced due principally to the generally "bearish" influence of the American Bureau figures, and also, though perhaps in lesser degree, to the monthly official report of our own crop proving contradictory to the rather alarmist statements recently circulated. Most of the support latterly in evidence in our market has been in the form of speculative purchases for Alexandria and Continental operators, who evidently have been basing their views on a 2 to 2½ million crop and in anticipation of a quick change for the better in the demand for fine spinning cottons. The yield of course is still problematical; in fact, picking is only just about starting, but in conservative quarters a crop of 2½ million kantars is generally expected. With regard to the trade offtake, we doubt if in any previous season the demand has fallen to the low records of recent weeks. This lack of trade support became more pronounced as soon as values started to recede in sympathy with the prevailing tendency in other markets, and during the last two sessions active liquidation of old long accounts has been in process, the decline meeting with little resistance until the later trading yesterday, when some short covering and a little buying on the reaction theory halted the movement. To-day, values have made some slight recovery on rather better Alexandria advices, but the undertone remains unsettled and nervous. Values on the week have fallen 101 to 106 points for near and 100 to 101 points for distant months. The American-Egyptian straddle difference, taking the October and November positions in the respective markets; has closed into 800 points; this premium, under present trade conditions, appears somewhat excessive, but until more definite views of the size of the respective crops can be formulated, we do not advise commitments. At periods during the week our contract has shown a tendency to run closer to Alexandria and occasionally straddle reversing operations have been possible at close differences.

Whilst prices have now certainly worked down to a more attractive level, there is nothing as yet to indicate that the trade is going to accept ruling values as a basis to start purchasing. For the immediate future we are prepared to witness rather erratic fluctuations with "bearish" sentiment preponderating; certainly, we would not follow any upward movement unless distinct evidence of increasing spinners' activities make their appearance.

Upper Contract.—Whilst trading has been somewhat limited, values in this contract have been adversely affected by the weakness expressed in the American markets since the publication of the Bureau Report. At the ruling level more trade support has been in evidence, but with the crop movement growing in volume the basis has begun to show signs of easing and some cheap offers are coming to hand from Alexandria. Our premium over the American contract has again tended to close in, but as reports of the yield are not so satisfactory a resistance to further narrowing may be experienced in the near future.

Egyptian Spot.—Whilst awaiting publication of the latest Bureau report last week, the inquiry died down to a large extent, and although during the past few days some recovery has been made, spot sales show a considerable decline as compared with the previous week's figures. Apparently values are still regarded by the trade as being in too fluid a state, for, with the size of the American crop now more or less determined, no enthusiasm to buy cotton has yet been seen, although the inquiry has certainly commenced to broaden out again. The "wait and see" policy still holds good. There has been little improvement reported from the various trade centres of the world, and it is of course from such centres that the first signs of a revival must come.

Efforts are being made in Egypt at present to stir up interest in this year's Sakel crop by drawing increased attention to the damage caused by worms, but, owing to the very poor offtake for Sakel cotton which has been experienced during the past few months, these efforts have been largely wasted. Should spinners suddenly decide to purchase Sakel in quantity, it would of course be a very different story, but there seems little likelihood of this occurring at the moment. The local inquiry for Sakel has been confined almost entirely to "off" cotton within the wide range of 12½d. to 16d. and a small irregular inquiry for cotton at from 25 to 100 on. The better qualities have been entirely neglected. The bulk of the local spot business has once again been for Upper cotton at from pass to 50 on.

Low cotton (any growth) 4d. to 10d. has been in improved request. Good Fair Pilon at about 100 on contracts has met with some support, and White, Nahda, etc., have also appeared at times on the board.

A fair business has been done in Sudan growths. The first shipments of new crop cotton are due to arrive here this week and will be, as usual, eagerly received. C.I.F. business has been done on a moderate scale only, and forwardings to the trade for the week ending

the 7th inst. were returned as 4,727 bales Egyptians and 1,272 bales Sudan. Estimated spot sales for the week, 1,800 bales Egyptian and 1,000 bales Sudan. Quotations of Sakel show a decline of 95 points, and those of Upper and Pilon 75 points on the week. F.G.F. Sakel to-day, 18.10d. F.G.F. Upper to-day, 11.90d. F.G.F. Pilon to-day, 13.35d.

THE EGYPTIAN MARKET.

The Alexandria Commercial Company, in their report for the week ended September 6, state :—

The market during the past week has been fairly active, but the tone is very undecided. The week's summary of price movements is as follows :—Sakellaridis: November, 36.88 dollars, 0.12 dollars up; January, 37 dollars, 0.12 dollars up. Ashmouni: October, 22.80 dollars, 0.37 dollars down; December, 23.10 dollars, 0.43 dollars down; February, 23.57 dollars, 0.28 dollars down.

Sakellaridis.—This variety is slightly up on the week. The improvement must be attributed to the rather less favourable crop reports which have been circulating recently; these reports have been very vague and the market has been left to decide as to how the crop has suffered and to what extent. There has been some deterioration recently, due to excessive humidity, and the damage is slightly more than normal, but it is not, in our opinion, to a degree sufficient to justify the recent rise of a couple of dollars. The market, however, is bullish of Sakellaridis and every bullish factor is made the most of.

The demand from spinners shows no improvement whatever. This apathy on the part of spinners is not confined to one or two of the consuming countries—it is general to all and shows very clearly that the trade is not prepared to buy Sakellaridis at present levels; this fact, however, is a point which the market chooses, for the moment, to ignore. The Sakellaridis/Ashmouni straddle has widened out to 1,408 points, against 1,359 points last week and 1,004 points a year ago.

Uppers.—This market has been without any support during the present week. The speculators have left Uppers alone and the commercial houses have shown very little interest. On the other hand, with the Uppers crop now seriously on the move, there has been a good deal of hedge selling, which, however, has been absorbed by speculators covering part of the short position which they have been running for the past three months; a good part of the October shorts have thus been covered, but a considerable position still remains.

The demand for Uppers has been poor this week, the revival which seemed possible when last we wrote having once again vanished into the background. The Ashmouni/American straddle has narrowed since Tuesday last to 384 points, against 427 points last week and 784 points last year. The general feeling is one of indecision; operators seem unwilling to operate pending more information on the American crop, and the Bureau report to be published on the 8th inst. is eagerly awaited.

The Government has at last decided to issue their acreage and crop estimates on fixed dates. The preliminary, intermediate, and final crop estimates will be published respectively on the first Mondays of October, December, and June, and the acreage estimate on the first Monday of August.

The week's receipts amount to 28,484 kantars, against exports

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100,465 kantars; the stock in Alexandria stands at 1,125,465 kantars.

Spot.—Total sales amount to about 4,900 bales, of which we estimate 1,200 bales Sakellaridis, 3,600 bales Ashmouni and Zagora, and 100 bales other varieties.

Sakellaridis: The demand for this variety has been poor. Very little enthusiasm has been shown for the few lots of new crop which have so far appeared on the market. Spot differences do not show any appreciable change.

Ashmouni and Zagora: There has been a very good demand for all grades and keen competition amongst buyers to obtain any new crop cotton put up for sale; premiums have consequently stiffened somewhat for the higher grades, but otherwise remain unchanged.

Other Varieties: There has been a small turnover in Pilon and White at about last week's differences.

Crop, 1928.—There is very little of real importance to say on the crop. The excessive humidity during August has increased the damage from Nadua and the high temperature caused some premature opening and shedding of top bolls, so that the Zagora and Pilon crops of the South Delta are going to turn out slightly under normal. In the Sakel districts of the Central and North Delta the damage from the above causes is not so marked, and, given favourable conditions during the present month, the yield should be a good average one. Zagora and Pilon picking has started; Sakellaridis picking will seriously commence about the 20th inst. Pink boll worm attack has increased. It varies from district to district, but, on the whole, is less than last year. Nearly all the ginning factories in Upper Egypt are now working. In Lower Egypt a few have worked for one or two days, on early arrivals, but ginning will not really commence before the end of this month. Temperature is slightly above normal and humidity is still rather too high.

COMPANY NOTES AND REPORTS.

NATIONAL BANK OF EGYPT.

Position at July 31, 1928, published in conformity with Article 8 of the Statutes. Banking Department.—Liabilities: Share capital (300,000 fully-paid shares of £10 each), £2,925,000. Reserve Fund: Statutory Reserve, £1,462,500; Special Reserve, £1,243,125; current, deposit and other accounts, £14,064,705; Egyptian Government, £17,149,179; Sudan Government, £137,252; Mixed Tribunals, £1,865,328; bankers' accounts, £270,473; cheques and bills payable, £232,246; sundry other accounts, £1,817,825—£41,173,633. Assets: Government securities and securities guaranteed by the Egyptian Government, £21,909,871; sundry securities, £511,648; advances on merchandise, £1,623,887; advances on securities, £4,061,954; sundry other advances, £1,152,147; bills of exchange, £3,483,351; local bills discounted, £744,879; buildings and furniture, £238,470; money at call and at short notice, £828,750; bankers' accounts, £1,921,458; sundry other accounts, £1,168,287. Cash: Notes, £1,432,661; gold, £462,929; silver, nickel, etc., £349,271—£2,244,871—£41,173,633. Issue Department.—Notes issued, £23,500,000—£23,500,000. Gold, £3,339,570; *British Treasury Bills, £8,410,430—£11,750,000. Securities: Egyptian Government securities and securities guaranteed by Egyptian Government, £1,500,000; British Treasury Bills, National War Bonds, and British War Loan, £10,250,000—£11,750,000—£23,500,000.

* By authority of the Egyptian Government these Treasury Bills are deposited in lieu of gold (See *Journal Officiel* of October 30, 1916.)

Stock and Share Markets.

LONDON EXCHANGE		Prices on Sept. 18		Prices on Sept. 18		Prices on Aug. 29	
Government Stocks.		Railways.		Banks		Rs.	
Egyptian 4 p.c. Unified Debt	91½	Assam-Bengal	92½	Imperial Bank of India	1,460		
Do. Pref. 3½ p.c. 1890	75½	Bengal Nagpur	101½	Bank of India	91		
Do. Turk 4 p.c. 1891	91½	Egypt Delta Light Rly.	34	Central Bank of India	24½		
Do. 3½ p.c. Eg. Trib. Bonds '94	85½	Ottoman (Smy. t. Aid)	40½	Coal.			
Bulgaria 7 p.c.	91	Southern Punjab	205	Baraboni	1		
Greek 5 p.c., 1881	65	South Indian	122½	Bengal	297½		
Do. 5 p.c., 1884	65	Rubber.		Burakur	124		
Do. 4 p.c. Rentes, 1889	52	Ceylon Para Rubber Ord.	76	Fast Indian	174		
Do. 5 p.c. 1890	65	Doolkalla (Ceylon) Rub. Est.	19½	Equitable	184		
Do. 5 p.c. Funding Loan, 1893	65	Grand Cent (Ceylon) Rubber...	23½	Pench Valley	26		
Do. 4 p.c. Rails, Loan, 1902	60½	Hewagum Rubber Co.	10½	Raneenging	21½		
Do. 4 p.c. Loan, 1910	62½	Kepitigalla Rubber Estates	144	Standard	55		
Do. 5 p.c. Loan, 1914 (Lon. issue)	76	Malayalam Rub. and Produce	29½	Cotton.			
Do. 7 p.c., 1924	102½	Shipping.		Bengal Nagpur	30½		
Do. 6 p.c. St. Bds.	92½	Anchor 5½ p.c. Prf.	8½	Bombay Dyeing, etc.	816½		
Palestine 5 p.c.	106	Cunard	24½	Bowrah	330		
Persia 5 p.c., 1911	87½	Furness Withy	39½	Buckingham and Carnatic	185		
Roumania 4 p.c. Ext.	71½	Khedivial Mail Ord.	7½	Cawnpore Textiles	24		
Do. 4 p.c. Consolidation	45½	P. and O. Deferred	245	Century	373		
Sudan 5½ p.c. Guar. Bds.	109½	Tea.		Central India	495		
India 3½ p.c.	71½	Assam Co.	21½	Elgin	101		
Do. 3 p.c.	60½	Bengal United Tea Ord.	24	Klatau Makani	90		
Do. 5½ p.c.	102½	Bramapootra	35	Muir	332		
Do. 4½ p.c.	94½	British Indian Tea Ord.	4	New Ring	289		
Turkish 4 p.c. Unified	23½	Cachar and Doars Tea Ord.	215½	Phoenix	365		
Banks.		Carolina	313½	Svadeshi	456½		
Agri. Bank of Egypt...	711½	Ceylon Tea Plantations Ord.	5	Jute.			
Bank of British West Africa	44	Consolidated Estates	31	Alliance	680		
Bank of Roumania	86½	Darjeeling Co.	225½	Barnagore	302		
Barclays Dom. Col. Pl.	29½	Dimbula Valley (Ceylon) Ord.	35½	Budge Budge	616½		
Lloyds	68½	Doors Tea Ord.	34	Clive	46		
Eastern	71½	Dooloogram Tea	44	Dalhousie	603		
Chartered Bank of India	22½	Doom Dooma	41½	Delta	644		
Ottoman Bank	144	East Assam	24	Fort Gloster	1,635½		
Imperial Bank of Persia	113½	Empire of Ind.	24	Gourepore	1,480		
Land Bank of Egypt Ord.	174	Halem Tea	219½	Howrah	624		
Mercantile Bank of India A	34½	Imperial Ind.	53½	Kamarhaty	769		
National Bank of Egypt	36	Jhanzie Tea Association	311½	Kankarrah	608		
National Bank of India	54½	Jokai (Assam) Tea Ord.	44	Khardah	693½		
Westminster	20½	Jorehaut	2	Kirinson	1,150		
Land.		Lanka Plantations Ord.	216	National	34		
Kassala Cotton	6½	Lungla (Sylhet) Tea Ord.	64	Standard	543		
Sudan Plantations	4	New Dimbula	53½	Union	816½		
Mines.		Nuwara Eliya Tea Estates Ord.	215½	Miscellaneous			
Balaghat Gold Mining	76	Nedem	31½	British India Corporation	31		
Burma Corp.	149	Ouvah	61½	Bengal Paper Mills	34		
Champion Reef Gold...	116	Pabhojan	54	Bengal Timber Trading	41		
Mysore	163	Standard	54	Burn and Co.	270		
Nundydroog	169	Scottish Assam	24	Cawnpore Sugar	392		
Onoregum Gold Mining Ord.	14½	Scottish Tea and Lands	33½	Champaran Sugar	221		
OIL.		Upper Assam	213½	Howrah Oil Mills	101		
Anglo-Egyptian B	27½	Insurance.			84		
Anglo-Persian Ord.	45½	General Accident Fire and Life (£5, £14 paid)	154	ALEXANDRIA			
Do. 8 p.c. Cum. 1st Pl.	26½	London & Lancs (£5, £1 paid)	34	Prices on Sept. 7, supplied by G. L. Morten, Alexandria & Cairo.			
Do. 9 p.c. Cum. 2nd Pl.	28½	Royal Exchange (£1)	79½	Agricultural Bank of Egypt	471		
Do. 5 p.c. Debs.	98	Sun Fire £10 (£2 paid)	42	" " " Fond.	480		
Brit. Burmah	73	Trade Indemnity (£10)	16	Alexandria Water Co.	£177½		
Burmah Oil Co. Ord.	411½	Miscellaneous.		Assoc. Cotton Ginners	£23½		
Do. 8% Cum. Pref.	274	Alexandria Water Co.	174	Behera Ord.	££204		
Phoenix Oil and Transport	146	Associated Cotton Ginners	23½	Ciments d'Egypte	Fr. 131		
Steaua Romana	10½	Egyptian Hotels	7	" " Div.	184		
		Do. Markets Ord.	253	Comptoir Fin. & Com. d'Egypte	£516		
		Do. Salt and Soda	186	Credit Foncier Egyptien	Fr. 1,172		
		Mortgage Co. of Egypt 5 p.c. Pref.	84	" " Fondateur	2,900		
		INDIAN EXCHANGES.		Crown Brewery Priv.	Fr. 153		
		Government Loans.		Filature Nationale d'Egypte	£34		
		3½ Government Paper	72½	Frigerique d'Egypte	48		
				Immeubles d'Egypte Soc. An. des.	£174		
				Land Bank of Egypt Actions	£171		
				" " Parts de Fond	£255		
				Menzaleh Canal Navigation	Pt. 190		

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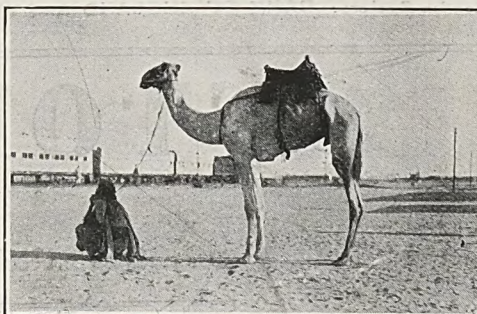


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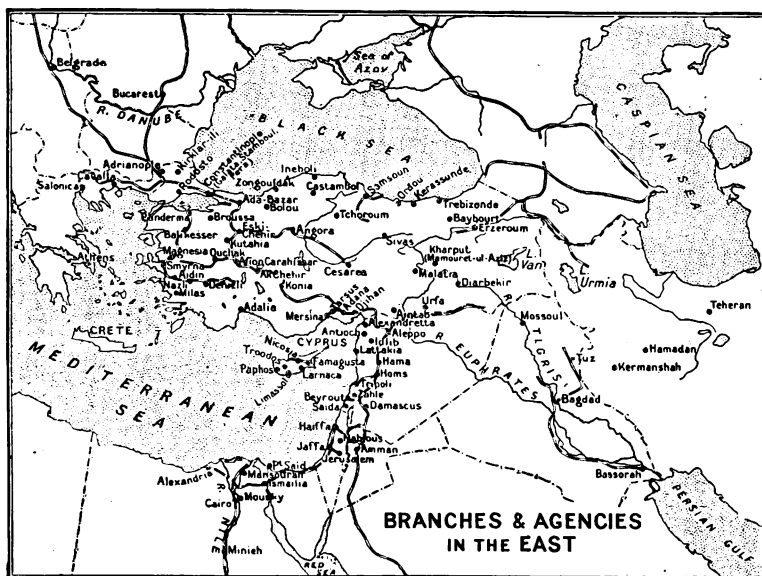
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Notes of the Week.

Egyptian Newspaper Suspension.

In a telegraphic communication which appears on another page Nahas Pasha, ex-Prime Minister of Egypt, challenges the statement made in a Press telegram that the recent suspension of two Egyptian newspapers was effected under a Law issued by the late Zaghloul Pasha when Minister of Justice. He points out that the Law which the present Government has applied was issued in 1881, and he cites the fact that according to the Constitution (of April 1923) the censorship of the Press has been abolished, and newspapers cannot be warned, suspended or suppressed by administrative means. It is not desirable that the foreign onlooker should pass judgment on the present dispute between Egyptian parties; but a direct appeal such as Nahas Pasha makes prompts a more detailed analysis than might otherwise be devoted to the situation. It will be noticed that, in spite of what might seem at first sight the far more drastic action of the Government in suspending the parliamentary régime, the ex-Prime Minister directs special attention to the suspension of a couple of newspapers. Possibly the great store set in Great Britain on the liberty of the press encourages him to hope that on this subject British opinion will rally to his way of thinking. It is true that the British people's love for liberty, as Nahas Pasha points out, is traditional; but so, we hope, is their practical common sense. It would never occur to the British people to allow their Press the preposterous amount of licence that the Egyptian Press takes, nor would it occur to the British Press to expect it. Liberty is to be loved for its own sake and must, therefore, be accorded to others by those who claim it for themselves. There is nothing in keeping with the British conception of liberty in the scurrilous abuse in which so often many Egyptian papers notoriously indulge. What the specific offences of the two papers recently suspended have been we do not know. Nahas Pasha, in suggesting that they had not made themselves punishable by law, may be restricting the Article of the Constitution that he

quotes to his own narrow interpretation. Social order, it would be supposed, was intended to have a wider reference than to the activities of Bolshevism, and one obvious way of undermining it is by means of unrestricted newspaper attacks.

Catchwords or Common Sense?

The problem in Egypt would seem to be one for the exercise of common sense rather than for any slavish adherence to catchwords. Nahas Pasha's own position as Prime Minister provided an illustration of the difficulty in which the country found itself. Elected to succeed Zaghloul Pasha as head of the Wafd, he entered upon office under, seemingly, the most favourably auspices, fully resolved, as his own statements witnessed, to seek an honourable settlement with Great Britain that would meet the latter's Imperial responsibilities, while satisfying Egyptian aspirations. In the event, the leader of the Wafd was quite unable to bring any of his own personal qualities to bear on the situation. The policy of Egypt was dictated to him by a handful of extremists, and his Government was not even allowed to devote its attention to the business of administration. Outwardly this state of affairs may have conformed to the dictionary definition of a parliamentary régime; in effect, it was the negation of all government. From the fact that Nahas Pasha now concentrates on what he considers a breach of a specific legal provision it may be inferred that his intellect and whole training caused him to rebel inwardly against the parliamentary farce in which he was involved, and make him now the less able to challenge the steps that put an end to an impossible position. On a point of law he feels himself on safer ground, and he carries out the duty of an Opposition by opposing one particular act on the part of the Government. His contention would seem to be that a Cabinet, which has made out a case for suspending the parliamentary régime, because Parliament had reduced it to a farce and the Government of the

country to impotence, ought not to suspend by administrative act two newspapers which were admittedly working against the unity of the country that the Government has set itself to promote. Nahas Pasha would, no doubt, be the first to realize that, if the Government had had recourse to the Courts, the case would, probably, not have been tried for several months, and that in the meantime the papers in question would have been free to repeat what are regarded as their offences *ad libitum*. Whether it is reasonable to expect that a Government which is essentially "out for business" and has no use for make-believe should adopt such a line of action we must leave to the ex-Prime Minister to decide.

Liberty v. Licence.

No one, it is to be feared, who couches a lance for the Egyptian Press is likely to arouse much sympathy abroad, if only for the reason that Egypt has always seemed so ill served by her newspapers in comparison with the intelligence and experience that she can command. As far back as 1881 it was found necessary to pass rather stringent Press Laws. By 1894 Egyptian newspapers were held to have acquired a sufficient sense of responsibility to call for no further application of the 1881 Law, which was allowed to become a dead letter. By 1909, however, fresh abuses were occurring, and the Government of the day found itself obliged to revive the provisions of the 1881 Law regarding the Press. In spite of this experience and of the known weaknesses of Egyptian newspapers, the 1923 Constitution awarded the Press complete liberty. Since then there has been abundant evidence to show the use made of this liberty. To the foreign onlooker it appears as if the great majority of Egypt's forty-three Arabic daily papers, of which a year ago twenty-four belonged to Cairo, with a population of less than nine hundred thousand, lack the capacity to be able to deal with matters of importance and exist merely to abuse one another and political opponents. It would have been supposed that the more serious-minded politicians of Egypt would have welcomed any means for bringing the bulk of the Press of Egypt to an adequate sense of its responsibility as a guide to the nation. If this is to be done only by such drastic methods as suspension or suppression, the fact is to be deplored, but it may prove the salvation of Egypt that some of her public men are found prepared to take the onus of acting *ultra vires*. The offences with which the suspended papers are charged were, no doubt, common before the new Government took office, and if Nahas Pasha did not set the law in motion in his time, it will have to be inferred that his Government lacked the power to deal with offences manifestly prejudicial to the interests of Egypt. Criticism of the Press entails no taking of sides in Egyptian politics. There have been instances when the boundary line of fair criticism and good taste has been passed in Press remarks regarding Nahas Pasha and his Wafd colleagues, and not long ago it was reported that the Government had issued a preliminary warning on this point to one of its own supporters. This at least is the right attitude in attempting to raise the standard of the Egyptian Press, and it would be a good day for the country, if, while disagreeing on other points, the ex-Prime Minister and the present one could co-operate in putting an end to a serious blemish on Egyptian public life.

Greece's Foreign Policy.

The three treaties that are expected to result from M. Venizelos's tour abroad should go far to exorcise the bogey of potential trouble in the Balkans. There has been no real danger of international complications for some years past, in view of the influence that it is always possible in the last resort for the League of Nations to exercise; but until the series of pacts binding the different States to conform to the League spirit has been rounded off by an agreement between Yugoslavia and Greece, the more nervously-minded politicians affect to discover a loophole for war, not necessarily between these two

countries but in the Balkans as a whole, in every difference of opinion that arises. The Pact between Italy and Greece which M. Venizelos has signed in Rome is of interest mainly because it is understood to make no reference to the Dodecanese. In other words Greece is prepared to face facts as she finds them, and does not intend to retard her own general development and that of the Balkan Peninsula as well while vainly kicking against the pricks. This policy may be said to be M. Venizelos' statesman-like message to the people of the Dodecanese and to the Cypriots; and the example thus given may be taken to heart in other countries of the Near and Middle East. By far the most important of the three treaties will be that between Yugoslavia and Greece, if the Greek Prime Minister is able to conclude one during his stay in Belgrade. Not only will it have the effect of settling the vexed question of the Yugoslav Free Zone in Salonika, but it will also, it is hoped, mark a turning point in Yugoslav policy. The Ishmaelite character of this policy has been too conspicuous in recent years, and an accord with Greece should imply that Yugoslavia is allowing some of her "corners" that have worried her neighbours to be rubbed off at last. From the meeting between M. Venizelos and Ismet Pasha much is hoped, for the ground has been carefully prepared by both Prime Ministers. In a long review of Turkey's foreign relations that he gave during a speech delivered at Malatia on September 13, Ismet Pasha declared that there was no insurmountable obstacle to an entente with Greece. The issue between the two countries was of a juridical nature, which would inevitably find a solution, given good will on both sides. The inference is that hitherto, so long as that issue was left to delegates of the two Governments to solve, the necessary good will was lacking, from the mistaken idea that intransigence on each side argued patriotism instead of the reverse. The existence of correct relations between Greece and Turkey is one of the most hopeful signs of the times in the Near East; any formal pact will merely endorse a situation brought about by the hard logic of events.

The "Optants" Question.

The dispute between Roumania and Hungary over the question of compensation for the Hungarian landowners in Transylvania, who "opted" for Hungarian nationality and had their properties dealt with under the Roumanian Agrarian Law, came up once again before the Council of the League of Nations on September 21. As all efforts of the two Governments to arrive at a settlement between themselves had failed, in spite of repeated urgings on the part of the Council, the Hungarian Government had requested that the question of the Council's obligation to nominate on the Mixed Arbitral Tribunal a substitute for the member withdrawn by Roumania should be submitted to the International Tribunal of The Hague. The Council again shirked the issue and recommended the two Governments, "while reserving their points of view in regard to the principles involved and the legal situation" to take steps "to enable their plenipotentiaries to meet as soon as possible and to be furnished with the necessary powers to come to a practical settlement of the question." Unless there is some subtle virtue in the reservation of the respective points of view in regard to the principles involved, it would not appear that the settlement of the dispute had been advanced by this resolution. In the circumstances the difference of opinion which prompts one London newspaper to state in a headline to its Geneva telegram "Promise of Solution;" while another newspaper announces "Optants' Question Shelved," may be forgiven.

Great Britain and Soviet Armenia.

For some reason, which it is charitable to assume can derive only from suspicion of the integrity of the motives of Soviet Russia towards the various States comprising the "U.S.S.R.," official opinion in this country has never supported the scheme, which has now become inseparably

connected with the name of Dr. Nansen, for settling Armenian refugees in the Republic of Erivan. It is perhaps superfluous here to reiterate the pledges made by the Allied Powers during the War and by the League Assembly after the War in favour of an Armenian National Home. The non-fulfilment of those pledges is admitted on every side. It was unfortunate, however, that at the League Assembly last week Great Britain and India should have provided the only delegates to pour cold water on the Erivan scheme, and to refuse to support it financially. In face of the British delegate's opposition, based on the necessity for "budgetary economy" and on the allegation that the League was not "a vast charitable organisation," a supplementary credit for Dr. Nansen's costs of administration was passed on September 10. Dr. Nansen remarked during the discussion that the German Government was ready, provided that the work in Erivan was done under the direction of the League, to contribute £50,000, that Armenians in Europe had subscribed £100,000, and that Roumania, Greece, Norway, Switzerland, and Holland had promised contributions to the total sum that was necessary, namely, £300,000. We repeat that Great Britain appeared in an unfortunate light at this meeting, for it must be well known in official circles in this country that Armenians as a whole infinitely prefer the Erivan scheme to any other scheme of refugee settlement for their people. This British resolve seems, however, to be inflexible: which is only the more reason why something should be done by Britons for the only other scheme of Armenian settlement which offers prospects of success on any large scale—the French plan of colonising them in Syria. There should now be no fear of reviving animosities—such as that pertaining to the Christian v. Muslim cry, which confused the issue in former years. On the purely realist basis, it is "good business" on the part of the West to help to settle these refugee Armenians, the very gifted people who might, were they thrown back upon the East, being rejected by a short-memoried West, conceivably become, in desperation, agents of a Power whose ultimate hope is the wrecking of Occidental civilisation.

A Transformation of Islam.

The revolution which Islam, in the religious sense of the word, is at the present time experiencing is now an accepted commonplace, although observers differ upon the probable results of this revolution, some asserting that what the present generation is witnessing is nothing less than the disintegration of Islam, others believing that the more comprehensive contact of Muslim lands with the West will produce a new interpretation of Islam. At the moment it is the fashion to place Nationalist Turkey in the vanguard of the movement in Islam towards what in the West is called "progress"; it is the fashion to oppose the new Turkish spirit, that is, to the old Arab thought, which for so long had been held to dominate Islam. The tendency nowadays is—and it is a tendency which can be indulged in by the careful student only with considerable reservations—to speak of the religious warfare between two ideals in Islam: that of the idealist, anarchist, international, casuist Arab, and that of the realist, positive, disciplined, warlike, and patriotic Turk. It is true that Turkey has cast off what she considers to be the slough of Arab custom; it is true that other Muslim countries—with perhaps less advertising of the fact—are making in the same direction. But in many parts of Arabia also dissatisfaction with mediaeval Arab custom is shown: it might, in fact, be said that it is largely Arabs themselves who have demonstrated what to them appears the inadequacy of former Arab practice. And yet there is still in Arabia, as well as elsewhere in Islam, a vast mass of devoted Muslims who adhere, and will continue to adhere, rigidly to the *Shariat*, and to all the time-honoured conceptions and practices of their ancestors; who are by no means convinced that Western codes and customs can fitly be applied to Eastern lands; or who fear that, in

admitting certain departures from orthodox customs, they may let in to the machinery of their life the end of a wedge which in time will eclipse that machinery altogether. There is, of course, something to be said for both ideals; but perhaps that which will most appeal to the European student of Islam is the one, which, while not spurning the West, and being prepared, in fact, to take from the West whatever seems good (one might exclude, for instance, jazz music, the cinema, certain alcoholic drinks), is not ready to let the West effect a moral conquest over it, but rather so to take inspiration from it as to impel a regeneration, to extract new creative values, in and from itself. One need think only of such countries as Persia and certain parts of Arabia to realise that the West with more advantage to the world in general could go to Islam as a moral sympathiser or lender than as a conqueror. The bad in Western civilisation is so easily copied: the good so hard to assimilate.

INDIAN NOTES.

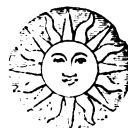
Europeans and the Princes.

Although the formal presentation of the second part of their case will not take place until the Butler Committee reassembles in October, the Princes are not letting the grass grow under their feet. Following the Maharaja of Bikaner's notable pronouncement last week on the occasion of the farewell banquet in honour of Sir Manubhai Mehta, comes a timely letter, reproduced in another part of this issue, from Professor Rushbrook Williams, with whose activities on behalf of the Princes readers of THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA are already familiar. The earlier statement was important as being the first in which reference has been made by a Prince of the first rank to the manner in which the problem of the Indian States was dealt with recently at the All-Parties Conference at Lucknow and by the signatories to the Nehru report itself. The Maharaja's dignified protest against "the unmistakably hostile spirit" towards his own order which was displayed on that occasion and against the "scurrilous attacks," the "stabs in the back," and "the abuse hurled without qualification" was both timely and to the point. For while there were one or two members of the Conference who had the fairness and the strength of mind to challenge the majority opinion, the latter abundantly justified the Maharaja's description. That the Princes were still animated by the ideas of the fifteenth century was perhaps the mildest expression. In welcome contrast to a gather-

(Continued on page 357.)

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THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 1928.

THE POLITICAL SITUATION IN INDIA.

The Chairman and the members of the Statutory Commission leave to-day for Bombay for the purpose of continuing and completing the investigation which they began in February and March last. All who have the welfare of India at heart will wish them success in their great undertaking. Their preliminary visit was unquestionably successful; for, although the Indian political situation is not even now all that might be desired, it has materially improved during the last six months. In fact, it may be fairly claimed at the present moment that the boycott is dying, if indeed it is not already dead. The legislatures of eight of the nine major provinces have declared in favour of co-operation with the Commission. And the indications are that the outstanding legislature, namely, that of the Central Provinces, will eventually take the same line. It is, of course, to be regretted that the Legislative Assembly has not rescinded the silly resolution, supporting the boycott, which it adopted by a small majority earlier in the year. For the action of the provincial legislatures shows conclusively that the resolution does not accurately reflect the opinion of the country. And, this being so, the Commission is justified in its decision to ignore the Assembly in the matter of the appointment of the Central Co-operating Committee.

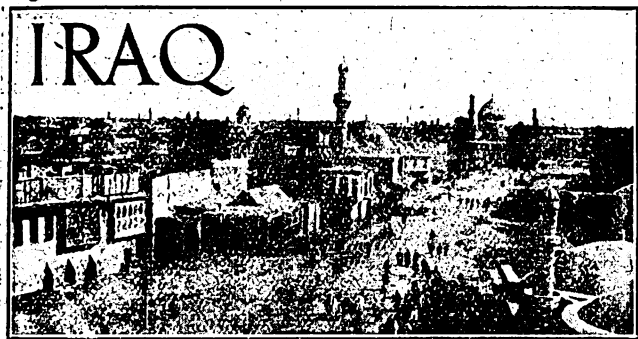
It is, we think, clear that sane and moderate opinion has at length asserted itself. Indians are realising, as they were bound to do, that the unique opportunity which the Commission affords them for placing their case before the British Parliament and people must not be lost. And the result is that the various races, communities, parties and sects are now willing to co-operate with the Commission. The minority communities are naturally early in the field. For they can, of course, visualise a future administration which, because of its freedom from dependence on minorities, may be inclined to overlook their claims and interests. We referred last week to the opinions expressed by the European Association—the representative political organisation of a community which is, in point of numbers, one of the smallest in India. But although the Europeans in India are few in number, their material interests in the country are vast. For this reason—and also because they are the only people in India who have practical knowledge and experience of the working of democratic institutions—their views on constitutional questions are entitled to consideration. And the fact that both the European Association and the Associated Chambers of Commerce have favoured the immediate grant of full provincial autonomy will be certain to have a most important bearing on the situation. For it means that Indians and Europeans are now practically in line on this question. They are, however, still sharply divided in regard to the constitution of the Central Government; and it will be around this exceedingly difficult problem that the struggle before the Commission may be expected to develop. To quote its own words, "the European Association is opposed to the undue acceleration of responsible government in the Central Government prior to satisfactory proof of the experiment in the provinces." In other words, the Association does not support—for the

present, at any rate—the introduction, in the Central Government, of the principle of responsibility to the Indian legislature. On the contrary, it considers that the central executive has been unduly and unwisely weakened under the Reforms scheme, and that measures calculated to re-inforce it ought to be taken. "It appears to the Association that the position of the executive in the Central Government should be strengthened, particularly if the recommendations for a further transfer of power in the provinces are accepted." We certainly agree with the Association that a strong Central Government will be imperatively necessary under any system of provincial autonomy. For, as we have before pointed out, it is impossible to believe that British India can ever develop into a self-governing State unless the discordant elements in the country are held together by a strong central controlling authority. But assuming that the Commission also takes this view, the question which it will then have to face will be whether this central authority is to continue to be, as it is at present, responsible to Parliament, or whether it is to be made responsible to the Indian legislature.

Indian opinion is, we believe, strongly in favour of the introduction of the principle of responsibility in the Indian legislature. The Nehru report is emphatic on the subject; and even the moderates favour the introduction of the principle, although they recognise that the Government of India, in its relations to the Indian States, must remain responsible to Parliament. The European Association is, on the other hand, against the immediate introduction of the principle in the Central Government. In 1918 it suggested that the changes in the Government of India which were part of the Reforms scheme should be postponed. And it now maintains that experience of the working of these changes has shown them to be largely undesirable, inasmuch as they have weakened the Executive. Further, it holds, as we have said, that a strong Central Government will be more than ever necessary if provincial autonomy comes into being. In short, the position of the Association is, if we understand it correctly, that the Central Executive should not be less strong than it was under the Morley-Minto system. It will be recalled that about a year ago a correspondent set forth in this journal a somewhat similar proposal, the essence of his scheme being that the Indians should be given freedom in the management of their local and provincial affairs, but that the Central Government should consist of a small European Executive. There is unquestionably a great deal to be said in support of some such scheme as this, more especially if, as the Association contemplates, it is to be a stage on the road to self-government. It is to "the gradual development of self-governing institutions" that Great Britain is pledged; and this pledge will be more than fulfilled, for the time being, by the grant of provincial autonomy. And the Association is right in contending that the results of so bold an experiment ought to be awaited before far-reaching and, perhaps, risky changes are made in the Central Government. But, on the other hand, there arises the question whether any such scheme would not mean the creation of a system somewhat akin to dyarchy. It seems to us that herein lies the difficulty. For it is not easy to see how a Central Government, constituted as the Association proposes, could exercise, without excessive friction, any effective control over a number of autonomous provinces. The authors of the Report on Indian Constitutional Reforms realised this difficulty: "We cannot think," they said, "that states on the way to responsible government which have imbibed a large element of responsibility into their constitutions can be controlled by a purely autocratic power"; and, again—"change in the provinces implies change in the Government of India." But, as they recognised, the change in the Government of India need not be simultaneous with, or in equal proportion to, the change in the provinces. Their view would appear to be sound; but the problem is one which needs to be thoroughly explored, as, no doubt, it will be by the Statutory Commission.

*The Near and Middle East

From Our Own Correspondents.



Baghdad, August 30.

Topics in Parliament.

The first debate on the general budget for 1928-29 was attended on August 17 by King Faisal in person. Perhaps the weather may be held partly responsible for the unusually acrimonious tone of the discussion, which extended over several sessions and resolved itself into a general attack on the Government.

The estimates were submitted to the Chamber of Deputies by the Minister of Finance in a very long speech; in the course of which he said that, though the estimated revenue showed an apparent decrease of 6½ lakhs as compared with 1927, there was actually an increase in revenue of seven lakhs, the difference being accounted for by the drop in the British grant-in-aid and the increase in income tax revenue. He expressed satisfaction with the state of Iraq's commerce in general. No decision had yet been reached upon the Financial Agreement subsidiary to the Anglo-Iraq Treaty, but hopes of a satisfactory result were entertained. In regard to the currency of Iraq, the Government had decided to establish a National Bank—which would be in part an agricultural bank—and to issue a new coinage.

Members of the Opposition were not slow to criticise the Budget, chiefly on the score of its failure to provide for new productive schemes. To this the Minister of Finance replied that such schemes could not be carried out in the space of eight months by an Administration, which, on taking office, had found itself in possession of an empty Treasury.

The ex-Minister of Commerce complained of the Government's failure to cope with the fast-increasing demand for more schools throughout Iraq. He referred also to the unsatisfactory and inadequate provision for public health in out-districts, and threw in a protest against the high salaries paid to foreign officials, notably to British Advisers.

Other deputies accused the Government of delay in presenting the Budget—a delay which had cost the nation four lakhs of rupees in salaries to deputies and senators detained for the prolonged session—and of failure to encourage agriculture or to solve the problem of the ownership of the railways.

The ex-Minister of Commerce, continuing his criticism of the Budget, said that one quarter of the whole vote was swallowed up the Ministry of Defence. Much had been heard about the Iraq Army, yet it had not for one day repulsed the *Akhwan* or protected the helpless Iraqi tribesmen against loot and massacre. Energetic steps must be taken to increase the Army's efficiency, or further expenditure upon it was merely thrown away; more decisive measures for assuming responsibility for Iraq's defence were imperatively needed.

This speech drew from Nouri Pasha a spirited defence of

the Army, which, he said, had been sent immediately after the first *Akhwan* raid to the frontier, where it had built and manned the Sulman Post, in which Iraqi forces were still stationed in defence of a vast territory. The Army had also been responsible for maintaining order on the northern frontier, except at one place (Rowanduz). Their small voluntary army could not do more. The Minister then reiterated his recent arguments in favour of conscription as the only means of enabling Iraq to undertake her own defence. Replying to a further question, he assured the House that no further contracts would be given to British officers until the question of national defence had been satisfactorily settled.

In the course of his reply to the critics of the Budget, the Prime Minister made a statement with regard to the subsidiary agreements to the new Anglo-Iraq Treaty. The Military Agreement stipulates that Iraq should undertake to pay the difference between the expense of maintaining British forces stationed in Iraq and the cost of such forces were they stationed in England. Sir Abdul Muhsin as Sa'dun said that his Government was unable to agree to this undertaking, partly because Great Britain had many political and economic interests in Iraq and should, therefore, bear this burden herself, partly because Iraq might through it find herself involved in very heavy financial obligations if at some future time Great Britain found it necessary to bring more troops to Iraq. In view of the great expenditure on productive works, irrigation and communications, which Iraq must necessarily incur in the near future, the Government had officially informed the British Government that it could not possibly meet this charge, and had asked that the matter be reconsidered. To this Great Britain had replied that the money need not be paid at present, but as soon as Iraq's financial resources enabled her to find the money; but Sir Abdul Muhsin gave the House an emphatic assurance that his Government would never agree to undertake this charge for the maintenance of the British forces in Iraq.

The Prime Minister went on to say that the Government had also informed Great Britain that the question of the ownership of the Iraq Railways, and that of the registration of the Port of Basrah, must be settled before they could open negotiations in respect of the Financial Agreement. In view of all that he had stated, Sir Abdul Muhsin thought that his administration could not justly be accused of neglecting the interests of the country.

At a later session of Parliament, the Budget provision for the Police service was subjected to severe criticism, on the grounds of the considerable increase of the vote for this as compared with former years. Several deputies objected to the work of the C.I.D., which they stigmatized as an alien espionage institution that directed its activities against citizens of Iraq. The Minister of Interior endeavoured to remove this impression, and explained the increase in the Police vote as due to the enrolment of additional policemen, the opening of a school for training inspectors, and the taking over by the Police force of patrol duties in the desert hitherto undertaken by the Ministry of Defence.

The vote for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs brought

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up the question of a new appointment, that of Master of Ceremonies to the Ministry, a post which several members of the Opposition considered unnecessary and unjustifiable in the present state of Iraq's finances. Another deputy complained that the Diplomatic Representative of Iraq in London was an equally useless official, since he was not allowed to express his own views. The general policy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs was criticised by Saiyid Abdul Mahdi, ex-Minister of Education, who "could see no glimpse of light" in Iraq's position *vis-à-vis* either King Ibn Saoud, on the one hand, or the Persian Government, on the other. The Minister of Interior assured him that the difficulties with Persia had been greatly exaggerated, and that no serious dispute was in question.

General News.

The seventh anniversary of the coronation of King Faisal was celebrated on August 23, when His Majesty held a review of the Iraq Army on the aerodrome of Imperial Airways. The King, who was met at 7 a.m. by Nouri Pasha, Minister of Defence, and by the Commandant, Southern District, was greeted with a royal salute, and then with his staff passed down the ranks, inspecting each unit in turn. The troops were the 1st Iraq Lancers, one section 1st Field Battery, 1st Mountain Battery, 2nd Mountain Battery, the Band, the 4th Iraq Infantry, and the 7th Iraq Infantry. After the King's inspection the troops marched past the saluting base to the strains of a march. The great improvement in steadiness, precision, and general turn-out achieved during the past two or three years was very noticeable.

A Persian tribe, the Sinjali, are reported to have made a raid across the Iraq frontier in the Khaniqin district, attacking the Sayah tribe and driving off some 3,000 sheep. The Government has addressed an official protest to Persia through its Diplomatic Agency.

This year about twenty students are to be sent by the Ministry of Education to colleges or universities abroad. Five will go to England, four to study higher engineering and one to take an advanced course in law. Three are to specialize in agriculture in the United States, and two will study Arabic literature in Egypt. Of special interest is the decision to send four graduates from the Girls' Training College in Baghdad to continue their studies at the American University of Beyrout. About one hundred applications were received by the Ministry, and it is possible that the original twenty students may be reinforced by a selection from among those of the others who are able to pay half their college fees.

Imperial Airways, Ltd., are reducing the price of the Baghdad-Basra journey to £7, thus bringing the fare from Cairo to Basra down to £39 instead of £41.

could hardly be produced in Cyprus, and that "Cyprus cigarettes" like "Egyptian," must continue to be made from imported "Turkish" leaves. But time, and recent patient efforts, have brought about a change, and new hopes. Active steps are now being taken, under the Director of Agriculture, Mr. Dawe, to inaugurate a new effort. An important conference was held on August 30 in the Lecture Hall of the Agriculture Department to discuss ways and means, under Government consideration, for placing the industry on an improved basis. It may be remembered that members of the Legislative Council recently proposed either that families expert in the cultivation and preparation of tobacco should be settled in suitable centres in Cyprus, or—failing this—that skilled workers of both sexes should be brought from Macedonia to train Cypriot growers. These might be Greeks, Turks, Armenians, or Russians. It is now considered advisable that they should be only of the two first-named nationalities: that Greeks should be settled in Greek-speaking villages, and Turks in Turkish villages. In mixed villages the Turkish residents can generally speak Greek.

The Director of Agriculture has been in communication with the Refugee Settlement Commission in Athens. It is indispensable that Cypriots should be trained in the manner indicated. The meeting, which was well attended, was, of course, anxious to know what financial assistance the Government would give towards the cost of bringing over and settling the expert advisers; especially as the Director of Agriculture stated that Government aid would mean taxation in some form. But nothing can be said on this subject until further information on various questions is available. More details must be left for a future letter. It is interesting to note what a change has been brought about. In the early years of British administration tobacco growing had, for fiscal reasons, become practically extinct. Moreover, it was then believed that only small pockets of soil, at considerable altitudes, were suitable for its cultivation; whereas it would now seem that it can be grown in most parts of the island. The British Government continued the Turkish policy of discouraging any growth of the leaf, as likely to interfere with Customs revenue, and also because the assessment of diminutive crops in the hills was difficult and costly; for the leaf, like all other produce, was subject to tithe. Consequently the first Director of Agriculture, Mr. Gennadius, who was strongly in favour of reviving and developing the industry, was given to understand—as were British officials—that any proposal in this direction were undesirable.

No time should now be lost in pushing forward the movement for improvement, under the guidance of Mr. Dawe, who has no doubt satisfied himself that there is good ground for the proposed active development. Meanwhile the Trade Commissioner in London is doing all that is possible to co-operate. Even now there is a demand for "Cyprus cigarettes," and there are those in England who will smoke no other. It is to be hoped that island grown tobacco will before long be able to compete with other kinds on its own merits. According to figures given by Mr. Dawe it would appear that in the last ten years the average area devoted to tobacco has been only 1,114 dunams, or about 375 acres.

CYPRUS.

Nicosia, September 12.

The Future of Tobacco.

Only a few years ago it was thought, after fitful trials, that a tobacco worthy of competing in British markets

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Cyprus Grapes for London.

The Agricultural Department is dispatching weekly shipments of table grapes to London, to the Empire Marketing Board, in order to test the results for the United Kingdom markets. It is a little doubtful whether they will be successful, having regard to previous trials, some years ago. But every such experiment is of value in the interests of Cyprus. Some of the grapes, especially large ones from some of the higher villages of the Limassol district, are excellent, and should they bear transport, they ought to find good markets.

Carobs.

The yield of carobs (locust beans) is not large. Opening prices are 22s. to 25s. the Aleppo kantar (of 180 okes) or 1½ cwt. The vintage is now beginning.



Sofia, September 18.

Solution of the Cabinet Crisis.

The solution of the recent ministerial crisis—the maintenance of the fallen Cabinet, with a new Minister for Railways—has displeased everybody, particularly Governmental circles, and all observers are agreed that the solution is only of a very provisional nature. The three factors leading to this solution were, first, the general situation of the country, secondly, the situation of the Sobranye, and thirdly, the situation in the Democratic Entente.

The general situation in the country, in the political and economic aspect, is pitiable. If the Bulgarian nation has surmounted the difficulties created by the *coup d'état* of 1923, it has not rid itself of the pernicious consequences of the bloody struggles which followed this step of liberation from Agrarian anarchy. On the contrary, these consequences have had a depressing economic effect—an effect which the earthquakes of last spring and the poor crops this year have considerably aggravated. The present political and economic condition renders necessary two conclusions: that Bulgaria, to free herself from it with even a small degree of success, has urgent need of help from external sources, which can take the form only of the stabilisation loan actually negotiated, and that Bulgaria cannot undertake a reliable General Election before the realisation of the loan, that is to say, before the dissipation of the troubled atmosphere created by the present difficulties.

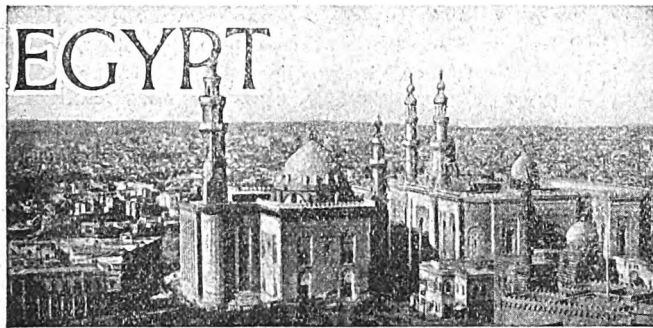
Such being the general situation, the parliamentary situation takes on a decisive importance. Now the present Sobranye, the outcome of the often discussed elections of May, 1927, contains an overwhelming majority belonging to the group of the Democratic Entente, formed on the morrow of the *coup d'état* by the fusion of several old parties or sections of parties, for the defence and consolidation of the new régime. Out of 273 deputies the Democratic Entente claim 168, while the whole Opposition numbers only 95, of whom 13 are Democrats, 44 Agrarians of the Left, 4 Agrarians of the Right, 10 Socialists, 13 Liberals, 2 Radicals, 5 Labourites, and 4 camouflaged Communists, the remaining ten deputies comprising the neutral Macedonian group. It is very probable that this division of political forces in the Sobranye does not correspond exactly to the respective strength of the same forces in the country; but since

immediate recourse to the electors is undesirable, one has to reckon with it.

The different groups of the Opposition, consulted by the King, advised the Sovereign that a Cabinet of Concentration should be formed under the presidency of the leader of the Opposition in the Sobranye, M. Malinoff. This, they said, would re-establish constitutional liberties and appease the country. From such a Cabinet the majority would have excluded the Democratic Entente, while M. Malinoff himself advised a Cabinet of National Union in which this group could equally participate. The appeasement, already begun by M. Liaptcheff, being judged inadequate, they demanded a very definite step in advance, and sought above all to prevent the *dénouement* of the ministerial crisis from involving a return to the sad proceedings under the former Government by the projected entry of M. Tsankoff and his friends in the new Ententist Cabinet. But all that pre-supposing the immediate dissolution of the Sobranye, and the Democratic Entente being considered by the whole Opposition as too exhausted and compromised to remain at the head of the Government, M. Malinoff proposed the constitution, under the direction of a leader of the Opposition—who could only be himself, in the unanimous opinion of all the parties and of the country in general—of a Cabinet of Transition, which, representing a coalition of one or two parties of the Opposition with the Democratic Entente, could work with the existing Parliament, at any rate for a few months, that is to say, for a period sufficient for preparing the country for new legislative elections.

All depended, therefore, upon the attitude of the Democratic Entente. But the Entente rebelled at the idea of having to divide power, wishing to keep all the power for itself. An effort was made to form a new Ministry of a wholly Ententist character. Three attempts were made, and all failed, owing to the deep divisions existing within this group. The truth is that the Democratic Entente is a party only in appearance; at bottom, it is a group of parties, united to keep themselves in power. The most important elements in this group are the Democratic Ententists of M. Liaptcheff, who should not be confused with the Independent Democrats of M. Malinoff, and the Populists of MM. Bouroff and Majaroff. From the beginning of this crisis and even before its official outbreak, these two groups took up diametrically opposed attitudes. The Populists declared that General Volkoff could no longer remain in the Cabinet, where his presence was harmful to the foreign policy of the Government; the Democrats, who disapproved of the concessions which M. Liaptcheff had made to MM. Bouroff and Majaroff, proclaimed their inability to accept a change in the Ministry of War under the pressure of advice, real or fictitious, which came from abroad. Between these two points of view there was no reconciliation possible, and it was in vain that M. Liaptcheff, in accordance with the suggestion of his King, tried to induce the deputies of the Democratic Entente to support a new list of Ministers which could be only a list with Volkoff and Bouroff or without Volkoff and Bouroff—the sole means of appeasing the susceptibilities of the one and the other. All his endeavours were fruitless, and after all the possible lists in this thankless alternative had been examined, he proposed to the King the re-establishment—*faute de mieux*—of his old Cabinet. But this solution, dictated by the necessity of keeping things going until the Loan now being negotiated had actually been realised—and no one dare risk its being postponed by a dissolution of the Sobranye—constitutes a verdict without power of appeal both against the Democratic Entente and against Parliament in which it has a majority and which is impotent owing to the impotence of the parliamentary majority. The attitude of the King is easy to understand. The evening after the provisional settlement of the crisis, a quarter of an hour after the signatures of the ukases which M. Liaptcheff presented to him, for the maintenance in power of the old Ministers and for the nomination of a new

Minister for Railways, he paid a long visit to M. Malinoff, leader of the Opposition, thus publicly showing his disappointment with the Democratic Entente and his choice concerning the personality of the head of the next Government, the head of to-day being able to have, even in the opinion of his own supporters, only a brief spell determined by the necessity of the forthcoming loan for the stabilisation of Bulgarian money and finances, as well as by the persistence of the reasons which ten days ago brought about the explosion of the ministerial crisis.



Cairo, September 15.

The Princes' Visit.

The visit of the Prince of Wales and of the Duke of Gloucester, although strictly private, was from start to finish a conspicuous success. No very elaborate programme had been prepared, for one thing because the visit was to be of such short duration and also because the Princes did not want to be tied more than courtesy to the Sovereign and the authorities necessitated. Both in Cairo and in Alexandria admission to the receptions was reserved to the British community, but the foreign and Egyptian element was not to be outdone, and wherever the opportunity presented itself crowds collected and gave the Royal visitors an ovation.

By special arrangement the "Kaisar-i-Hind" put in at Alexandria before calling as usual at Port Said, to enable the Princes to pay their respects to King Fuad at the earliest moment. The steamer did not come inside but anchored in the outer harbour, being met by one of the launches of the Royal Yacht Mahrussa bearing Zulfikar Pasha, the Grand Chamberlain, sent by the King to welcome the Royal passengers, Mr. Hoare, the Acting High Commissioner, and Rear Admiral Tomlin, Director-General of the Ports and Lights Administration. As they left the steamer the Princes received a rousing cheer from the passengers, and again, as they steamed through to the Arsenal landing stage, from the ships in the harbour—which had all dressed for the occasion. But in a way the most remarkable scene was on the quay where the British community had mustered in full strength. There, after being greeted by the Governor, Hussein Sabry Pasha, Mr. Summerhayes, the Acting Consul General, Ingram Bey, the Commandant of Police, and Major Congreve, Acting Commandant, British troops, Alexandria, the Princes walked some couple of hundred yards down the red carpet, on either side of which were gathered members, of both sexes, of the community who gave them a real British cheer, many of them, including staid elderly members, running along as the Princes progressed in order to catch another glimpse of them before they entered the waiting cars. The Prince drove off in one of the Palace cars with Mr. Hoare, their suite following, to the Residency, where they stayed during their visit to Alexandria. All along the route crowds had gathered and gave them an exceedingly cordial reception.

After a quiet dinner with the Acting High Commissioner and Mrs. Hoare, a reception of the British community was held, the members being introduced to their Royal Highnesses by Mr. Hoare and Mr. Summerhayes. The gardens of the summer residence of the High Commis-

sioner had been most tastefully illuminated, and the scene was a revelation to many who had never realised that the grounds were so extensive, nor that they could lend themselves to such advantage. For the entertainment of the Princes and the guests a couple of "Gulla Gulla" men, the type of Egyptian conjurer so well known to visitors to this country, had been engaged. These kept everyone amused for the best part of an hour with their clever tricks and quaint chatter. After them a concert party of the Aircraft carrier Eagle, which had arrived in port the day previously, gave an excellent musical programme, and altogether a very delightful evening was spent.

Next morning the Duke of Gloucester motored over to Abukir, and bathed in the company of Group Captain Brooke from the Air Force beach, returning in time to accompany the Prince of Wales to Ras El Tin Palace for the luncheon which King Fuad had arranged in their honour. The guests included, in addition to the Princes' suite, Prince Omar Tussun, the Acting High Commissioner, the Prime Minister, the Minister for Foreign Affairs and the Royal Household. As soon as the Princes had returned to the Residency, King Fuad, accompanied by Said Zulfikar Pasha, drove over from Ras El Tin and paid them a visit. The Princes then went to the Sporting Club for a round of golf, and after another quiet dinner at the Residency they visited the Pavillon Bleu, the leading cabaret, and remained there until a late hour thoroughly enjoying the various turns. On Thursday morning they left by special train for Cairo in the company of Mr. Hoare and of Hassanein Bey, whom King Fuad had specially delegated to attend them during their stay in Cairo.

In the capital a great reception awaited them, both at the station, where was assembled an enthusiastic gathering of Britons, and in the city itself. During their stay in the capital the Princes lived on board the Kassed Kheir, the luxurious river yacht which King Fuad recently acquired and which he placed at their disposal. One of the first acts of the Prince of Wales on arrival was to drive over to Helmia in order to call on the 12th Lancers, of which he is the Colonel-in-Chief. He and his brother paid a visit to the Museum, and while the Prince went to Gezira for a round of golf, the Duke visited the Musky and spent some time in the Khan Khalili. In the evening the Princes were the guests of the British community at Gezira, where what is characterised as the largest company that has ever sat down to a meal in the Club grounds was assembled. The Hon. Cecil Campbell was in the Chair, but the proceedings were quite informal and there were no speeches. An excellent cabaret show followed the dinner, and on leaving the Club the two Princes went on with their suite and a number of the other guests to the Kit-Kat Club, where they remained until an early hour.

Yesterday the Princes paid a flying visit to the Pyramids. They ascended the Great Pyramid from the top of which the Prince of Wales hit a golf ball to see how far it could go. So far no one has been lucky enough to find it. Two of the guides then, at the Princes' suggestion, performed one of the feats of agility for which the Pyramid Bedwin are celebrated. They raced down the Great Pyramid and up the second one, doing the distance in the amazing time of eight minutes, much to the amused delight of the Prince who held the stopwatch. The party then proceeded to the Sphinx, had a bath and a hurried breakfast at Mena House, and then went by special train, accompanied by Mr. Hoare and Hassanein Bey, to Ismailia where they had an exceedingly warm reception and lunched at the Suez Canal Company's residency. Their departure by launch to catch the Malda was another occasion for a display of enthusiasm, not only by the British but also by the foreign residents of Ismailia, and a fitting termination to what has been a memorable visit was the display which the Royal Air Force gave as the Princes passed on their way to the ship which is to take them to East Africa.

The Premier at Tanta.

On Thursday last the Prime Minister went to Tanta in response to an invitation extended to him by the notables. This visit was noteworthy for two striking features. In the first place the greatest enthusiasm was shown for the Premier, Mohamed Mahmud Pasha, and those of his colleagues who accompanied him. There was not a single discordant note, and it was evident that Wafd activities, in this centre hitherto regarded as one of the Wafd strongholds, had failed entirely of their purpose. The second feature was the very comprehensive and outspoken speech made by Mohamed Mahmud Pasha and the information he gave with regard to the future parliamentary régime and the programme of reforms which the Government intends to carry out.

The Premier said that the Government had no wish to be overstrict, but that it intended to ensure the merciless application of law and the establishment of justice which are the only means of maintaining discipline and encouraging national progress. Parliament had been dissolved in order to re-establish a more efficient one later. The fundamental principles of the Constitution would be revived as vigorously as ever. Meanwhile the Cabinet was safeguarding all constitutional liberties. But in regard to the Press the Government, whose duty was to encourage the return to a sane and useful Parliamentary régime, had found itself obliged to intervene, and to prevent freedom of opinion from becoming a tool in the hands of writers who have their own axe to grind. Mahmud Pasha then went on to outline the future Parliamentary régime. He said they were working for a parliament in which the Upper and Lower Houses would be formed of those sincerely interested in the welfare of the country, people who really wished to benefit the country and were prepared to suffer for the country. It would be a parliamentary régime in which national representation would never be counted as a living for deputies and senators, neither would an opportunity be given for graft or jobbery. It would be a régime in which members of Parliament would always respect the principle of separating the Legislative from the Executive. It would be a régime which would set the Government working for the welfare of the people instead of being a means whereby those occupying State posts would alone benefit. He added that though the Government would be very severe with those who committed any breach of law, it would be much more severe with officials who acted contrary to discipline, justice, or sound morality. It was to the people that the Government looked for power and energy for the realisation of its projects of retrenchment and reform.

Detailing the practical side of the Government's programme the Premier said as public health was one of the things on which the wealth and prosperity of the country depended this was receiving urgent attention. Considerable progress had been made with the filling up of ponds and pools. People would be prevented from making new ponds and the question of filling up the 4,000 now existing was being studied. It had been found that a million villagers in the vicinity of the cities could be supplied with filtered water by extending the pipe system and a credit of £E500,000 was about to be asked for this work. An investigation was also being carried out with a view to providing the densely populated areas with filtered water, and it was hoped that within ten years the whole country would be thus supplied and the *fellahin* protected from the many diseases from which they now suffer. In regard to housing three of the more densely populated districts of Cairo, viz., Sayeda Zenab, Bulac and Gamalia, where the labouring classes are poorly housed, had been selected, and blocks of houses would be erected on the extensive areas that exist there so that the labourer would have a hygienic dwelling at low rental. Finally, in the matter of hospitals the Government had decided to erect in the provinces 150 hospitals equipped with ambulances and all the latest apparatuses. This should be of incalculable assistance in time of stress and bring relief to thousands of *fellahin*; adults as well as infants.

Turning to irrigation and drainage Mohamed Mahmud Pasha said that the Government aimed at regulating summer rotations in the most satisfactory manner, enabling the cultivation of 20,000 feddans of rice every year and at improving and preparing 1,500,000 feddans of waste land for cultivation. Both the heightening of the Aswan Dam and the construction of the Gebel Aulia Dam would be started soon. By winter the experts would have terminated their investigations of the proposal for the heightening of Aswan Dam. Side by side with this irrigation development there would be an extension of the drainage system and the Government was discussing the construction of stations for generating electricity to work fifteen pumping stations for drainage. Of these stations Gharbia would have eight. The drainage scheme would take two years to complete.

Lastly the Government recognising that small properties are an important economic and moral factor, had decided to distribute the public domains among agricultural labourers and small landowners. A start would be made with 2,000 feddans in the Fayum, among farmers owning fewer than ten feddans. The same system would be followed in all other provinces where public domains exist.

The premier then made a reference to the Kellogg Pact, to which the Egyptian Government has recently intimated its adherence. He stated that Egypt's foreign policy is to complete her independence and secure a place among the other nations in keeping with her glorious past. It had been with great pleasure that the Government had signed the Pact, but as adherence would have implied an acceptance of certain reserves made by certain Powers it was the duty of the Government clearly to point out that such an agreement should not be interpreted to imply an acceptance of any reserve. Finally, the Premier declared that the Government intended to remain in power until its task of reforms had been completed, relying in this on the support of the people and the continued confidence of the King.

Cases of dengue fever were last week reported from Fethie, in the south of Smyrna.

An Italian delegation is expected in Roumania this week for the purpose of offering a present to King Michael.

Marshal Pilsudski, Polish Prime Minister, is to be given an official reception in Bucharest this week.

According to the *Aerial ABC*, arrangements are being attempted by a group of Indian Mussulmans to start a regular aeroplane service to convey pilgrims from Jidda to Mecca.

It is stated that 120 Yugoslav military aeroplanes will take part in manoeuvres in connexion with the tenth anniversary of the breaking of the Salonika front by Yugoslav troops.

The claim of Ishaak Bey Helmy to have swum the Channel on August 31-September 1 has been officially recognised by the Channel Swimming Association, of which Lord Desborough is President.

Sir Robert Hodgson, British Minister at Durazzo, has notified the Albanian Prime Minister of the British Government's recognition of the new Albanian Kingdom. The Roumanian Minister at Durazzo has handed over a letter of congratulation on King Zogu's succession to the Throne.

The preliminary work of the expedition which Sir Charles Marston has organised for the exploration of Hazor and also other ancient sites in Palestine last week disclosed the ancient walls of Hai, the Royal City of the Canaanites, and the scene of their massacre by Joshua after his Jericho victory. Professor Garstang, who is supervising the expedition, began major operations on September 24.

The Greco-Turkish Mixed Commission for the exchange of populations, at a plenary session held in Constantinople on September 20, considered the question of property belonging to non-exchangeable Turks in Western Thrace. The Commission's proposal was, according to *The Times*, to appoint a special sub-commission to go to Thrace and settle the question. The Greek delegate accepted this proposal, but the Turkish delegate moved that the Mixed Commission should visit Thrace, and see for itself what was going on there. After a long discussion the Commission adjourned until September 24, when it was hoped to arrive at definite decisions.

CALCUTTA LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Calcutta, September 6.

The All-Parties Conference.

The session of the All-Parties Conference at Lucknow finished last week, the last act being to appoint a Committee to embody the Nehru Report in strict parliamentary form. Whatever value it has, it will have most in that form, and none can now doubt its worth, not even those who are against any immediate advance of so radical a nature. The Statutory Commission will presumably not be prepared to go so far, but the Nehru Report will remain as a documentary landmark, and as pointing to a goal for a later generation to reach.

A very interesting analysis of the underlying principles of the Nehru Report appeared in the *Statesman* of last Friday from the pen of Mr. Bepin Chandra Pal. His reading of the situation is that, whereas twenty years ago the strongest political tide in India was setting towards independence from Great Britain, now that the Colonies, Australia, South Africa, Canada, etc., are so much nearer to being Sovereign States, so that Dominion status is now seen to be by so much more valuable, the strongest movement in India is towards Dominion status. If India could achieve sovereignty within the British Commonwealth, there would be nothing left to cry for but a state of sovereignty that could never be as securely founded. An India founded on British rock is one thing: an India founded on her own shifting sands would be quite another.

Statutory Commission and Punjab Chamber.

The Punjab Chamber of Commerce has presented a memorandum to the Commission; one that differs in not a few of its recommendations from those put forward in the memorandum of the Associated Chambers of Commerce. Among the recommendations of the Punjab Chambers are these:—

That there be a moderate extension of the franchise.

That the urban classes be more largely represented.

That Delhi be extended into a province with a Governor.

That dyarchy be abolished; that is, the distinction between reserved and transferred subjects.

That the Provinces be given more power and more financial control.

That justice and police be central subjects, and that there be a Supreme Court for India.

Bengal Legislative Council.

The Bengal Legislative Council, after passing the Bengal Tenancy Act Amendment Bill through the Committee stage, and giving it a third reading, has adjourned. Much was heard of *salami*, but no mere brief note upon that would evoke much interest on your side. Much, too, was heard of the ryots' right to the trees on their holdings. That also is a thing of local interest, but there are not wanting leading men who think it favours the landlords too much. If it does, it will have to be amended in its turn. The trend of changes is all towards justice to the poorer classes. A day may come when the Bengal landlords will all of them be bought out, as in Ireland. It is better to be bought out than hurled out, as in Russia.

Madras Legislative Council.

On Tuesday the Madras Legislative Council carried without a division, the Swarajists having left the Chamber in a body, the motion of Sir Norman Marjoribanks that a Committee of the House be appointed to collaborate with the Statutory Commission. That makes another Province for collaboration. An amendment had previously been carried, Sir Norman Marjoribanks accepting it. This demanded equality of status with the Commission as regards the examination of witnesses and access to confidential documents. No harm in that whatever.

Khargpur Riots.

It looks as if industrial peace in parts of India was more at the mercy of the local *goondas* (hooligans) than of those Communists of foreign extraction, against whom the Central Government is arming itself. There is, therefore, some clear need for a change in the law affecting Indians and British in India involved in industrial disputes. Legislation is proposed or predicted. The serious Khargpur riots of the end of last week (authentic news from that quarter is still somewhat scanty) are believed to be traceable ultimately to industrial conditions or industrial history, however they may have been the work of *goondas*. The railway workshops have had to be closed.

Port of Calcutta.

The figures for 1927-1928 of vessels entering the port, and of goods handled at the jetties and docks, make a record for the port of Calcutta. The aggregate of tonnage was 4,638,000 tons against the 4,367,000 of 1912-1913, while 6,143,000 tons of goods were handled as against 6,049,000 in 1913-1914. The Commissioners hold out the hope that, when a sufficient reserve has been built up against possible years of poor trade, the port dues will be lowered.

Indian Medical Research.

It is reported from Simla that the Standing Finance Committee of the Assembly has sanctioned an important scheme for a Public Health Institute in Calcutta and a Central Medical Research Institute at Dehra Dun, at the initial cost of twenty-four lakhs, and five lakhs recurring. It is no new scheme; for it was sufficiently far advanced to be strangled by the Indian Retrenchment Committee, to whose activities some men's memories are too short to go back. The scheme has been revived, with the Rockefeller Foundation now behind it; indeed, its execution pivots on the Foundation. People will cut India into provinces (it will be seen that yet another, with another Governor's salary, etc.—that of Delhi—is proposed) without counting the cost. When it is a question of really doing something, as founding a Medical Research Institute, men look for the money where they can find it, and that is not in India.

BOMBAY LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Bombay, September 9.

The Assembly in Session.

The Assembly met on Tuesday for its autumn session. There was no formal opening ceremony. The session promises to be an interesting one, as it brings up many controversial subjects. Mr. Crerar took his seat for the first time as the Leader of the House. Two adjournment motions were moved after question time, but both were disallowed. The first referred to the criticism in the editorial columns of the *Times of India* that Mr. Patel was abusing his privileges as President of the Assembly by travelling all over the country at the expense of the taxpayer, that Sir Frederick Whyte, his predecessor, was in a privileged position, as he was a man of experience and was able to benefit the country by visiting the Provincial Legislatures, and that the Assembly should not allow such an incident to pass without opposition. The President disallowed the motion of adjournment on the ground that such motions were generally proposed to discuss the policy of the Government. If it was only a question of privilege, he said, he must disallow the motion, but he did not wish it to be understood that the House had no protection. It had an inherent right to censure the attack through a substantive motion. The next motion, that chalk was being substituted for quinine, was disallowed by the President, who said that he gathered from the mover's speech that the question was not urgent. The Assembly paid a tribute to the memory of Sir Alexander Muddiman and Captain Kabul Singh.

The Public Safety Bill.

Among the official Bills which were to come up before the House this session was the Public Safety Bill, which was to be moved by Mr. Crerar. Pundit Motilal Nehru objected that sufficient notice had not been given and that under Standing Orders no measure could be taken into consideration until the Bill had been made available to the members of the House three days before it was brought to the House. He anticipated the Government objection that copies of the *Gazette of India* in which the Bill had appeared had been supplied to members and that was as early as August 25. But he pointed out that publication in the *Gazette* was not enough. In reply to the President's inquiry Mr. Crerar informed the House that Government regarded the matter as one of grave urgency. The Law Member, asked for an opinion, stated that it was not necessary to make the Bill available in any other way than by publication in the *Gazette*, as the Standing Order only referred to notices and similar papers that could not be published in the *Gazette*. The President then gave his ruling. He said: "I think all difficulties would be solved, if I were to postpone a decision on the question. That would mean that the consideration stage would go to the next day and no difficulty would arise," as the copies of the Bill had been circulated to the members two days before—"But I do not propose to take that course. There is absolutely no doubt that this motion cannot be made unless copies of the Bill have been made available three days before to the Honourable members. I am clearly of opinion that publication of the Bill in the *Government Gazette* cannot dispense with the obligation which is laid down under Standing Orders on the office. I therefore rule that this motion cannot be made to-day, unless the Standing Orders are suspended. As no request has been made on this behalf, it is not necessary for the Chair to consider the point."

The Assembly Secretariat.

I offer no apology for the length at which I am writing on the Assembly proceedings. The President made an important statement in the Assembly on the question of setting up a separate department for the Assembly. He said in the course of his address that the Secretary was responsible neither to the House nor to the President, but to an outside authority. The advice of the Secretary, therefore, could not be regarded as impartial, unbiased and independent. He informed the House that the Viceroy had agreed to discontinue the practice of nominating as Secretary a member of the Assembly from the present session. His interviews with the Viceroy had produced no tangible result, as the scheme he proposed and the outlines of which he had placed before the Government were not acceptable to it. The Government stated that in order to function efficiently the Secretary's staff should be independent of the Assembly and its President. All the negotiations had fallen through, and in spite of Mr. Patel's request that no dispatch on the question should be sent to the Secretary of State, until the Government and the President of the Assembly had come to an agreement, he found that already a dispatch had been sent to England. He believed that, before the sending of the dispatch, the Assembly should have been consulted on the points in dispute. He had asked for a copy of the dispatch, but it had been refused him.

Another Memorandum.

A quaint memorandum has been published by Mr. G. Harischandra Row, who has submitted the statement to the Statutory Commission. He starts with the axiom that even a bad monarchy is better than a good democracy, and winds up with an attack on civil aviation. The principle of nomination should take the place of the new fad of election. The Governor-General and the Governors should nominate not only their own Cabinets, but even the entire Councils. These bodies must be strictly warned that they can act only in an advisory capacity and that they should not expect the head of the Government to

accept their views. No women should be permitted in these Councils, as "the juxtaposition of the sexes is often found producing undesirable results." Agreeing with the faddists who regard education as a curse—at any rate in the East—Mr. Row asks for the complete abolition of the Education Department. He would only permit Government loans, if they are raised for "purposes of war." Women are to be debarred from public services as the association of man and woman leads to friction. No one should be compelled to work; the legal profession should be put down with a strong hand, as no society in which the lawyer element predominates can hope to prosper; even if civil aviation is safe, it is certainly inconvenient to householders, who require privacy and security, though serviceable to romantic lovers who may swiftly elope with girls, or adventurous banditti who may expeditiously life property. Mr. Row may not get his recommendations accepted, but he can console himself with the idea that he has amused not only his own countrymen but the public in others which are not so fortunate as India in being able to retrace their steps in education.

The Age of Consent.

It is not easy to fortell what the proposals of the Committee will be on the Age of Consent, but, if one may judge from the Memoranda submitted it is difficult to see how the members can avoid recommending an increase in the age from the ridiculously low limit of twelve years. Mr. Harbilas Sarda, as reported by the Simla Correspondent of the *Leader*, referred to the support which the country had given to his Bill in words that may be applied to the Age of Consent question: "The reform affects women more than men, and throughout the country women have not only given it their unstinted support, but have even in many places demanded a greater measure of reform. A remarkable feature of the movement is that not a single meeting of women has opposed the reform. The opposition is confined to a few individuals and reactionary small sections." In the face of all this was it necessary to appoint a Committee? The main work of the Committee resolves itself into collecting public opinion on the question of the advisability of raising the marriage age, but this could easily have been done by framing a Bill and ordering its circulation. The Committee system involves an unnecessary burden on the taxpayer.

"SHIRAZ."

Whether it was the intention of the producers and the scenario writer or not, the central character of "Shiraz"—the romantic pageant film about whose wonders so many rumours were current during its making—is the Taj Mahal, that Indian jewel of the Imperial architectural crown. After one has reconsidered the gorgeous splendour of scenery, costume, and incident it is the vision of the final pictures of the Taj in all its dreamlike chastity and beauty that seals the film as something far removed from the general order of screen productions.

Though it must be confessed that the action is rather slow, Mr. Niranjan Pal is to be congratulated on the manner in which he has told his tale. And if he has chosen now and again to go against history in his account of the Taj's creation, he is fully justified by the result.

A B.I.F. production, the film had its trade showing on September 21 under the auspices of the Pro Patria Films, Ltd., at the London Hippodrome before a large and most enthusiastic audience, which included the Countess of Oxford and a party, as well as many well-known Anglo-Indian figures. Mr. Himansu Rai, who supervised the film in India, was in a box, deeply interested in watching himself, as the hero Shiraz, Miss Enakshi Rama Rau—a charming film actress of international calibre as Selima, afterwards the Empress, Mumtaz Mahal, Miss Seeta Devi as Dalia, the villainess of the plot, and Mr. Charu Roy as Shah Jehan. Among the long list of supernumerary characters mention must be made of the dumb actors—birds, snakes, lizards, camels, horses, and the elephants lent by the ruling princes of many of the Indian States. But after all, it is the Taj Mahal itself whose memory lingers.

A gang of Turkish bandits is reported to have raided three Iraqi villages on the northern frontier on September 18. They are said to have killed three people and decamped with a number of cattle.

CORRESPONDENCE.

The columns of THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA are open for the discussion of subjects of general interest to its readers. The publication of such letters must not be taken, however, as indicating that the views expressed by the writers are those of THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA.

IRAQ AND NAJD.

To the Editor of THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA.

Sir,—Your article on "The Control of the Desert" in your issue of August 16 impels me to a reply. In the first place there is no reason for either disappointment or surprise at the failure of the recent negotiations at Jidda, as it was known beforehand that the demolition of the forts was from King Ibn Saoud's point of view a *sine qua non* condition of an agreement. He was clearly not going to commit himself to yet another agreement with Great Britain unless and until he was convinced that she meant to observe the conditions of previous instruments, to which she had put her signature. She failed under the test, and King Ibn Saoud, with every intention of maintaining his long-standing friendship with Great Britain, may be excused for not courting further treaty-relations which may necessitate further interpretation when the years have created fresh developments of British imperial policy. You write: "No question exists that, on the purely legal or literal aspect of this Iraq-Najd quarrel, Iraq is absolutely in the right." You will perhaps bear with me if, in expressing complete disagreement with your opinion on this point, I state that it is precisely on the legal and literal aspect that the whole question arises. The two parties to the Protocol of Uqair read one of its articles in diametrically opposite senses and the door to the reconciliation of the two views is barred by Sir Gilbert Clayton's declaration to King Ibn Saoud that Great Britain will not accept arbitration on the point. Yet nothing but arbitration in some form can settle the issue on which the parties have agreed to differ. That was the whole extent of the agreement arrived at, and you are in error on a point of fact in stating that King Ibn Saoud has expressed "his willingness to preserve the *status quo*."

To turn for a moment to the meaning of Article 3 of the Protocol, it should be remembered that Ibn Saoud refused to accept the Treaty of Muhammarah (1921) owing to the extremely unfavourable frontier laid down therein. Sir Percy Cox went down to Uqair to discuss the situation with him, and the result was that Ibn Saoud abandoned his opposition to the Treaty on the condition that adequate safeguards should be provided for the unfettered exercise by his tribes of their time-honoured rights of grazing and watering on both sides of the frontier. Article 3 was accordingly drawn up to provide that no buildings or forts should be constructed on the wells and watering-places on both sides of the frontier, and the only possible interpretation of such a prohibition is that it applies to the whole desert on either side of the frontier up to the limits of its normal user by the tribes on either side. If specific distances had been intended they would have been stated in the Article, which in point of fact means nothing more nor less than it says. The British Government now, somewhat late in the day, suggest a non-building zone of 25 miles. But why 25? Would that not be a restriction of the right of Iraq "to govern her own deserts according to her own ideas?" Besides, at the time of the Uqair meeting the specific case of Lina, some 30 or so miles within the frontier on the Najd side according to the latest maps and a good deal further from the frontier according to the map on which the Protocol was actually based, was raised by Ibn Saoud, and it was after consideration mutually agreed that it fell within the prohibited zone. Precisely the same thing would have been said about Busaiya if the question had been raised, but in this case the British Government built and trusted to luck, with consequences now well-known and even then foreseeable by anyone with any knowledge of the desert. But doubtless treaty rights must go to the wall in deference to "the process which Great Britain has taken in hand . . . of

civilising the desert." Is Britain really spending her taxpayers' money on that? Ye gods!

One more matter before I close—let Britain rest assured that King Ibn Saoud has no intention of pitting his Badawin strength against the organised might of the Empire. And to suggest that he has little control of the tribes on his north-eastern frontier is merely to confess complete ignorance of the subject. One might just as well suggest that the recent mail-robbery on the Nairn route argues a loss of control in that area by the British Government. The result of the Jidda failure merely is to compel King Ibn Saoud to absent himself from the Hijaz where his presence is so urgently required to attend to the administrative needs of the country in the ultimate interests of the pilgrims from all parts of the world. If we have added to the difficulties of his task, we have nothing to be proud of, and the practical result of our attitude must inevitably be to build up against ourselves throughout the peninsula a solid barrier of unfriendly sentiment. Is the game worth the candle?

With apologies for trespassing so far on your space.—I am, etc.,

H. ST. J. B. PHILBY.

Jidda, September 4, 1928.

[We willingly publish this letter, but would express our conviction that questions of "Imperial development" have nothing to do with the Iraq-Najd dispute.—ED.]

INDIA POLITICAL REFORMS AND THE INDIAN STATES.

To the Editor of THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA.

Sir,—The recommendations of the European Association, which you summarise in your issue of September 20, are particularly notable for their clear recognition of the fact that while, politically speaking, India is, and must continue to be, divided between British India and the Indian States, from the economic standpoint the ideal to aim at is unity throughout the whole sub-continent.

At present this economic unity is very imperfect; and the steps taken to promote it have involved sacrificing the constitutional rights of the Indian States to the needs of British India. This process tends to weaken the fundamental good will of the Indian Rulers and their readiness to co-operate with British India, upon which alone economic unity can be solidly erected. The European Association are demonstrably right when they point out:—"The majority of questions now dealt with by the Central Government of British India intimately affect the Indian States, who have at present no say in the settlement of these questions. Already the difficulties of this position are being acutely felt."

The solution suggested by the Association is the ultimate establishment of an All-India Government, consisting of a federation of Indian States co-operating harmoniously with British India. As a first step towards this goal, the Association recommend the building up of a federation of the Indian States, working through the Chamber of Princes and controlled by a Viceroy in States' Council (corresponding to some extent to the Viceroy's Executive Council in British India) to which the participating Indian States would delegate certain definite powers. For the settlement of questions affecting both the Indian States and British India—as, for example, customs tariffs, railway rates, excise policy, defence, and the like—the Indian States Council and the Executive Council of British India would meet as a Union Council under the Viceroy.

The recommendations of the European Association are based primarily upon their perception of the economic needs of India; but it is noteworthy that the Standing Committee of the Chamber of Princes, facing the same problem from the political standpoint, have arrived at a solution identical with that here put forward.

This is surely more than a coincidence, when we consider that British Commerce and the Indian Princes, though superficially so unlike, share one characteristic in-

common—an enormous stake in the ordered progress of India.

It is further significant to notice that the European Association gives forcible expression to a sentiment which has long animated the Chamber of Princes, namely that "it is unable to envisage any Reform in the political organisation of India that leaves unsettled the political status of the Indian States and their relationship with British India." In other words, many of the problems which Sir John Simon and his colleagues are investigating, cannot be solved without reference to another set of problems which are no whit less fundamental because they happen to fall outside the scope of the Statutory Commission's terms of reference. The Memorandum of the European Association is the first public document in which the point has been bluntly stated.—I am, etc.,

L. F. RUSHBROOK WILLIAMS.

Joint Director Special Organisation Chamber of Princes: Foreign Minister of Patiala.

THE SUPPRESSION OF EGYPTIAN NEWSPAPERS.

The following telegram from Mustapha el Nahas Pasha, President of the Wafd and former Prime Minister of Egypt, reached us last week too late for insertion in our issue of September 20 :—

Cairo, September 18.

The papers here announce that *The Times* has published a telegram from its Alexandria correspondent to the effect that the suspension of the newspapers *Al Balagh* and *Rosa el Yusef* was according to a law issued by the late Zaghloul Pasha when Minister of Justice. The fact is that the law which the present Cabinet applied was issued in 1881—that is, a quarter of a century before Zaghloul Pasha became Minister. Moreover, that law has been abolished as regards the censorship, warning, suspension, and suppression of newspapers by administrative means (See Article 15 of the Constitution). "Preventive censorship is forbidden; warnings, suspension, or suppression of newspapers by administrative means is also forbidden, except in cases when it may be necessary to have recourse to such means for the protection of social order"—that is, against Bolshevism. The Constitution emphasises the inviolability of the principles concerning the freedom of the Press (See Article 156). The present Ministry, which suspended the Constitution, made a further aggression against its vital articles by suspending *Al Balagh*, *Rosa el Yusef*, and by warning *Kawkab es Shark* on the pretext that they criticise the present régime.

It is noteworthy that the present régime can by no means be tolerated by the Egyptian people or its organs, for the simple reason that its existence is a flagrant usurpation of the people's rights already established by the Constitution. The British people, whose love for liberty is traditional, will undoubtedly condemn this wanton aggression, as its worthy representatives to the International Parliamentary Conference in Berlin have taken part in the historic decisions of condemnation passed on August 28.

Whatever the pretext of the present Ministry might be, it was necessary to resort to the courts, according to the articles dealing with the Press in the Criminal Law. But the Ministry abstained from this course because it knew well enough that these papers had committed nothing punishable by law. They only interpreted public opinion, and whatever criticism they made of certain primary legal measures was sanctioned later by decisions of the Courts of Appeal and Assizes. The truth is that Mohamed Pasha Mahmoud's Cabinet has suppressed these prominent Zaghloulite organs for the sole reason that they disclosed the scandalous measures adopted by the local authorities to make the Premier's visit to Tanta capable of deceiving the outside world.

[Reference to this telegram is made in the Notes of the Week.—ED.]

INDIAN NOTES.

(Continued from page 347).

ing whose only solution of the practical problem of the future relations between British India and the States was practically to deny its existence, is the attitude of the European Association. While, as Professor Rushbrook Williams points out, "politically speaking India is, and must continue to be, divided between British India and the Indian States, from the economic standpoint the ideal to aim at is unity throughout the whole sub-continent." Not only does the Association frankly recognise the situation, but also makes various constructive proposals designed to meet the present anomalous position, rightly remarking that "it is unable to envisage any reform in the political organisation of India that leaves unsettled the political status of the Indian States and their relationship with British India." In other words, as we pointed out a few months ago in these columns, it is difficult to see how the work of the Statutory Commission can be complete unless it embodies the conclusions of the Committee over which Sir Harcourt Butler presides.

THE SULTAN OF MUSCAT AND OMAN.

On September 20 His Highness the Sultan of Muscat and Oman visited Croydon Aerodrome, and, after inspecting the fleet of Handley Page, Napier, and Silver Wing air liners used on the Imperial Airway Cross-Channel services, made a flight over London in a big 20-seater Silver Wing air liner. He was accompanied by members of his suite and by Air Vice-Marshal Sir Sefton Brancker, Director of Civil Aviation, and Major Woods Humphrey, General Manager of Imperial Airways.

After his flight the Sultan remarked that London from the air was a magnificent sight. The flight had given him the greatest sensation he had had since arriving in Europe. Later the same air liner left for Paris, and the Sultan was an interested spectator of the embarkation of the passengers. He then watched an exhibition of mail dropping by parachute from an aeroplane. The Sultan showed great interest in a single-handed demonstration by Captain Neville Stack of the ease with which a small 30 h.p. Avro Cirrus Avian light aeroplane, which was housed in a hangar no larger than an ordinary car garage, could be taken out of its shed and flown off within one minute 40 seconds.

On the following day the Sultan's party motored from London to Portsmouth. When he arrived, about noon, he found all the ships flying the plain red flag of Muscat and Oman. (Incidentally, a rule of the port was thus broken for the first time—no flag of a foreign ruler having ever before been broken from the flagstaff over the Admiral-Superintendent's residence.) A salute of 21 guns was fired as the Sultan drove into the yard, and a naval guard of honour was mounted. Rear-Admiral L. A. B. Donaldson, Admiral-Superintendent, received the Sultan and conducted him first through H.M.S. Victory and then through H.M.S. Tiger. He entered one of the Tiger's turrets, the working of which was shown him, and before leaving he fired a blank charge from one of her big guns.

After luncheon with Rear-Admiral and Mrs. Donaldson (a number of officers who have recently served in the Persian Gulf also being present) the Sultan embarked in Submarine L 25 for a trip to Southampton. The L 25 flew the Sultan's flag, and a salute of 21 guns was fired as she left the harbour escorted by the destroyers *Umpire* and *Truant*. After reaching Spithead the submarine dived and carried out exercises with the object of showing the Sultan how a submarine is navigated under water. He was greatly interested in this and closely inspected all parts of the boat. As a culminating feature of this demonstration two torpedoes were loaded into her tubes, and the Sultan fired these. By looking through the periscope he was able to follow the track of the weapons as they ran towards their objective. After the torpedoes had been loosed L 25 came to the surface, and the Sultan climbed to her conning tower, from which he watched the evolutions of a number of flying-boats and seaplanes that formed an aerial escort to him through part of the Solent.

When landing at Southampton the Sultan shook hands with Lieutenant-Commander Bell and said, "I thank you and your officers and crew very much for their courtesy to me. I have greatly enjoyed my trip. It has been a wonderful experience. I have often heard praise of the great efficiency and skill of the British Navy, and after what I have seen to-day I know how well that praise is deserved. I have been greatly impressed by everything I have seen."

At Southampton the Sultan inspected the Cunard liner *Aquitania*, from which his red ensign was flown. Later he motored to Bournemouth, staying at the Branksome Towers Hotel.

M. E. H. Mulock, Commercial Secretary to the Residency at Cairo, is vacating that post on grounds of health on October 5, and will leave for England by the P. and O. s.s. *Comorin*. He will be succeeded by Mr. R. A. M. E. Turner, who is proceeding to Cairo from Athens.

The XVIIth Orientalist Congress—IV.

Islam; Turkey.

Professor Margoliouth opened the proceedings on August 28 and welcomed the members, and then vacated the Chair in favour of Professor Snouck Hurgronje. The first paper was read, in the unavoidable absence of the author, Dr. H. Farmer, by the Rev. Dr. Moffatt. The subject was "The Greek Musical Theorists in Arabic." The writers mainly concerned were Pythagoras, Aristotle, Euclid, Nicomachus, Ptolemy and Aristoxenus. Many Greek works, now lost, were translated into Arabic and in some cases the translations survived and were the sole source of information of the Greek originals. Pythagoras' treatise on music was cited by Ibn Al-Kifti; Pythagoras was venerated by the Arabs as the founder of the theory of music. Arab writers stressed the moral influence of music. The Platonic theories of music were popular as well as familiar, for they were contained in the *Timaeus*, which was twice translated into Arabic. In regard to Euclid, Arabic authors spoke of certain works unknown in Greek; some of these ascriptions were inaccurate, but others were genuine and proved the existence of treatises no longer extant; al-Farabi commented various lost works of Euclid. The spherical propagation of sound was known to the authors of the *Ikhwan As-Safa*: this theory was not known to the Greeks, but Vitruvius spoke of it. Ibn Sina (Avicenna) did not write an independent work on musical theory, as was alleged, but he abridged earlier works. The Arabs used the Nicomachean notation for recording music.

The second paper, on "De nouveaux manuscrits de la Dhakhira d'Ibn Bassam" was by Professor E. Levi-Provençal. The lecturer referred to his important finds of MSS. in the libraries of Fez and Morocco. His discoveries dealt with sources for the history of Spain and, in particular, with Ibn Bassam's "Dhakhira," of which previously three MSS. at Oxford, Paris and Gotha, were known to Dozy, the Historian of Moorish Spain. It was now possible to edit almost a complete text of Ibn Bassam on the basis of the four new MSS., which Professor Levi-Provençal had unearthed.

Mirza Muhammad Khan, who represented the Government of Persia, but who lives in Paris, next gave an account of the *Munis ul Ahrar*, an anthology of Persian poetry by Muhammad ibn Badri Jajarma, an important poet who lived in the days of Hulagu and Abaqa. The MS. of this rare work contained 260 quarto leaves in which a large number of unknown or little known poems were to be found: no fewer than 200 different poets were represented. The MS. would be edited by the reader of the paper and published in the *Bulletin* of the London School of Oriental Studies.

Afterwards, the Rev. M. Bouyges, of the University of St. Joseph, Beyrout, spoke of the proposed new series entitled "Bibliotheca Arabica Scholasticorum" which the University of St. Joseph at Beyrout proposed to undertake. The series would contain about 20 volumes and would serve general mediaeval scholars as well as Arabists. The needs of the former would be met by the provision of an accurate and annotated translation based on a critical text which would be appreciated by Arabists. The second of the projected volumes, the "Tahafud al-Falasifat," of Al-Ghazzali, appeared in 1927.

The members of the Islamic section passed a unanimous resolution welcoming and supporting the new series.

M. Bencheneb, a Delegate of the University of Algiers, who wore native costume at the Congress, read a paper on Ibn Hatima, a Arabic-Spanish poet of the VIII century, A.H. He gave specimens selected from the four parts of the *Diwan*, which he had prepared for publication.

Then followed an interesting and vigorous discussion, carried on in Arabic under the initiative of M.M. Kurd Ali, of Damascus, on the services of Europeans to Arabic civilisation and what the Arabs of to-day are doing to revive their ancient culture. Incidentally, it was suggested that Damascus should be the place of meeting for the next Congress. Thereupon Dr. Taha Hussein, of the State University, Cairo, demonstrated the claims of Cairo. Shaikh Dujaily advocated that some centre in the East, at any rate, should be selected.

In the evening session on August 28 Mr. H. I. Bell, of the Egypt Exploration Society, spoke on "The Organisation of Egypt under the Umayyad Khalifs." He showed how the Arabs, after the Conquest of Egypt, took over many features of Byzantine government, adapting them, when desirable, to the necessities of Islam. The characteristic of Roman rule had been decentralization, and this led to weakness and inability to resist invasion. The country was split up into small independent zones which were powerless to stem the Arab tide. The new régime went to the opposite extreme. The evidence furnished by the Greek papyri showed that the Roman policy of using Egypt as a milch cow was continued unchanged. Tracts of land were deserted owing to the flight of the peasant proprietors, due to ruthless taxation. The revolt of the Copts, described by Makrizi, was not known from the papyri not to have been the first outbreak. Under the Arabs, during the early period, *jizyah*, the tax paid by non-Muslims, and *Harraj*, the ground tax, were practically synonymous. Much information was to be gained from these newly acquired documents with regard to the internal organization of Egypt, its administration and the control exercised by Damascus over Forstat and by Forstat over the smallest villages.

Professor P. Kahle, of Bonn, delivered a lantern lecture on "Der Leuchtturm von Alexandria." This Pharos, once reckoned one of the wonders of the world, was, he said, immortalized by the Arabs in the popular shadowgraph, an amusement which still lingered in Egypt, although in a most degenerate form. Professor Kahle showed illustrations of a large variety of shadowgraphs which he had collected in Egypt. Some of these were at least six centuries old, as they displayed an armorial device of the Mamelukes which could be assigned to certain definite limits.

On August 29, Professor G. Ferrand, representing the French Government, presided. Owing to the unavoidable absence of Professors Kowalski, Babinger and Minorsky, three interesting items were lost to the morning's agenda. The proceedings were, therefore, opened by Professor C. A. Nallino, the title of whose paper was "Sur l'histoire du droit chez les Syriens." Professor Nallino's conclusions will be of interest not only to Orientalists but also to the wider circle of legal students and theologians. The lecturer had used several unedited Syrian and Arabic manuscripts, through which he was able to expose some fundamental results of his mostly still unpublished researches on "The History of Law among Christians of the Syrian Churches." Jurists were prone to speak of "Syro-Roman Law" or "National or Common Syrian Law," or "Common Law of Oriental Christianity." These terms were inexact. They were based on the cardinal error of assuming a national or religious Christian unity which never existed but which was supposed to have had important influence on the Christian-Roman codes of Europe. Professor Nallino showed conclusively that the

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famous "Syro-Roman" book law enjoyed no reputation among the Syrian Churches prior to 800: even later its influence was slight. Scholars had erred in assuming that this code represented a living system: it was, in fact, nothing but a proposed model which was artificial and ideal. His second exposure was the fallacy that Syrian Law was composed in Syria. Professor Nallino showed that the composition was made by men who lived in countries other than Syria, chiefly in S.W. Persia, Mesopotamia and, towards the middle of the XIII century, by a Syrian in Asia Minor. His third point was the necessity of recognising the four elemental divisions of the Syrian Churches in discussing Syrian Law. To treat them as a unity was a fallacy. The Melkite and Maronite Churches possessed no juridical literature of their own. The Jacobite or Monophysite Church had none until the "Nomocanon" of Bar Hebraeus (d.1286). This famous book has been regarded as typical of indigenous Syrian Law, but already in 1923 Professor Nallino showed that the non-ecclesiastical part of this "Nomocanon" was a translation of the book on Muhammadan Law by al-Ghazali (d.1111). The so-called Syro-Roman Law, therefore, was nothing but the Hanafite system of Islam. The fourth Church, the Nestorian, alone produced true Syrian Law: the oldest handbook was in the Pahlavi language. The author was the Metropolitan Iesubokht, who lived in Persia about 800. But he himself declared that his book represented an innovation, i.e., his own ideas of what law should be, based on Jewish, Muslim and Zoroastrian parallels, set out to try to put an end to the juridical anarchy among the Christians. Iesubokht did not achieve juridical unity. Professor Nallino demonstrated that the Synod of 900 introduced a system of inheritance that was nothing but common Muslim procedure. Among his other discoveries was the Arabic abridgment of the "Nomocanon" of Gabriel, Metropolitan of Basra in the years 884 and 891. In 900 the original judicial activity of the Nestorians ceased. The "Nomocanon" of Ebodiesu (d.1318) was based on that of Gabriel. (It was officially sanctioned by the Nestorian Synod in 1318). Beside the great enterprising spirit of the Nestorian community in various fields in the eighth and ninth centuries, Muhammadan domination and the public law of Islam gave rise to the juridical activity of the Nestorians.

Professor Margoliouth afterwards characterised this paper by Professor Nallino as one of the most important of the whole Congress.

Professor Nallino's paper was followed by two papers, delivered in French, by Keuprulu Zade Fuad Bey, Delegate of the Government of Turkey, (1) on Muhammad Bin Kais and his Turkish-Kankli dictionary and (2) new light on Omar Khayyam. The author discussed a small Persian treatise by Mustapha Ali, an Ottoman author of the XV-XVI centuries, which contained fresh biographical information about Omar; the information, especially in regard to dates, Omar's alleged belief in metamorphosis, and his relations with Ghazali, was to be received with caution. The main point of interest centred on 53 "new" quatrains of Omar.

Then came two papers, by Dr. J. H. Kramers of Leyden (delivered in French), on "The Persian Tradition in Islamic Geography," and by Professor A. Schaade on the literary output of Mahmud Taimur, a contemporary Egyptian writer.

In the evening of August 29 Professor A. Fischer spoke on Christian Monastic Institutions in Muslim lands. He explained the cultural influence exercised by these houses, which was two-fold; good, in that it aroused a feeling for art, and bad, in that it stimulated debauchery and drunkenness. In the Convent or Monastery, the Arab visitor saw and admired paintings, sculptures and mosaics, e.g., of the Virgin, by which he learned what the artistic representation of the human figure could achieve. This form of art would otherwise have remained unknown to him, owing to the restrictions of Islam. But the Monks were likewise free from the Islamic prohibition of wine, and so the Cloister became a mere tavern or cabaret for licen-

tiously inclined Muslims.

In subsequent discussion, Professor A. A. Bevan asked whether part of the lecturer's thesis was not based on a misconception of a certain passage in Yakut, but Professor Fischer claimed to have further evidence in support of his charges.

General disappointment was expressed at the abandonment of Professor Rathjen's two lectures on "Holy Arabic," and on "Through Bellicose Arabia." This was due to the regulations of the Customs authorities, which forbade the free entry of the film without which the lecture was impossible. Thus was the Congress denied the first cinematographic record of life in the Yaman.

On August 30 the Chair was occupied by Professor Fischer, of the University of Leipzig. The critical survey by Professor Bricteux, representing the Government of Belgium, of the attitude of Islam towards other religions was the subject of considerable debate, the lecturer's tolerant attitude towards Islam and his examination of the *Jihad* being apparently misapprehended by such Muslim members of the audience as Mr. Yusuf Ali and Shaikh Dujaily. Dr. Taha Hussein also disagreed with the lecturer. Dr. Taha Hussein then made a noteworthy contribution to Quranic philology, his theme being the exceptional non-agreement of the pronoun. His second lecture dealt with the parallels between the philosophies of Leibnitz and the Mutazilites. For this third lecture, which bore the interesting title of "Influence des discussions théologiques aux deux premiers siècles de l'hégire de la rhétorique arabe," there was unfortunately no time.

Professor Z. Smorgorzewski informed the Section about a valuable collection of Ibadit MSS.

Moulvi Abdur Rahman, of St. Stephen's College, Delhi, University, who wore native costume, delivered an eloquent oration in Arabic on Pre-Islamic proverbs.

The following is the authorised summary of the Arabic lecture:—

"Proverbs exist, as is well known, in every language of the world, and shed light not only on the life of a people, but also on its language. The pre-Islamic Arabic literature was committed to writing mostly in the second century of the Hijra. What is not committed to writing for centuries runs the risk of losing its original character: but the pre-Islamic Arabic proverbs have not been affected in this way, not only because they were handed down from generation to generation, but also because their beauty lay in their original form. The very force and significance of a proverb is lost by a change, however slight it may be. Moreover, no one will deny that the shorter and more elegant a phrase is, the more easily it is remembered, and the more slowly forgotten. And the proverbs of al-Jahiliyya are very short. Hence it is clear that they did survive up to the time when they were committed to writing in the latter half of the first century, as Ibn Nadim says that Abid Sharya composed a book on Arabic proverbs.

"While studying the pre-Islamic Arabic proverbs, I have arrived at certain conclusions, some of which I desire to place before you for your consideration:—

"(1) We possess a large number of the genuine proverbs of Arabs and it is certain that the proverbs of a people are always in its spoken language, and we can trace some of the characteristics of the language of a people from the study of its proverbs. We find that Irab is maintained in all the proverbs of al-Jahiliyya, which fact leads us to infer that the pre-Islamic Arabic language was full of Irab like proverbs. Similarly the language of

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poetry is always the same as the spoken one, the only difference being in point of elegance, refinement and imagination and never in point of grammar. Hence there is no truth in the theory of some scholars that the spoken language of al-Jahiliyya was quite different from that of poetry and was devoid of *Irab*.

"(2) The language of most proverbs is middle way between ordinary and elegant composition. Some of them approach the highest form of speech, which is poetry. In that case we find metre in proverbs. Of the pre-Islamic Arabic proverbs many are metrical.

"(3) There are two alternative explanations of these metrical proverbs: either they are parts of verses or poetry or not, but somehow or other metre has crept into them. In the former case the existence of poetry in al-Jahiliyya is established. In the latter case, it is at least obvious that metre did exist in the period of the Ignorance, it does not matter whether this metre is found in some inscriptions or not, because from the absence of a metre in places where it might be expected, it does not follow that the metre did not exist at all.

"(4) Many of the metres noticed in the proverbs are the same as those found in the so-called pre-Islamic poetry. Hence poetical *wazn* was not invented by Khalil, as Professor Margoliouth is inclined to think. Similarly I do not agree with him when he says that *wazn* was introduced into Arabic poetry, especially that at the beginning of Islam ought to have followed the model set by the Quran, but we do not find a single example of this. I admit that the Quran may have stray examples of metres; but it never contains a single full couplet. Then how can we say that it is poetry throughout?

"(5) Undoubtedly in the Quran there is something that may resemble poetry, and so the prophet was called *Shair* by his critics; but at the same time the Quran contains that which is not poetry, and so God refuted them, whereupon the infidels said that he was a magician or lunatic; or they were divided in their opinions. This shows that the difference between poetry and the language of the Quran is much greater than the resemblance between them. Moreover, the very fact that the Prophet was called a poet proves the existence of poetry in al-Jahiliyya. What was that poetry like?

"Suppose that the so-called pre-Islamic poetry is entirely spurious, yet, since forgery is always an imitation of a genuine thing, it is clear that the genuine poetry of al-Jahiliyya must have been like the spurious poetry. If this reasoning is correct, then it is wrong to hold that the poetry referred to in the Quran was something like the *Saj* of the soothsayers, as claimed by Professor Margoliouth.

"(6) When it is proved that poetry (in the common sense of the word) existed in al-Jahiliyya, neither its survival up to the time when it was committed to writing nor its liability to forgery is improbable. I am of opinion that the pre-Islamic Arabic poetry is neither entirely forged nor entirely genuine."

After the lecture Shaikh Dujailly passionately denied the possibility of Europeans' ever understanding the real spirit of Arabic verse.

Dr. Klingenberg then crossed swords with Professors Cohen, Mittwoch and Littmann, who challenged his thesis that Amharic poetry was rhythmic and not syllabic. Finally, Mr. R. Levy of Cambridge, proved that the prose version of the Yussuf and Zulueikhs romance in the India Office MS. was not by Ansari of Herat.

Before the delivery of Dr. Abdur-Rahman's lecture, a resolution, proposed by Sir E. Denison Ross, and seconded by Professor Bevan, was enthusiastically passed to the effect that a telegram—"Islamic, Iranian and Biblical sections of the Seventeenth Orientalist Congress at Oxford send heartiest greetings to the great teacher whom we all revere"—be sent to Professor Theodore Nöldeke. On the following day a reply telegram was received:—"Many thanks."

On the night of August 30 Mr. B. Thomas, with Professor Fischer in the Chair, gave an account of his recent

journey of 600 miles through unexplored Arabia, where no European had previously set foot—an account which we shall supply more fully in a subsequent issue.

On August 31, Prof. C. A. Nallino occupied the Chair. The following lectures were delivered: Professor Margoliouth on an unidentified volume of Tanukhi's "Table Talk"; Dr. Abdul Haq on the "Diwan" of Abu Tamam; Dr. Schacht on the MSS. in Constantinople and Cairo libraries; M. Gad al-Mawla Bey on the Quran; Mrs. Hasluck (whose absence through illness was deplored) a lantern lecture on an unknown Turkish Shrine, and the lecture in which Prof. Marcel Cohen developed his new theory of Semitic deponent verbs. His point was that verbs of the so-called intransitive type, i.e., *Labisa-Yalbasa*, were in reality, internal. Mrs. Hasluck's lecture, which was read by Mr. G. Horsfield, related her journey in 1923 to a shrine in Greek Macedonia. This shrine had a cave, with springs of cold water and curative earths. Ruins attested to its former popularity. Its patrons belonged to the Bektashi. Women proceeded thither to learn whether they were to bear a son or a daughter, or whether they were doomed to sterility. Among other things, this shrine, which was freely used for omens, possessed four holy stones and two saints.

The following resolutions were unanimously passed:—

(1) Dr. Abdul Haq's resolution:—That in the opinion of this section of the Congress it is desirable that a complete and comprehensive historical Arabic dictionary should be prepared in the Arabic language, and that the Egyptian Government be requested to consider the suggestion, as Cairo will be the most suitable place for the co-operation of Oriental scholars and Orientalists.

(2) Moved from the Chair:—That this section of the Congress cordially approves the proposal of Professor Mittwoch for the formation of a *Corpus Medicorum Arabicorum* on the lines adumbrated.

(3) Moved from the Chair:—That this section of the Congress cordially approves the scheme adumbrated by Rev. M. Bouyges for the formation of a *Bibliotheca Arabica Scholasticorum*.

(4) Moved from the Chair:—That this section of the Congress has heard with great satisfaction of the progress made by the four scholars appointed by the Jerusalem University in the Concordance of Arabic poetry up to the end of the Umayyad period and wishes the work every success.

THE EGYPTIAN CHANNEL SWIMMER.

A reception in honour of Ishaak Bey Helmy, the Egyptian who recently swam the Channel, was given at the Egyptian Legation on Wednesday, September 19, by Sesostris Sidarouss Bey, *Chargé d'Affaires*. Special interest was taken by the numerous guests in the chart of the course taken by Hilmy Bey in his plucky swim of nearly twenty-four hours. From the explanation given by Mr. Burgess and others who accompanied the swimmer, it was possible to realise how largely the element of luck enters into these feats. Leaving Cape Gris Nez at 2 p.m. on August 31, Hilmy Bey had covered nearly a third of the distance in three hours, when a current carried him in a south-westerly direction for four hours. At this point, meeting a strong northerly current, he made good progress towards the English coast, until at the end of twelve hours he was less than two miles from the shore. Here the tide carried him in a westerly direction at first and away from the coast, before the swimmer struck a current that carried him for the next five or six hours parallel to the coast. Consequently about four hours were occupied in swimming in a complete circle, the swimmer all the time, of course, swimming strongly and facing north. At the end of the twenty-first hours there was every prospect of the tide changing and carrying the swimmer back again along the course he had just followed parallel to the coast; but he was fortunate enough to strike a current off Folkestone which enabled him to reach the shore after swimming for twenty-three hours and forty minutes.

The Yugoslav Government, desiring to make Belgrade a centre of Russian science abroad, opened in Belgrade on September 16 a "Russian Institute," which, it is hoped, according to *The Times* Belgrade correspondent, will to some extent take the place of the Petrograd Academy of Science among Russian *émigrés* generally. Its members will be selected from among exiled Russian professors in many countries. The fourth congress of Russian professors abroad also opened in Belgrade the same day. Over 150 delegates attended from various countries. The three former congresses were held in Prague.

The Dutch airmen *en route* from Amsterdam to Java landed at Bamrauli Aerodrome, near Allahabad, on September 18, having flown from Karachi. They travelled from Amsterdam in six days, and brought the first direct air mails ever received at Allahabad, delivering them at the Post Office. They flew to Calcutta the following day.

THE LATE ABDEL KHALEK PASHA SARWAT.

It is with great regret that we have to record the death of Sarwat Pasha, twice Prime Minister of Egypt, whose name will always occupy a prominent and honourable position in the history of Anglo-Egyptian relations. He had been spending the summer in Europe, and was at his house in Paris when he died suddenly on September 22. His health had been unsatisfactory for some time, but it was thought that with rest and freedom from the cares of office he might make a complete recovery, as he was only fifty-five years of age.

Sarwat Pasha has every right to be regarded as one of Egypt's great statesmen. In his own country he could not command the overwhelming popularity of Zaghloul Pasha; but he had the confidence of the thinking section of the people, and it was unfortunate for Egypt that the co-operation between the two men, after a period of antagonism, should have been so soon cut short by Zaghloul Pasha's death. When Sarwat Pasha became Prime Minister for the second time in April 1927 it was with the full support of the Wafd leader, and that he should have left for England three months later to engage in discussions with the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs for the negotiation of a Treaty implied that he had gone far towards weaning Zaghloul Pasha from his old intransigence to a more practical attitude towards Anglo-Egyptian relations. Unfortunately before the negotiations were concluded Zaghloul Pasha had died, and the treaty that Sarwat Pasha drew up in collaboration with Sir Austen Chamberlain had to be submitted to a Wafd without Zaghloul, which summarily rejected it. When an Anglo-Egyptian treaty is finally concluded it will, no doubt, contain modifications on the draft that Sarwat Pasha was prepared to accept; but to him will belong the credit of realizing from the outset Egypt's need for a comprehensive understanding with Great Britain.

Sarwat Pasha was conspicuous among his countrymen for his moral courage and independence of thought. In office he was "the strong man," but he invariably commanded the respect and affection of those with whom he was brought in contact. Even the Wafd, there is reason to suppose, regarded him latterly with a favour extended to no other politician outside its own ranks, with the possible exception of Adly Pasha. By instinct a sound Constitutionalist, Sarwat Pasha would probably have made a further attempt to work the Constitution for which he was himself largely responsible; but before he left Egypt he had accorded his support to the policy adopted by Mahomed Pasha Mahmoud, as a practical alternative to the administrative stagnation for which the Wafd was responsible. His death is a loss to Egypt, and in particular to the present Government, which must have derived encouragement from his moral support.

An Appreciation.

By ABDUL RAHMAN BEY AZZAM.

In the course of practically one year Egypt has had the misfortune of losing four Prime Ministers, each of whom was gifted with special talents and conspicuous for distinct character and temperament, while each had done his best to serve the cause of Egypt by the methods fitted to his temperament. They are Saad Zaghloul, Hussein Rushdi, Mohammed Said, and Abdel Khalek Sarwat, who died suddenly in Paris on Saturday. Of the four Zaghloul was by far the oldest and the first to take part in politics and to step into fame, but the last to become Premier, although he had held Cabinet rank at a much earlier date. In their life time they had each his friends and his enemies, but curiously enough all of them seem to have chosen a time for death when they unite at their graveside those

who before were disunited by their love or hatred, for the dead man.

In this Sarwat was by no means an exception. I am sure Egypt as a whole will lament his death, and the Wafdists are the first to feel the loss of this Egyptian statesman. I for one who, since he had anything to do with politics, and indeed since I was a student in a secondary school, looked on Sarwat as an old, weak sort of politician, unworthy of our patriotism, have regarded him at times as a hopeless pessimist who ought to resign politics in a national renaissance. But from 1926 I began to see the other charming and great side of Sarwat. His non-participation in the anti-constitutional methods of 1925-26, although he was hurt, first attracted my attention. In spite of Zaghloul's refusal to treat with him in 1924, he stuck to democracy and favoured parliamentary rule and that was a marvellous picture of self-restraint and an illustration of the essential good that was in him. Confirmation of this came later this year. Cruelly crushed in connexion with his treaty with Sir Austen Chamberlain, and deserted by friend and foe alike, he did not make the slightest move to revenge, or expose the constitutional régime to danger, persistently refusing to make any quarrel about his own person. He had two principles that guided his path in critical moments. First he had faith in British justice, and second he was an ardent constitutionalist and would give both the fairest chance. He never swerved from one or the other to the last minute. He believed in a parliamentary régime and was out of high favour once for exalting his ideas of democracy.

I was struck six months ago by his regular attendance as a private member in the Senate, after he had ceased to be Prime Minister. For his membership of Parliament Sarwat Pasha had to rely on the exercise of the Royal prerogative, for he was nominated a member of the Senate after the second elections. It was in Parliament that Sarwat lost his treaty and was losing his reputation as a statesman. But he passed gracefully from the Front Bench to the back, sticking to his principles and keeping his faith in democracy. It was in this way that the real greatness of Sarwat was revealed to me. His ability lay in his power to see other people's points, without necessarily adopting them or sacrificing his own. He was patient, calm, supple of intellect, polite, gentle and exceedingly courteous.

There was one contradiction in his character. Although essentially democratic and simple, he would have nothing to do with the masses. He was too reserved, too cautious, and too far-sighted and calculating to make any direct appeal to inferior intellects. Perhaps his failures were due to his not being able to keep pace with the rushing new generation, and to his not seeing that Egypt was drifting quicker than he imagined. After all, he is not the only statesman of great intelligence who has fallen behind the times.

Sarwat as a democrat is really needed just at the time when he disappears, in the same way as Zaghloul, the man of energy and strong will, passed just when Egypt had made up her mind in favour of British friendship. Both are a great loss to the cause of democracy and national freedom; but Egypt will recover from her loss, and a new brilliant page of Egyptian history is sure to be reserved for her younger men.

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THE WEEK AT HOME

London, Tuesday Morning.

Survey of the Electorate.

All the political parties are now well down to the task of preparing to beat each other at the General Election early next summer. Victory is, of course, to a considerable extent a matter of organisation, and a survey of the electorate is, therefore, an indispensable preliminary.

Conservative, Liberal, and Labour organisers are aiming at a detailed survey of each constituency. This has largely to be performed by voluntary workers, who, by the way, are themselves often too young to vote. By far the most ambitious scheme has been launched by the Liberals, who intend to compile nothing less than a census of the population. This Liberal plan is for each worker to have a hundred houses to visit in the months of November, December, and January. In May a special register will be issued, containing the name of every Liberal qualified to vote.

It is hoped by a house-to-house visitation to discover the politics of every family in the land. The undertaking is a gigantic one; and I should not be surprised if there are too few voluntary workers to go round. But the decision has been made; and the survey will be started as soon as the Municipal Elections next month are over.

The Sale of the Bible.

Some months ago, it may be recalled, there was an outcry at the supposed fact that the Bible is nowadays far less read than formerly. This allegation is, however, falsified—if the sales of Bibles be any criterion. For in the 124th Annual Report of the British and Foreign Bible Society, which has just been published, it is stated that in 1927-1928 the increase over 1926-1927 in Bibles, Testaments, and "portions" sold in the home language was 531,477 copies. The total number sold, 2,213,467, was, in fact, the greatest ever disposed of by the Society, with the exception of 1915—a curious fact, this last one, of which I was previously unaware.

Of this number the overseas portion of the British Empire purchased most, for the number of volumes circulated in the Motherland was 905,828. Other parts of the world in which the number of Bibles circulated showed "enormous increases" were Continental Europe, Africa, South America, India, and Japan.

Modernism.

Few things are so exciting as a heresy hunt, a feature in our religious life which occurs all too seldom in this over tolerant age. But there appears to be a chance of one now, for Lord Halifax and seven hundred and twenty-four clergymen have sent an open letter to the Bishop of Gloucester, who is to preside over the Church Congress to be held next week at Cheltenham, protesting against the appearance of Dr. H. D. A. Major, Principal of Ripon Hall, and Editor of the *Modern Churchman*.

These orthodox clergy object strongly to the presence of a man, down to speak, with others, on "The Anglican Interpretation of the Christian Faith," who has publicly asserted that a Modernist denies, among other things, the resurrection of the flesh, the penal character of Christ's sufferings, the Lord's omniscience and omnipotence, the Virgin birth and physical ascension, any specific authority for the monarchical episcopate, the evidential value of miracles, and Biblical and ecclesiastical infallibility. The teachings of Dr. Major are, in the opinion of these protesting clergy, not a version but a perversion of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Now in 1922 a similar charge was brought against Dr. Major; but it came to nought. This individualistic Principal believes that his "heresy" will soon be recognised as the newest form of orthodoxy. And he refers, as all his kind refer, to the needs of the rising generation as involving the scrapping of the "legends, myths, superstitions and doubtful speculations" hitherto unfortunately manifest in the Christian religion.

Those who have lost or deliberately destroyed their moorings will, presumably, rally round Dr. Major, who quite certainly will not lack considerable support. But there is still a healthy mass of opinion which would heartily include him in the verse:—

Heretics all, whoever you be,
In Tarbes or Nîmes, or over the sea,
You never shall have good words from me.
Caritas non conturbat me.

Drinking Habits.

We are going dry. Of that there can be no doubt. Not compulsorily dry, of course, but deliberately, wickedly, and fatally dry. Look at the statistics. In 1900 the consumption of spirits in England was 32,239,522 gallons; in 1913 it was 22,004,432 gallons; to-day it is 10,412,921 gallons.

Nor in Scotland itself can a different tale be unfolded. For there, whereas in 1900 the consumption of spirits was 8,623,092 gallons, and in 1913 was 6,709,343 gallons, to-day (last year) the consumption is but 2,456,283 gallons.

Of malt the same decline is told. In England the consumption, in bulk barrels, was 31,810,877 in 1902; 30,758,800 in 1913; and 23,418,640 in 1927. Scotland also fell from grace. She consumed 2,260,759 barrels in 1902; 2,119,666 in 1913; and 1,673,576 in 1927.

And the cause of all this? Not propaganda, surely. Partly, perhaps, repressive legislation, partly inferior liquor, but mostly, in all probability, the fact that new inventions have developed new habits. The cinema and the wireless, the motor-car—all these things militate against the crowding of the tavern. The modern craze for speed, and the care needed in controlling that speed, seem, in fact, to inhibit a man's potations. And we are all the better, you say, because of this? Maybe, maybe.

Superstitions.

We rather pride ourselves on the fact that we have rid ourselves of superstition and belief in magic, and we only laugh at the sort of nonsense concerning witchcraft which, as we leaped afresh from the meeting last week of the Folk-Lore Society, which has just been celebrating its jubilee, for long held sway with so considerable a section of mankind. But with all our superior education, our science, our discoveries, we are still (thank Goodness!) more than a little credulous.

Can you not see, any day, lion-hearted, devil-may-care,



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City men deliberately avoid walking under an unoccupied ladder; or the stop-at-nothing young "Miss," when she spills the salt, throw a pinch over her left shoulder; or the male and female together refuse to sit down thirteen at a table? And it is good that these unreasonable things survive. There is more in life than logic, "rationalise" ourselves howsoever we will. Superstitions, indeed, are often the salt of human character, although the new superstitions are never so picturesque as the old.

Autumnal Glory.

This summer that is incomparably the finest that I can remember is coming to a most beautiful end. Early morn, day, and sundown are one long delight. All is mellow and fruitful, coloured and lingering. The gardens have lived on in perfect content under the bountiful sunshine; the sweet-peas, for instance, are almost as lively and as various as they were two months ago.

And with this conservation of glories that really belong to summer we have the colours and scents of autumn. There are reds and browns and greens in the woods and copses and fields now that would make any Christian man cry aloud that England is the most beautiful country in the world. It is the sum of all experience, this autumnal flowering time, when

barred clouds bloom the soft-dying day,
And touch the stubble plains with rosy hue.

ALTER EGO.

PERSONAL AND GENERAL

TO-DAY

September 27, 1928 (New Style).

September 14, 1928 (Old Style).

Rabia II, 11, 1347 A.H., of the Muslim Calendar.

Tishri 13, 5689, of the Jewish Calendar.

The Maharaja of Burdwan has returned to 20, Kensington Gore.

Princess Irene of Greece left London on September 20 for the Continent.

Mme. Ferid Bey, wife of the Turkish Ambassador, has returned to 69, Portland Place from Stamboul.

Sir Grimwood and Lady Mears arrived at the end of last week at the Hotel Belgravia, Grosvenor Gardens.

Lady (Ross) Alston and Miss Alston joined the s.s. Rawalpindi at Marseilles on September 22 for Bombay.

Sir Charles and Lady Marston have moved from Afcot, near Wolverhampton, to Elmdene, Camden Park, Tunbridge Wells.

Lord and Lady Russell of Liverpool have returned from India, and their permanent address will now be Bury Court, Yapton, Sussex.

Major-General Lord Edward Gleichen and Lady Edward Gleichen returned to Court-in-Holmes, Forest Row, Sussex, on September 20 from Scotland.

The Maharaja Kumar of Vizianagram left London on September 20 in the P. and O. special train to join the s.s. Rawalpindi at Marseilles for Bombay.

The Hon. Mrs. Alexander Hardinge has received a cheque for £1,000 from the Nizam of Hyderabad to endow a room for a mother and child at the Princess Elizabeth Hostel, Cromwell House, Highgate.

The Marquess of Reading will be the principal guest at the annual dinner of the Readers' Pensions Committee, to be held at the Holborn Restaurant on October 20, with Mr. William Harrison in the Chair.

Earl Winterton, M.P., and Countess Winterton arrived at 61, Eccleston Square on September 24 from a tour through Germany, Czechoslovakia, and Poland.

The Indian Government proposes to appoint as Secretary of the Legislative Department Mr. S. C. Gupta, now additional Joint Secretary of the Legislative Department.

Field-Marshal Viscount Allenby and Viscountess Allenby left England for the United States yesterday, when they sailed from Southampton in the White Star liner Majestic.

Mr. John Coldstream, I.C.S., has been appointed a Judge of the High Court of Judicature at Lahore, in the place of Mr. Archibald Campbell, I.C.S., who has resigned.

The Council of State of India has elected Sir Chettur Sankaran Nair, Sir Arthur Froom, and the Raja Nawab Ali to sit on the Central Committee of the Simon Commission.

The new Chief of the General Staff in India, General Sir Philip W. Chetwode, will leave London on October 12 to take up his duties. General Sir Andrew Skeen completes his tenure of the appointment on October 29.

The Under-Secretary of State for Air, Sir Philip Sassoon, will leave England by air on September 29 to visit the Royal Air Force stations in Malta, the Middle East, Iraq, and India. The type of aircraft which will be employed for the greater part of the tour will be a Blackburn Iris flying boat with three Rolls Royce Condor engines and manned by the normal service crew. Sir Philip will spend nine days in India, and will leave Karachi on October 24 for England in the Iris, which is due at Plymouth on November 6.

Mustapha Kemal Pasha returned to Angora on September 21 after a week's tour in Northern Turkey.

The death is announced from Candia of Dr. Stephanos Xanthudides, the eminent explorer and excavator. He was prominent in the establishment of a museum for Cretan antiquities at Candia.

Sir Robert Witt, Vice-Chairman of "British Artists' Exhibitions," has completed arrangements with the Yugoslav Society of Great Britain for an exhibition of British art in Yugoslavia this winter. A selection from those works of art which are present in the British Pavilion at the Venice International Exhibition will be made by Mr. Philip Connard, R.A., Mr. Gerald Brockhurst, A.R.A., and Mr. Reid Dick, A.R.A. They will be transferred in November to Yugoslavia, and will be shown at Belgrade, Zagreb, and Liubliana, with the co-operation of local committees in those places.

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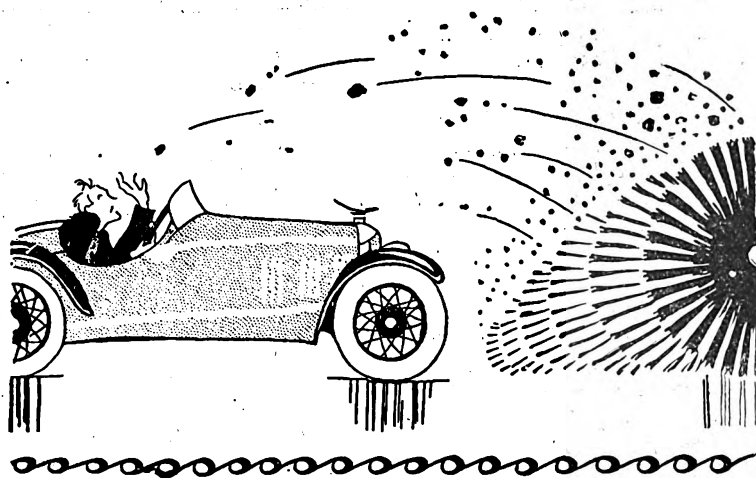
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NOTES AND NEWS

170, Strand, London, W.C.2,
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Athens Light and Power.

One of the obstacles with which British enterprise in the Near East is only too frequently confronted is what may be termed the political factor. Politics in the Near East, as we have had good reason to know, have become since the War as uncertain as the value of x in an equation, and unfortunately this political instability has reacted on the development of the various countries since the tendency has arisen to introduce politics into the question of concessions. This in the case of Greece, to give an example to which I have referred before, has meant that necessary works of development have been postponed year after year, because political complications prevented a definite decision from being taken. It would now seem that in the country in question the political factor is finding a new field of activity in regard to concessions which are actually in operation. In a note two weeks ago I mentioned the negotiations initiated by the Greek Government with the Power and Traction Finance Company, which holds the concession for lighting, power, and traction in Athens and has formed a series of operating companies to carry out the concession. It may be of interest to state how the trouble arose. The company adopted 220 volts for electric lighting in Athens, this being the standardised rate which was approved by the International Convention of Chicago in 1926. There were unfortunately two casualties, and a Commission was, therefore, appointed by the Greek Government, not merely to investigate the question of the current, but also the conditions under which the company obtained its concession. While the report has not yet been published, intelligent anticipations in the Greek Press and messages from correspondents in Greece to foreign papers make it evident that the report is hostile to the company. The sequel to the report I deal with in my previous reference—the demand that the voltage should be 110 and the raising of the question of the financial and technical control of the company by the Greek State.

A.E.C., Not A.E.G.

The most striking feature of the development is what I might term the Press campaign against the company, a campaign which may be Wentworthian in thoroughness, but is certainly not distinguished for its accuracy of statement. One point brought against the company is that it—a British concern—is operating motor buses in the streets of Athens of German manufacture. Unfortunately for the critics the incriminating letters which have been read as A.E.G. (i.e., Allgemeine Elektrizitäts Gesellschaft) are in fact A.E.C., which stand for Associated Equipment Company. Another point made is that a German company is piercing the tunnel which is to join the electric railway with Kephissia. This is admittedly the case, but the construction of the tunnel has nothing to do with the company, who cannot, therefore, be blamed for its not being done by a British firm. The company's only interest in the tunnel is that, when it is finished, there will be an interchange of running rights with the railway company which is responsible for the work. Another point made against the company is that when the old system and installations were taken over an increase of one-third was made in the cost of travel, light, and power. In considering any increase that may have been introduced, it may be pointed out that the existing companies which were

taken over were losing money, and it would be not only unreasonable but most illogical for the people of Athens to expect to receive modern facilities in the way of lighting, power, and traction indefinitely at a price which would not pay those who are supplying them with these things. Again, there is good ground for saying that there is no truth in the allegation that the materials used by the company are not of British manufacture. The company is bound to supply nothing but British materials.

Sudan Trade Progress.

Further satisfactory progress is shown in the figures for the trade of the Sudan for the first six months of this year. The volume of trade at £7,840,420 shows an increase of £638,454, and the increase is general throughout except in regard to Government imports, which at £993,595 show the small decline of £14,959. There was an increase in public imports of £251,005, a feature of the trade being the increase in the value of cotton piece-goods from £375,758 to £517,549. There was an increase also in the value of the imports of sugar, while other significant increases were in respect of tobacco, machinery, motor cars, tea, and soap. From these increases it is clear that the purchasing power of the Sudan is developing and also that the trade situation is on the up-grade. As a matter of fact, the only marked decrease in the import list is in respect of dura, and it is largely because of the good dura crop in the Sudan that the economic situation there has taken on a more hopeful appearance. The value of the export trade showed an increase of £332,606, for which cotton, gum, and hides were mainly responsible. The second half of the year is normally a period of quiet trade in the Sudan, but the figures for the first six months make it clear that the country is progressing in the right direction, and that as time goes on the market there will be of increasing importance.

Conditions in Egypt.

A very interesting review of the economic and financial situation in Egypt is forthcoming from Mr. E. Homan Mulock, British Commercial Secretary at Cairo, extracts from which will be found elsewhere in these columns. In some quarters an unfavourable view seems to be taken of the outlook for Egypt, but the survey of the position given by Mr. Mulock should go far to dispel any pessimism that exists. The facts certainly justify a modified optimism. For 1927 Egypt had a favourable trade balance of

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£1,025,026, as compared with an adverse one of £9,270,979 for 1926, the State finances at the end of the past financial year showed a marked improvement, while the Budget for the current year certainly does not suggest that the authorities take an adverse view of the prospects. The trade balance for 1927 was due partly to a decrease in imports, but more so to a rise in exports owing to higher prices for cotton, and it appears that it is the decrease in imports which has given rise to gloomy anticipations. It is maintained that this development is due to the decline in purchasing power, and that it is illustrated in the fall in trade profits. Mr. Mulock shows quite conclusively that both these points are untenable. As regards purchasing power, he points out that the potential demand of the country has greatly increased as a result of the accumulation of wealth during the past six years. The wealth is, however, not widely distributed, a large proportion of it being in the hands of a minority, the utilisation of whose money in investments and in other ways has, he suggests, a restrictive effect on the flow of trade. The economic position of the felaheen is of primary importance to the country, and what Mr. Mulock has to say on this subject is of great interest. The price of cotton is, of course, everything to the felaheen, and while the area under the crop was restricted prices ruled higher and made up to the tenant for the reduction in the crop. Mr. Mulock refers to the Agricultural Bank returns and to the increase of the imports of cotton piece-goods of nearly £1 million as showing that the felaheen are not in the financial straits attributed to them.

Egyptian Government's Policy.

The policy pursued by the Egyptian Government in economic and financial matters is dealt with in detail by Mr. Mulock. The fact that the country is in the main dependent on two sources for its well-being, either or both of which are liable at any time temporarily to fall short of expectations, makes it the more imperative for the Egyptian authorities to exploit to the utmost all other potential sources of wealth. It is with this end in view that a wide use is being made of the services of European experts, who have been engaged to give advice on a wide range of subjects, such as the fisheries, inland navigation, local industries, petroleum, railway electrification, roads, tariff revision and taxation. The new Customs tariff which is due to come into operation as from February 16, 1930, is now being drawn up by a Commission of three. The development and protection of local production and industries are being aimed at in the new tariff, and a bureau has been set up to which manufacturers, producers, and others interested in the new tariff are invited to submit their claims. Mr. Mulock urges British firms and merchants interested in the Egyptian market to avail themselves of this invitation, and it is to be hoped that they will not fail to take advantage of this opportunity to put forward any necessary points. The Egyptian Government has shown itself keenly sensible of the importance of the trade relations between the two countries, and it may be taken for granted that the fullest consideration will be given to any representations that are made.

Government Trading.

Following the example of the Governments of other countries the Egyptian authorities have not hesitated in recent years to extend their activities into the commercial sphere. The various developments in this direction are detailed by Mr. Mulock in his report. The principal field has, of course, been in regard to cotton, and except in so far as the Government purchases have helped to sustain the price of the commodity—and its effect in this direction is rather a moot point, as the fact that a large amount of cotton is, so to speak, held over the market is bound to have an adverse result—it cannot be said that this venture has been satisfactory. On June 30, 1927, the stock amounted to 479,630 kantars, or roughly 119,907 bales, and the expense entailed in the purchase of the cotton and its storage explains why the Government were so

anxious to take advantage of the opportunity of disposing of a large portion of their stocks to Russia last summer, and therefore, Mr. Mulock points out, acceded to every demand in connexion with this transaction. Unfortunately expectations were not fulfilled, and in the period covered sales only totalled 12,300 bales, the shipments of which began in December at the rate of 2,000 bales per month. A more satisfactory fate has attended the Government scheme for loans on cotton. The sale of the cotton left on the Government's hands by borrowers resulted in a return which considerably exceeded the amount advanced, the interest due, and all other charges. Another field of activity is represented by the Government petroleum refinery at Suez, in regard to which Mr. Mulock points out that "expenditure—including cost of refining and the charges for interest and depreciation on the original cost of the refinery, viz., £230,000—is so high that a net profit on sales of the resultant products to Government Departments is only possible if they are charged prices greatly in excess of world prices." Various other commercial ventures have been entered upon with a view to assisting agriculture, and a scheme has been under view for entering a new field by the establishment of a factory for the manufacture of clothing from locally woven material and possibly boots. I have referred to these varied activities in no critical spirit. Governments and commerce have not proved in other countries to be the most suitable companions, and if in Egypt the authorities in the past few years have shown an enterprise which is perhaps not altogether justified by the position, it has to be borne in mind that the conditions in Egypt are peculiar to that country and that the Government has been actuated by the desire to give a helping hand to the country's economic progress where such could usefully be given.

COMMENTATOR.

TURKISH MARKET FOR JUTE CLOTH AND BAGS.

Large quantities of jute cloth and bags are used in Turkey, constituting as they do practically the only materials used in packing agricultural and animal products for export (says the American Commercial Attaché at Constantinople in a recent report). Owing to the particular manner in which the trade is handled, it is very difficult to obtain exact figures covering local consumption. Leading importers, however, estimate the annual imports of Calcutta jute cloth (Hessian) at about 5,000 bales of 2,000 yards each, and the imports of Continental goods at between 1,500 and 2,000 bales. Present annual imports of new jute bags are estimated at between 3,000 and 4,000 bales of 400 bags each, and of used or second-hand bags at between 1,000 and 2,000 bales per year.

The hearing was reported to be good on the occasion of the first telephone talk between Belgrade and London, which took place on September 19 through Paris.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

Country.	Method of Quoting.	Parity of Exchange.	Latest Quotations
Alexandria.....	Piastre to £	97½	97½
Amsterdam ...	Florins to £	12.107	12.09½
Athens	Drachmas to £ ...	25.22½	375
Belgrade	Dinars to £	25.22½	276
Berlin	Marks to £	20.43	20.34½
Berne	Francs to £	25.22½	25.20½
Bombay	Sterling to Rupee	18d.	18 18 1/32
Brussels	Belga to £	35	34 90
Bucharest	Lei to £	25.22½	798½
Budapest	Pen to £	27.82	27.84
Calcutta	Sterling to Rupee	18d.	18—18 1/32
Constantinople	Piastres to £	110	935
New York	Dollars to £	4.86 2-3	84 15/16
Paris	Francs to £	25.22½	124.10
Prague	Kronen to £	24.02	163½
Rome	Lire to £	25.22½	92.75
Sofia	Leva to £	25.22½	670
Teheran	Krans to £	47½	47½
Vienna	Sch to £	34.58	34.44
Warsaw	Zloty to £	25.22½	43 7/32

Engineering Topics.

Burdens on Industry.

A manifesto which I have just read, issued by the Industrial Peace Union, has considerable interest for engineering employers. It points out that the method adopted by the Union is to approach each industry by itself and obtain from it the data for its own case as to what it finds its chief drawback to larger trade in the home as well as in the foreign markets. In the past there has been a good deal of one trade speaking for another, chiefly because it felt that by so doing it could put a keener edge on its own axe. A typical instance of what is meant would be for one interested in the heavy iron and steel trade to take up the cudgels vigorously in support of the proposal to put an import duty on dolls' eyes or petrol lighters.

The following facts, however, taken from the cost book of a large industrial firm tell in striking figures what the present day burdens on industry mean as compared to pre-War days. Social charges increased not less than 225 per cent., rates and taxes up by no less than 300 per cent. Are these superimposed costs which fall on these British industries that employ man power, costs which are admittedly one of the causes which prevent our industries forging ahead, peculiar only to British producers?

The Engineers and Allied Employers' National Federation has already given an indication in the course of a recent memorandum which states that the engineering industry is compelled to raise the selling price of its products by at least nine or ten per cent. to meet increased overhead charges due to heavy taxation and local rating to cover the cost of social services, such social services being the best in the world. The Industrial Peace Union appeals to all engaged in industry to adopt certain principles which it has enunciated, in order to bring about a square deal between employer and employed and consumer, and it feels that in that way the best wages an industry can carry would be ensured to the average worker. Imperial legislation would give security, and a reasonable return would be afforded to the average manufacturer, whilst distributors, both wholesalers and retailers, would obtain a reasonable reward for the work they carried out. The herding of producers and consumers into separate camps which are regarded as being opposed to each other, is a fallacious and even an absurd policy. The great majority of consumers of one class of commodities are producers themselves of some other class. If production fails or even only falls off appreciably, consumption must also suffer; hence the consumer, by paying a fair price for British and foreign produce, will be indirectly but materially contributing to his own or her own economic welfare, and, by securing an all-round equitable bargain, peace in industry would become an accomplished fact, and all engaged in various walks of life would take a personal interest in the well-being of industry.

Road Construction.

Road engineers are anticipating a period of renewed activity and many regard it as practically certain that the traffic-carrying surfaces of most of our existing arterial roads will have to be doubled in width before many months elapse. Even that course, provided motor vehicle production continues at the same rate, and also provided that every owner of a light car sets his face like iron in a grim determination to drive in the centre of the fair way, will be merely a palliative measure, and more and more roads will have to be constructed. We get a curious feature here: It is possible that we shall have to resort to low temperature distillation of coal on a large scale to provide sufficient motor fuel for the great fleet of vehicles that may be expected. That distillation will result in the production of vast quantities of tars and tar oils, and in all probability the new road construction will find some use for these. High temperature distillation produces as a by-product a tar which, as everyone knows, is just the thing for road work. The advent of tar emulsions, in which tar is mixed with certain evaporative materials, has brought about a new era in the surface dressing of roads, and in a cold state these can be used easily and quickly for the patching and even the reconstruction of roads. Further, the road maker no longer fears the vagaries of the English climate, and it is as easy for him to carry out his work in the depth of winter as it is in the height of summer. The application of these emulsions can be made in any weather, including frost. The work can be completed speedily without loss of effectiveness in the resultant surface. Such speed means not only low labour cost but the additional advantage of being able to carry out the surface treatment of a road all the year round.

It is common knowledge that a good deal of criticism has been directed against the use of tar for road work. It should not be overlooked that much, if not all, of this has been brought about by the injudicious use of the material in some places. It is not an uncommon thing even to-day in this country to find crud or inferior tar being used for the spraying of roads and to find, further, that the gritting material used is neither the right kind nor the right quality. From this, as Mr. Cone, speaking on the subject said recently, it is not difficult to foresee complaints arising from motorists and other road users with regard to the "bleeding" of the surface in summer weather, and consequently splashing occasioned by the passage of vehicles over the road. The answer to this complaint is to be found on all roads where tarspraying has been carried out in accordance with the best practice. Given a tar of the right viscosity and otherwise conforming to specifications, whose application has been made in the correct manner with adequacy of gritting materials, immunity from the evil referred to is assured.

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TENDERS INVITED.

Tenders are invited for the following contracts, and must be made by the dates mentioned.

(Particulars of tenders marked D.O.T. are to be obtained from the Department of Overseas Trade, 55, Old Queen Street, S.W.1.)

EGYPT.

Clothing, Sheets, Blankets, Etc.—The Ministry of the Interior, Egypt, invites tenders for the supply of clothing, sheets, blankets, towels, etc., required for the Department of Public Health during the period September 1, 1928, to April 30, 1929. October 11. (D.O.T.)

Bridges.—The Egyptian Government invites tenders for the construction of two bridges. October 20 and 22. (D.O.T.)

Flanged Beams.—The Stores, Egyptian State Railways, Telegraphs, and Telephones, Saptieh, Cairo, invite tenders for the supply of 48 broad flanged beams and 12 steel joists, approximate total weight of 136 tons, for Sharabia subway. October 2, and for 9296 kilos solid drawn copper pipes. October 3.

Steel Boiler Stay Taps.—The Egyptian State Railways, Telegraphs and Telephones, invites tenders for 128 best high speed steel boiler stay taps and 112 reamers, 47 sets best cast steel boiler patch taps and 3 sets best high speed steel taps and 5 best cast steel taps for bushes.

Lock Gates, Etc.—The Resident Engineer, Delta Barrage Directorate, at Delta Barrage, invites tenders for (1) construction of eight lock gates for Damietta and Rosetta locks, both at Delta Barrage, and their delivery at site and erection in position; (2) construction of twenty regulator gates and their delivery at sites. November 1.

Marble Gauges.—The Inspector of Irrigation, Assiut Barrage Circle, Assiut, invites tenders for the supply of marble gauges. November 10.

Lighthouse Tower, Etc.—The Director-General, Ports and Lights Administration, Arsenal, Alexandria, invites tenders for the construction of a lighthouse tower and annexes on Daedalus Reef in the Red Sea. November 12.

Clothing, Etc.—The Director of Stores, Department of Public Health, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of clothing, soft and woollen, sheets, linen, napkins, blankets woollen, white and brown, material by metres, etc., required for the unexpired period of the year 1928-1929. October 11.

Portland Cement, Etc.—The General Management, Egyptian State Railways, Telegraphs and Telephones (Cairo Station), invites tenders for the supply of 6,000 metrical tons artificial Portland cement, October 30; and for the supply of materials and works connected with the replacement of the superstructures of 4 fixed bridges of the Sherbin-Kallin line and the adaptation of the abutments to the new superstructures. This project includes, among others, the supply and laying of the following materials: Reinforced concrete, about 3 c.m. and rolled, cast, etc., steel, about 38 tons. November 10.

INDIA.

Pipe Line and Pump.—The India Stores Department invites tenders for the supply of a pipe line and pump. October 14. (D.O.T.)

Radial Gates.—The Indian Stores Department invites tenders for the supply of radial gates for the head and cross regulators for main canals and branches. November 6. (D.O.T.)

TURKEY.

Tape.—The Direction des Achats du Bureau des Postes et Telegraphes at Constantinople invites tenders for the supply of 10,000 rolls of tape. October 17. (D.O.T.)

Grindstones and Emery Stones.—The Military Authorities at Angora invite tenders for the supply of grindstones and emery stones. October 17. (D.O.T.)

Points and Crossings, Etc.—The Direction Generale des Fabriques Militaires at Angora invites tenders for the supply of points, crossings, rails and fishplates. October 25. (D.O.T.)

NEWS FROM ALL SOURCES.

The output of the Anglo-Egyptian Oilfields for the week ended September 21 amounted to 5,081 tons.

Messrs. Dorman, Long and Co., Ltd., Middlesbrough have obtained a contract for galvanised iron for the Egyptian State Railways.

The Yugoslav duty on imported molasses is being reduced on October 1 from 8 to 1½ dinars per 100 kilograms.

The erection has been started at Comarnic of the first artificial silk factory to be established in Roumania.

The Sentinel Waggon Works, Shrewsbury, have obtained a contract for three 100 h.p. special type six-wheeled locomotives for the Bombay, Baroda, and Central India Railway Company.

A recent Syrian Decree establishes a duty of ¼ piastre (gold) per litre on benzine consumed in Syria. Importers are required to notify to the authorities the amount of benzine imported, and the tax will be collected when the product enters the municipal or private depôts.

The Egyptian *Journal Official* publishes a Ministerial Decree which exempts maize and wheat bran, flax thread and tow produced in Egypt from Customs and Quay duties on their exportation.

The Statistical Department of the Egyptian Ministry of Finance announces that the total imports into Egypt during August were £E3,897,627, as against £E3,918,747 in the corresponding period of last year, while the exports totalled £E3,390,767 against £E3,462,146. Of the total exports cotton accounted for £E2,763,585 against £E2,916,734 a year ago.

The Egyptian Ministry of Communications is budgeting in the coming financial year for a number of schemes, including a railway from Kena, on the Nile below Luxor, across the desert to Kosseir on the Red Sea coast, and the extension of the western desert line to Mersamatruh. Further, a sum of £E70,000 is being allocated for the purchase of a steamer which will form the nucleus of an Egyptian mercantile fleet. Provision is also made for the expenditure of £E80,000 for a river steamer and barges, and £E25,000 for motor-cars and motor-lorries.

FORTHCOMING SAILINGS.

The following are the sailings for the Near East and India, the ports of departure and closing dates for cargo being given in parentheses:—

Anchor Line.—S.s. Assyria for Bombay (Birkenhead, September 25). (For passenger sailings and dates see advertisement.)

Anchor Brocklebank Line.—S.s. Malakand for Calcutta (Birkenhead, September 8).

Bibby Line.—S.s. Cheshire for Port Said, Port Sudan, Colombo, and Rangoon (Birkenhead, October 3).

British India Line.—S.s. Dumana for Bombay and Karachi (London, September 29); s.s. Mandala for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, October 6); s.s. Domala for Bombay and Karachi (London, October 20).

Cunard Line.—S.s. Bactria for Gibraltar, Malta, Patras, Piræus, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, and Constantza (Liverpool, Glasgow, and Swansea, September 29); s.s. Brescia for Casablanca, Gibraltar, Genoa, Leghorn, Naples, Palermo, Messina, Catania, Bari, Gruz, Venice, Trieste, and Fiume (Liverpool October 13, and Swansea October 16).

Johnston Line.—S.s. Jessmore for Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, September 29); s.s. Dromore for Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, October 13).

P. and O. Line.—S.s. Rajputana for Bombay (London, September 28); s.s. Novara for Calcutta (London, September 29); s.s. Delta for Bombay (London, October 4); s.s. Ranchi for Bombay (London, October 12); s.s. Burdwan for Calcutta (London, October 13).

Prince Line.—S.s. Syrian Prince for Tunis, Malta, Alexandria, Jaffa, Haifa, Beyrout, and Cyprus (Manchester, October 9); s.s. Indian Prince for Tunis, Malta, Alexandria, Jaffa, Haifa, Beyrout, Tripoli, Alexandretta, Mersina, and Cyprus (London, October 13).

Ellerman and Papayanni Lines.—S.s. Flaminian for Malta, Alexandria, Jaffa*, and Haifa* (Liverpool, September 29); s.s. Lesbian for Genoa, Leghorn, Naples, Palermo, Messina, Catania, Bari, Gruz*, Ancona*, Venice, Trieste, and Fiume (Liverpool October 3, Swansea October 6); s.s. Fabian for Gibraltar, Jaffa*, and Haifa* (Liverpool, October 6); s.s. Roumelian for Patras, Piræus, Volo*, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza (Liverpool, October 6); s.s. Polo for Algiers*, Piræus, Volo*, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, and Constantza (Liverpool, October 27). *Subject to sufficient inducement. Cargo taken on through Bill of Lading to:—Algerian ports via Algiers; Moroccan ports via Gibraltar; Tripoli (Barbary) via Malta; Syria and Cyprus via Alexandria. Greek outports via Piræus or other convenient port.

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*BRIT NINA	Oct. 9	*CASTALIA	Nov. 27
CALIFORNIA	Oct. 24	*CIRCASSIA	Dec. 11

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SPECIAL NOTICE.

NEW T.S.S. CALIFORNIA. 17,000 TONS, carrying 1st, 2nd and 3rd class passengers, sails from LIVERPOOL, October 24; MARSEILLES, October 30. All 1st and 2nd class state rooms are fitted with Punka Louvers and with Fans.

This vessel has exceptionally fine 3rd class accommodation.

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THE WEEK'S FINANCE.

(By Our Financial Expert.)

London, September 25.

As the holiday season draws to a close there are signs of an increase in public interest in the Stock Markets. The week has witnessed a moderate turnover of stock, with prices generally firm and attention chiefly centred on the miscellaneous market. Gilt-edged stocks have been fairly steady, the monetary situation militating against buoyancy. The pound remains weak in terms of the dollar, but the Bank of England has further strengthened its position and thus the Bank is easily able to meet any demands for gold that may arise. Home rails have improved slightly on better traffic figures and a more hopeful trade outlook. A feature of the beginning of the week was the strong demand for bank and insurance shares, but subsequently the latter weakened owing to fears of losses due to the hurricane in the Gulf of Mexico. Nitrate shares advanced and cable stocks were also better. The speculative markets have not been conspicuous, tin shares being an exception.

Textile Shares.

There has recently been some interest shown in textile shares, the securities of the larger and more prosperous companies being chiefly in demand. Apparently the outlook for the industry has lately brightened. The American crop promises to be considerably larger than a year ago, thus ensuring cheaper cotton. Moreover, there is a more hopeful feeling with regard to the situation in China and India. It should not be supposed, however, that any very substantial revival is in sight. Nor should the need for the greatest caution regarding textile shares be overlooked. Many companies are in an extremely serious position. This scarcely needs emphasis in view of the grave tone of the reports of the many investigating bodies that have been published. Fortunately, there appears to be increasing recognition of the seriousness of the industry's position, and it is earnestly to be hoped that at long last remedies will be applied on the right lines. Meanwhile, it is noteworthy that some of the large companies are able to earn what must in the circumstances be regarded as fairly good profits. These companies in-

clude the Fine Cotton Spinners and Doublers' Association—whose ordinary shares yield £6 per cent., and the English Sewing Cotton Company, whose ordinary shares return £5 13s. per cent. In particular the shares of the former are in demand for investment purposes. Companies engaged in the finishing section of the industry have maintained a good level of prosperity, the majority having earned between 11 per cent. and 18 per cent. on their ordinary capital. Some shares, including those of the Bradford Dyers' Association and the Calico Printers' Association, give a modest yield, but offer a more reasonable return.

Match Finance.

During recent weeks match shares have attracted attention, since it has been understood that certain re-financing arrangements have been in preparation. Particulars of the first of these arrangements have been announced this week, the company concerned being Kreuger and Toll Company, the great Swedish trust undertaking. Participating debentures have been issued for a nominal total of Kr45,000,000. These debentures rank equally in all respects with the Kr20,000,000 debentures which were placed in July. They carry interest at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum, and are entitled to additional interest at the rate of 1 per cent. per annum for each 1 per cent. by which the dividend on the ordinary shares in any fiscal year exceeds 5 per cent. The present dividend rate on the ordinary shares is 25 per cent. per annum. Of the present issue Kr17,000,000 has been sold to a European banking group, of which Kr8,500,000 are being offered to the present share and debenture holders in the proportion of one for every ten at present held, and Kr8,500,000 are being sold privately, the price of issue being Kr525, equivalent to £29 per Kr100 debenture. The Kreuger and Toll Company and its American subsidiary are the largest stock-holders in the Swedish Match Company which, with its associated concerns, is the largest match manufacturing organisation in the world. An important part of the business of the Swedish Match Company consists in obtaining Government concessions for the sole right to manufacture and sell matches in various countries, and since this has assumed such large dimensions, involving the handling of substantial blocks of Government securities, it has been decided to transfer to a separate organisation the handling of such securities. It is arranged that Kreuger and Toll Company should constitute this organisation.

The First Co-operative Investment Trust.

Many readers of these notes are familiar with the First Co-operative Investment Trust Ltd., which has just issued its accounts for the half-year ended July 31 last. This undertaking, formed four years ago, set itself the task of making a special appeal to the small investor. That it has not been unsuccessful in this direction is shown by the fact that its capital has grown from £28,691 at the beginning of 1925 to £1,408,719 at the end of last July. Doubtless a considerable attraction has consisted in the ability of the undertaking to pay a dividend of 7 per cent. since its inception. The latest accounts, however, show that this rate is not being earned with an appreciable margin. Indeed, it would not be surprising if some shareholders asked the directors whether they had considered the advisability of pursuing a more cautious dividend policy. After paying the dividend at the rate of 7 per cent. per annum the balance forward is only £1,612, which compares with £2,333. No allocation is made to reserve, whereas in the previous two half-years sums were placed to reserves. This is the more noteworthy since the trust—which, it should be remembered, is not old-established—has a reserve for the equalisation of dividends of no more than £6,500. In this connexion it should be noted that interest rates are tending gradually downwards. Finally, the trust's investments are obviously chosen with a view to obtaining a good yield.

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BEIRA—Beira Shipping Agency.
DELAGOA BAY—John T.
DURBAN—Andrew Weir & Co.
EAST LONDON—Messrs. Dunn
PT. ELIZABETH—Mackie, Dunn
& Co.

MOSSEL BAY—Messrs. E.
Searle & Co.
CAPE TOWN—Thomson,
Watson & Co.
HONG KONG—The Bank Line,
Ltd.
BANGKOK—Siam Forest Co.,
Ltd.
SINGAPORE—Hattenbach Bros
& Co.
MAURITIUS—Adam & Co.

LONDON—ANDREW WEIR & CO., 21, Bury Street, E.C.3

THE COMING MOTOR SHOW.

In two week's time we shall have the opening of the Motor Show at Olympia, and it is quite safe to say that this event is awaited this time with even greater interest than usual on account of the rapid way in which the use of the motor is spreading. The attraction of Olympia is obvious for there is to be seen the most comprehensive and largest display of motor cars, accessories and novelties in the world. All motor car producing nations will be represented.

It will be found that the new models are not merely relatively, but actually are, in many cases, below pre-War prices, and for luxury and quality of fittings are vastly superior to pre-War models. Mechanically, too, there is no comparison, the standard in this respect, whether it be for output, speed, reliability, or economy of fuel and oil, being at a higher level than the pre-War standards. Bodywork is also admirable for comfort and the special requirements of the vast proportion of present owner-drivers. The trend is all towards catering for this increasingly important body, and it finds expression in the score and more fittings, layouts and new accessories all making for comfort and elegance.

The important factor of safety is illustrated by such universal fittings as dipping head-lamps, collision fenders, four-wheel breaks, non-splintering glass screens, screen wipers and tyres of a quality and with a longevity never attained before the War. Briefly, no matter what the item Olympia will reveal that it has been anticipated, provided, and standardised as inclusive equipment of the great majority of models.

A Six-Cylinder Year.

1929 promises to be a six-cylinder car year. The small "six" has passed the novice stage of a year or two back, and wonderful results have been standardised as regards accelerativeness, speed, higher compression, better ignition, and carburation, silent running at all speeds, cleanliness of exterior, assisted water circulation, and among larger models, the special economy attaching to a thermostat or self-regulating temperature controller. The "straight-eight" will be found to have increased its hold, and is no longer confined to the more expensive and higher power rated models.

Coil and battery ignition has found more favour with increase of cylinders, and automatic timing by magneto and by coil-distributor promises to be featured. Carburation, too, has not been neglected; indeed, the demand arising from increased cylinders, higher compression and the likely increased use of anti-pinking fuels would not permit this item of essential equipment to be ignored. Superchargers, though still a luxury fitting, will be seen more than at last Show, and in a variety of models novelty will be found in fuel feed systems.

A forward move has been made in insulating engines and other components liable to set up or transmit drumming from vibration. Engines are now comparatively vibrationless; it remains to damp out noise from other sources.

Gear-change is simplified, and a further return to the off-side position of the lever may be looked for. Four-speed gear sets will be found on some American cars, and some novelty in the layout of a few European gear-boxes will be shown. Free-wheels, too, may be looked for though for a while longer they will belong to the list of luxury rather than standardised fittings.

Labour-saving devices and controls in gear change and in braking, are among the novelties promised. The

"Servo" brake control has become standardised, and development of the principle is promised in other directions. Other forms of power-assisted or direct power controlled braking and gear changing, clutch and steering control will be awaited.

Back-axle drives will witness to a larger interest in improved spiral bevel-gear layouts, a notable development being anticipated on the part of two or three leading high-class makers. Gear cutting and gear grinding has raised the standard of gear silence.

Suspension systems have been revised, and the improvements will be found to take such forms as lower frames, anti-rolling devices for cornering at high speeds, shock absorbers of the hydraulic and pneumatic forms, and independent wheel suspension.

Some Improvements.

The increasing army of owner-drivers and owner-mechanics will find a remarkable advance in the things which minister to comfort. Whether they prefer the all metal saloon body or the fabric sort, both types have been made still more competitive and attractive. The all-metal standardised body is free from drumming, while the material of the fabric sort has been softened and smoothed in texture as now to be comparable with a stretched glove. Pneumatic seat cushions and upholstery, vibration-proof rubber matting and flooring will be found to facilitate the cleaning of the car in the home garage. Windows and doors have been improved for silence and the exclusion of draughts, and special attention has been given towards making the driving of covered cars easier in traffic. The convertible (open-closed) type of car holds a few surprises, and several ingenious mechanisms and head layouts are likely to be seen in this connexion.

The "Sports" type of standard chassis and car is likely to be a favourite next season. It is in this type that the efforts of a few designers will be found concentrated. Low weight and the maximum of power have been successfully blended with an elegant appearance. Non-tarnishing fittings are to be featured; a rub of a damp cloth being sufficient both to clean and renew the lustre of chromium treated fittings.

Central oiling and simplified oil points made fewer by the use of non-metallic joints and shackles for suspension springs, will attract attention and approval. Important developments are promised along these lines of labour-saving equipment.

More comfortable bodies may be looked for on chassis which have been widened, and now conform to the 4ft. 8 in. standard for track width. Power-driven tyre inflators will be more prominently featured in medium and large cars; and space for the spare wheel and tyre and for touring requirements has been more amply considered and provided; and the battery has been given a place easier of access where such was desirable.

Accessories.

The largest section of all the Motor Show is that devoted to Accessories and Components. For this year's Show, all records have been beaten for outstanding quality and variety of useful fittings for car and garage and for the comfort of drivers and passengers. Special mention may be made of utility equipment such as inflators, jacks on trolleys, both of the simple straight lift or cantilever forms, tools and tool benches, driving mirrors, parking lights, luggage carriers and trunks, spare wheel outfits and lamps for garage and car.

The Olympia standard of body design and workmanship has been consistently high, and unfettered by the inroads of standardisation. This year's display promises to be worthy of that tradition. British carriage work at some Shows has been ahead of the chassis for which it was intended; this year's display will be in keeping with the trend towards differentiating more expensive cars from others. Several colour and style "creations" are expected, and buyers will have a special difficulty in deciding amid the selection offered.

British Consular Reports

VI.—EGYPT.

The following extracts dealing with trade are taken from the report of Mr. E. Homan Mulock, Commercial Secretary, the Residency, Cairo, on the Economic and Financial Situation of Egypt as at May last :—

The total value of imports into Egypt in 1927, amounting to £E48,685,128, is lower than that for 1926 by £E3,714,931, but as £E491,860 of this is due to a decrease in tobacco, the net decline in the value of merchandise imported, with which the following remarks deal, amounts to £E3,223,071. Strictly speaking, this latter figure, and, of course, the total decrease as well, should be reduced by about £E350,000 as the result of the importation, at the close of 1927, of 35,000 tons of nitrate of soda, which have only been excluded from the customs statistics for that year because the duty was deposited, and will not actually be paid until 1928. It is only fair that the imports for 1927 should be credited with this, because it cancels one of the chief factors in the total decrease by reducing the difference between the value of imports of nitrate of soda in 1926 and 1927 from the formidable amount of £E416,832 to the comparatively modest sum of £E66,832. The resultant decrease in the value of merchandise imported, viz., £E2,873,000, is due to the following factors :—

(a) Increased local production of cereals, flour and rice, consequent on the legislative restriction of the area under cotton, which is responsible for no less than £E1,622,600 of the total decrease.

(b) Reduction in the price of different kinds or categories of articles, of which 36 have increased in quantity although they contribute in the aggregate £E437,500 towards the total decrease.

(c) A decrease of £E445,000 in the total value of imports on Government account.

(d) Replacement of wood for building by reinforced concrete accounting for £E359,000 of the total decrease, and resulting in an increase of £E100,000 in the value of and 45,000 tons in the volume of cement imports.

(e) The effect of increased activity in the local weaving industry on imports of artificial silk cloths, resulting in a decrease in their value of £E31,000, accompanied by an increase in imports of artificial silk yarn of £60,000 kilos in weight and £E23,000 in value.

It will be observed that the sum total of these tangible factors, none of which can be ignored, slightly exceeds the total decrease of £E2,873,000, and that none of them is symptomatic of the alleged decline in the purchasing power of the country.

The principal imports which have increased in value and volume are artificial silk yarn, benzine, cement, cheese, coal, cotton piece-goods, cotton yarn, electric wire and cable, jute piece-goods and sacks, matches, mazout (oil fuel), motor vehicles, nitrate of lime, railway rolling stock, silk cloths, soap, sugar (raw and refined cane), superphosphate, and rubber tyres for motors and cycles. Imports which show an appreciable increase (either proportionate or relative) in value, but whose quantity is not specified, include artificial silk hosiery, electrical and miscellaneous machinery, medicinal preparations, perfumery, printed matter, and wine in casks.

The principal articles, in which an appreciable decrease in quantity and value (i.e., £E20,000 and upwards) has taken place, are boots, shoes (leather), carpets, cereals, flour and rice, copper and brass sheets, dried fruit, fish (salted), gold bullion, iron and steel goods, kerosene, machinery, mineral lubricating oils, printing paper, railway sleepers (wooden), sewing cotton, mixed silk textiles, sugar (beet), wood for building, woollen textiles. Of the 36 imports referred to above, which have decreased in

value but increased in quantity, those which are chiefly responsible for the contribution of £E437,500 to the total decrease in imports are the following (the extent of their respective contributions being shown in brackets after each) :—Coffee (£E119,500), nitrate of soda (£E66,800), tea (£E49,000), railway locomotives (£E45,000), mixed cotton textiles (£E31,000), fresh fruit (£E22,000), jute sacks unspecified (£E17,700), bedsteads (£E13,500), coconut oil (£E10,000), wrapping paper (£E6,400), and cardboard (£E9,000).

It is of interest and importance to observe that the total cargo landed in 1927 was 1,281,210 tons greater than that for 1926. Even allowing for the contribution of coal thereto, viz., 449,131 tons, the resultant net increase in the volume of all other imports is considerable.

British Trade.

The country chiefly responsible for the increase in volume of trade is the United Kingdom, the total cargo landed from British ships in 1927 being 742,011 tons in excess of that for 1926; but although the increase, shown below, in British supplies of coal accounted for so large a proportion of this, it is satisfactory to note there have been noticeable increases, either relative or proportionate, in other imports from the United Kingdom. The comparative statistics given hereunder are eloquent of Great Britain's recovery from the coal stoppage and of her almost complete recapture of this important market :—

	COAL IMPORTS IN 1926 AND 1927.		Value in £E.	
	Metric tons.		1926.	1927.
United Kingdom ...	603,060	1,249,279	853,516	1,856,298
Germany ...	119,518	50,863	232,535	84,617
United States ...	151,885	64,427	359,878	95,058
Other countries ...	63,730	22,755	119,892	36,172
Total ...	938,193	1,387,324	1,565,821	2,072,145

The other imports from the United Kingdom referred to above are cotton piece-goods and railway trucks and carriages, so far as large relative increases are concerned, while noticeable proportionate increases, ranging from £E20,000 to £E42,000, have taken place in mixed woollen and worsted textiles, cast iron pipes and fittings, motor vehicles, electrical and miscellaneous machinery, and electric wire and cable, and cement; and from £E5,000 to £E12,000 in hemp yarn, iron or steel goods unspecified, motor cycles, machine tools, motor vessels, varnishes and stationery. Proportionate slight increases, ranging from £E2,000 to £E14,000, have occurred in silver bullion, household soap, medicinal preparations, tin ingots, bars and slabs, mosquito netting, hemp rope and cord, and woollen yarn.

The principal imports from the United Kingdom in which a marked decrease, either relative or proportionate, has occurred are :—Iron or steel rails and sleepers, constructed works, axle wheels and springs, stationary internal combustion engines and power pumps, steamships and launches, all of which depend wholly or largely on the nature or extent of Government requirements. Those which do not are iron or steel sheets and plates, pipes and fittings, and hoops and strips, wheat flour, cotton yarn, copper and brass sheets.

Although it must be understood that the above lists of imports in which increases or decreases have occurred are not comprehensive, the net result is most satisfactory, as the total value of imports from the United Kingdom has increased by £E1,076,980, or nearly 9.5 per cent., thereby raising her share of the total from 21.8 per cent. to 25.6 per cent.

On the other hand, imports from the rest of the Empire, including the mandated territories of Iraq and Palestine, have fallen by £E1,029,932, or 17 per cent., thus reducing their share of the total from 11.5 per cent. to 10.3 per cent. Thanks, however, to the success of the United

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Kingdom the British Empire's proportion of the total imports has risen from 33.3 per cent. to 35.9 per cent. The decrease in the case of the rest of the Empire is largely due to the sensational decline in Egypt's cereal, flour and rice requirements, which accounts for all but £E96,000 of the figure quoted above. This balance consists chiefly of a decline of some £E50,000 in coffee from Aden and British East Africa, £E25,000 in mineral lubricating oils from British Borneo and Straits Settlements, and a net decrease in tea of £E20,000.

Competition.

Mention has already been made of the decrease in the value of imports from all of the United Kingdom's principal competitors, excepting Japan (whose increase is entirely accounted for by cotton piece-goods), and there is only one other amongst the principal importing countries to show an increase in value, viz., Russia. In the case of France and Italy this decrease is attributed to reluctance on the part of many wholesale importers of their goods to buy largely owing to the relative stabilisation of their currencies. However this may be, their volume of trade does not appear to have suffered, since the total increase in cargo landed from French vessels amounts to 86,000 tons, and from Italian ships to 82,000 tons, representing increases of 45 per cent. and 15 per cent. respectively. In the case of Germany this increase amounts to 74,700 tons, or nearly 33 per cent., although the value of her share in a large number of imports has decreased in varying proportions. In the case of coal and miscellaneous machinery it is the United Kingdom who is responsible for the loss of German trade, but considerable decreases have also occurred in stationary internal combustion engines, power pumps, ironmongery, chemical manures (unspecified), woollen goods, printing and wrapping paper.

Cotton Piece-goods.—The outstanding features of the trade in the five chief categories of cotton piece-goods have been the following:—(a) A marked increase in volume and value of total imports amounting to 48,991,122 sq. metres and £E854,089 respectively. (b) An increase of 28,706,199 sq. metres in volume and £E363,766 in value of the United Kingdom's share of the trade. (c) The increase in strength towards the close of 1927 of Italian, and throughout the year of Japanese competition, which mostly accounted for a decline in the United Kingdom's percentage of the total volume from 66.06 per cent. in 1926 to 64.43 per cent. in 1927, and in the case of the total value from 61.8 per cent. to 58.5 per cent. (d) The keen competition between Italy and Japan in heavy goods dyed in the yarn, which was mainly responsible for the fact that whereas the Italian share of the total value and volume increased by only £E131,131 and 4,855,897 sq. metres, that of Japan rose by no less than £E344,042 and 13,568,315 sq. metres.

The United Kingdom increased her trade in grey goods, particularly in the lighter qualities, thanks to increased demand for the finer lines rather than to any falling away in competition, the net result being that the United Kingdom's proportion of the total import rose from 56.86 per cent. in 1926 to 60.56 per cent. in 1927. Japanese competition was intense throughout 1927, particularly in cabots, although her percentage of the whole trade fell from 42.20 per cent. in 1926 to 36.22 per cent. in 1927. The United Kingdom more than maintained her position in imports of bleached goods, as shown by the rise in her share of the total business in these lines from 94.86 per cent. in 1926 to 96.14 per cent. in 1927. With the exception of a slight increase in imports from Holland, foreign competition made practically no headway, from which it would seem reasonable to conclude that the repeated efforts by Continental manufacturers to capture the bleached goods trade have not met with the success they anticipated. Although United Kingdom deliveries of printed goods increased during the year under review, her percentage of the total trade declined from 71.94 per cent. in 1926 to 68.81 per cent. in 1927.

The trend of United Kingdom trade in woollen goods

reflected in varying degrees the general falling off in imports, the divergencies therefrom consisting of a slight rise in British supplies of woollen hosiery, and an appreciable increase in those of mixed textiles known as woollens or worsteds, in each case in spite of a reduced total import. In the latter case imports fell from £E330,419 in 1926 to £E278,94 in 1927, whereas the corresponding British share rose from £E71,868 to £E100,435, thereby elevating the United Kingdom from third to first place, while Italy had to undergo the reverse process, France in each year being a close second. Further, the decline in British imports of woollen and worsted cloths was not so acute as that of the total from all countries, with the result that the British share of the 1927 total, viz., £E567,440, was 53 per cent., as compared with 48 per cent., of the 1926 total, i.e., £E687,704. The only country whose imports of these goods increased, and only slightly at that, was France, who was the United Kingdom's chief competitor in most lines of woollen textiles in 1927, with Czechoslovakia, Germany and Italy vying with each other for the third place as a general rule. Owing to the normally short winter season in Egypt the woollen goods trade in articles of wearing apparel is necessarily somewhat circumscribed, but there are always openings during the buying season for lighter weights and variety articles.

Machinery and Engineering Goods.

So far as the future is concerned British engineering firms who specialise in railway material must bear in mind that the three years' abnormal renewals programme of the Egyptian State Railways came to an end with the completion on April 30, 1928, of the financial year under review, and that, consequently, rapidity of delivery will only in exceptional cases be a primary consideration.

It should be pointed out that the imports of stationary internal combustion engines and power pumps do not include those ordered from the United Kingdom in connexion with a Government contract for a pumping station at Amria, worth £E53,000, which was secured some time ago by a British firm. For reasons given in the report dated May, 1927, this material has been delayed, and has only recently been delivered. It will therefore figure in the imports for 1928, as will also an appreciable proportion of the engines and pumps required for the execution of five contracts for pumping stations recently placed by the Egyptian Government of a total approximate value of £E498,345. Although only one of these contracts, viz., that for Belqas, was secured by a United Kingdom firm, it is some consolation to know that it was the most valuable of them, the tender price being £E181,325 for the supply and erection of three 2,500 k.w. turbo-alternator groups and accessories. The success of foreign competition was due partly to consideration being given to price rather than to quality, and partly to the preference of the Egyptian Government for the old "open" type of Diesel engine over the more modern "closed" design.

It is satisfactory to note in connexion with British imports of machine tools in 1927 that Germany, who held pride of place in 1926 with £E19,769 worth, has fallen to second place in 1927 with a total of £E10,976.

British imports of electrical machinery trebled in 1927 and raised the United Kingdom from second to first place with a share of £E61,756 out of a total from all countries of £E212,260, which in turn is nearly 40 per cent. higher than the 1926 total. Imports from Italy and the United States remained constant, but Belgian and Swiss supplies were respectively nearly trebled and doubled, while German imports appreciably declined, and France, in spite of a slight increase, dropped from first to second place.

It is also satisfactory to note that although France is principally responsible for the rise in the total value of miscellaneous machinery imports from £E556,273 to £E601,852, the corresponding British share, which continues to be predominant, has increased from £E243,847 in 1926 to £E268,990. Imports from the other principal importing countries, viz., Belgium, Germany, Holland,

Switzerland and the United States, have increased in varying degrees.

Motor Vehicles.

The insignificant part taken by the United Kingdom (in spite of an appreciable proportionate increase in her imports over 1926) in this ever-expanding market is clearly shown by the following statistics:—

MOTOR CARS AND CHASSIS COMPLETE.

	1927.	£E
United Kingdom	360	71,060
France	658	150,090
Italy	1,187	224,195
United States	2,559	371,767
Total, including other countries ...	4,870	840,509

MOTOR TRUCKS, 'BUSES, AND LORRIES.

	1927.	£E
United Kingdom	37	14,012
France	81	27,245
U.S.A.	616	60,849
Total, including other countries ...	753	107,386

It should be noted that the number of motor 'buses imported in 1926 and 1927 amounted only to 21 in each year, of which 10 came from the United States, 4 from France and the remainder from other countries.

Although, pending the enforcement of new motor 'bus regulations which will exclude all of the existing vehicles that are composed of jerry-built bodies precariously perched on light lorry chassis, there is no demand for the finished article among the 300 odd native owners of one or two such makeshift 'buses, it would popularise British made motor 'buses in advance, if manufacturers were to show more enterprise than has hitherto been apparent in introducing their products to the Cairo public. There are at the present moment four British-made motor 'buses in circulation, which have been acquired by one of the chief local 'bus proprietors, but as there are 33 different 'bus routes in Cairo and no less than 464 'buses actually running in the city, and over 500 in the provinces within the jurisdiction of the Cairo traffic authorities, the potential advertising value of these four pioneers is necessarily very limited. It should also be remembered that the potential market for motor 'buses is by no means confined to those for public use; the number of hotels, schools, clubs and religious institutions which either own or hire such vehicles is steadily increasing.

So far as the market for private cars and taxi-cabs is concerned, United Kingdom manufacturers ought to be able to secure more than the present 8 per cent. of the value and 7.4 per cent. of the number imported from all countries in 1927 by giving more adequate support to their local representatives and to the opportunities offered them of facilities for increasing sales. An outstanding instance of both of these factors is afforded by the possibilities of the hire-purchase system as applied to motor sales, in respect of which encouragement might well be given to the local representatives of British manufacturers.

These principles have already been applied effectively in connection with public vehicles; and thanks to the enterprise of, and special facilities, the bulk of the taxi-cabs now in circulation have been supplied by them, and many are now owned by their drivers.

There has been a considerable increase, thanks to the prevailing preference for the British product, in the total number and value of motor cycles imported. The number has risen from 241 to 455 and the corresponding value from £E11,351 to £E20,240, the British share in 1926 being 168 valued at £E7,983 and 378 worth £E17,016 in 1927.

The Bulgarian Government has informed the foreign Legations in Sofia that it is unable to consider the recent protest against the increase in Customs duties.

THE SMYRNA FRUIT MARKET.

Messrs. C. J. Giraud and Co., of Smyrna, report as follows on market conditions for the week ended September 15:—

Sultanas.

The estimated arrivals on the Smyrna market since the opening of the season total 14,300 tons as against 16,400 tons for the corresponding period of 1917; the estimated sales to date are put at 11,200 tons as against 13,000 tons.

Closing prices Smyrna, per cwt., c.i.f. London, for types 12 to 17 and 1, 3, and 5:—34s. 6d.; 36s.; 38s. 6d.; 41s. 6d.; 45s. 6d.; 53s. 6d.; 62s.; 65s.; 42s.; 36s.

Market Conditions.—Business throughout the week continued active, sales recorded totalling about 4,000 tons. In this figure is included a good deal of fruit purchased for account of the Alcohol Monopoly which came on to the market this week for the first time this season.

The Alcohol Monopoly purchases have had a very steadying effect on prices, especially for low grades, as needy sellers find a prompt sale for all inferior fruit at what is now practically established as a bottom price on the market, representing the equivalent of about 34s. 6d. c.i.f. Liverpool or fls. 38 c.i.f. Hamburg.

The belief obtains that low grades will not decline below the present level, and this will certainly be the case so long as the Monopoly continues operating, as their actions appear to be inspired by Government policy. Prices generally over the week have been well maintained, and, on balance, show some slight improvement as compared with last week's closing level.

Figs.

The arrivals on the Smyrna market since the opening of the season are estimated at 9,582 tons as against 11,980 tons for the same period of last year; the sales to date are put at 9,186 tons as against 11,164 tons.

Market Conditions.—Throughout the week the market has ruled very firm on an active demand, closing strong with indications of an upward tendency in prices being soon established. It is now a definite fact that the general quality of this year's production is disappointing and that in all grades a certain proportion of smutty figs cannot be avoided.

Just now and over the coming fortnight the movement of the crop is at its highest point, and it will be possible to ascertain with some degree of accuracy over the next ten days how far short of expectations the yield is likely to prove.

CYPRUS CROPS.

The August report on Cyprus crops states that the threshing of wheat is nearly completed. The crop is anticipated to be 30 to 40 per cent. less than that of last year. Prices are stationary at about 6s. 6cp. to 7s. per bushel. The production of barley is about equal to that of last year. Prices range from 3s. per bushel. The production of oats is about 50 per cent. below that of last year. The price is 3s. per bushel. The collection of carobs has commenced. The production will be much below that of last year. Prices opened between 22s. and 25s. the kantar delivered at stores, as compared with 18s. the kantar at the same time last year.

Planting for the winter crop of potatoes is still proceeding; the area, owing of shortage of water, will be less than last year. The export of the summer crop to Greece and Egypt continues. The quality is not up to that of the previous year owing to attacks of *lila*. The onion crop is excellent; the production is in excess of last year. The price is £6 per ton. The production of cotton is less than last year owing to the lack of rain. The price of seed cotton is 4s. 2d. per stone. The new crop is coming in and the price is tending to fall. The gathering of the tobacco crop is going on, and the production in both quality and quantity is expected to be good. Opening prices for unfermented leaf are 4½d. to 7d. per lb. for average quality.

The production of oranges is below that of last year owing to abnormal weather conditions in the spring. The lemon crop is fair; offers are 13s. per 1,000. There is a record grape crop and a good wine year is in prospect. Large quantities of grapes are being exported to Egypt, where they realise 1s. 8d. to 2s. 3d. per stone. The drying of raisins has commenced. The production of pomegranates may be a little less than last year, owing to the trees being attacked by an insect pest. Exporters are now offering 6d. to 10d. per stone. The fig crop is good; the price is 1s. 5d. per stone.

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THE LIVERPOOL COTTON MARKET.

Messrs. Reynolds and Gibson report as follows for the week ended September 19:—

Egyptian Futures.—Sakel Contract.—Values in this market have declined steadily for the greater part of the week, poor Alexandria advices, restricted trade support, and more optimistic crop reports all combining to encourage "bearish" sentiment and to create a distinctly nervous and unsettled undertone. For some time past producers of fine yarns both in this country and on the Continent have met with a very disappointing demand, and this has undoubtedly led to the substitution on an extensive scale of other and cheaper varieties; we are now in process of determining at what difference Sakel cotton will regain its former prominence. In this connexion it has to be noted that our contract has further closed in value with the American market during the week to about 725 points; under present conditions this figure seems excessive and one which, whilst the offtake may show some improvement, is not yet sufficiently attractive to cause a general turn round in favour of our cotton. With the crop movement just about to commence, the Alexandria market is obviously feeling the effects of the lack of new crop orders. In a normal year exporters accumulate forward sales, which in part neutralise the early hedging; this season, in the absence of this support and with the declining tendency of other growths, their contract is having to face more than the customary weight of "hedge" selling. Whilst generally speaking the trade at this side are looking for still lower prices, they have shown more disposition to cover their near requirements. More business would develop if prices stabilised; in the meantime, spinners will probably observe their present conservative policy. We think that considerable caution should be exercised at the present level. On the one hand, those who start working on the "short" side, with Alexandria in the neighbourhood of 32 dollars, appear to be risking the possibility of the Egyptian Government stepping in with some scheme of stabilisation; on the other hand, we consider that whilst the trade offtake is slightly better, that support from this quarter is as yet insufficient to force a permanent upward movement.

Upper Contract.—A fairly large business has been transacted in this option during the past week, and with consistent selling orders coming into the market from Alexandria, values have weakened materially; in addition, the decline in values in the American market has unsettled holders. Some trade buying has been in evidence, but the support from this quarter at the present juncture appears insufficient to offset the increase in weight of the crop movement. From reports received from the other side, the Alexandria market has been subject to heavy selling, mainly hedging operations on the part of banks and interior merchants. The result of this is that a fairly wide difference has now been worked up between the two markets; in fact, almost an import parity has now been established. A further shrinkage in our premium over the American contract has to be recorded, and during the past two or three days this has been taken advantage of in some quarters to get out fair lines of straddle cotton. Prices now appear to have worked down to an attractive level, but we hesitate to advise purchases until more of the crop has been marketed and also to such time as the American markets begin to give evidence of a greater resistance to further declines.

Egyptian Spot.—With the futures markets suffering from selling pressure and showing consistent declines day by day, it could hardly be expected that actual cotton would receive anything but the scantiest attention. It is, therefore, somewhat remarkable to find that the week's sales show signs of expansion, and we have not the slightest hesitation in saying that in so far as "cotton to arrive" is concerned the trade has shown a steadily increasing interest, all of which points to the fact that spinners want cotton and, up to a certain point, must have cotton.

The trend of the local inquiry has shown little change and once again we have to report that the bulk of the business has been done in Upper growths, about which there appears to be only one opinion, which is that they are "right" at current levels. The full weight of the crop movement has yet to be felt, however, and we shall not be surprised if the premium which these growths hold over staple American cotton is still further reduced. Naturally, as this premium lessens, more attention will be attracted from the American section of the trade, which in recent years has shown a decided preference for this cotton whenever the "difference" has become sufficiently attractive.

The demand for Uppers has embraced a wide range and practically all grades have benefited at one time or other. Sakel, in spite of its heaviness, has been in fair request for certain qualities, but buyers have been working very much on the hand-to-mouth principle. "Pass to 100 on" cotton has been in slightly better demand, but it is the "off" cotton which has again attracted most of the business. Pilon from 150 to 250 on has been in good demand, but buyers have experienced great difficulty in finding their requirements. White, Nahda, Maarad, etc., have been neglected. Sudan growths have moved off steadily, but no weight of business has transpired, and it has been the medium qualities of Tokar that have been mostly in request. Manchester reports have become rather more optimistic and an improvement in c.i.f. business has been reported.

Forwardings last week were returned as 5,910 bales Egyptian and 706 bales Sudan. Estimated spot sales for the week, 2,000 bales Egyptian and 900 bales Sudan. Quotations of Sakel show a decline of 105 points; those of Upper and Pilon are 70 to 80 points lower. F.G.F. Sakel to-day, 17.05d. F.G.F. Upper to-day, 11.20d. F.G.F. Pilon to-day, 12.65d. nominal.

THE EGYPTIAN MARKET.

The Alexandria Commercial Company, in their report for the week ended September 12, state:—

The market during the past week has slumped badly, and the tone at the close to-day was barely steady. The week's summary of price movements is as follows:—Sakellaridis: November, 34.12 dollars, 2.76 dollars down; January, 34.45 dollars, 2.55 dollars down; March, 34.65 dollars, 2.60 dollars down. Ashmouni: October, 20.90 dollars, 1.90 dollars down; December, 21.20 dollars, 1.90 dollars down; February, 21.65 dollars, 1.92 dollars down.

Sakellaridis.—The bad drop on the week must be attributed more to the continued absence of trade demand than anything else, the American Bureau Report published on the 8th inst. proving to be a factor of but secondary importance. The crop is rapidly coming into sight, but there are still no signs of a revival in the demand; the mills report that there is practically no offtake for fine yarns except at prices well below cost of production, and it is but natural, under these circumstances, to let spindles go idle. Demand is the controlling factor of price and for the time being there is practically no demand. Most of the selling during the week has been in liquidation of speculative bull position; up to now there has been but little hedge selling, and it is to be hoped that some demand springs up before the crop starts to come down. The Sakel/Ashmouni straddle has narrowed in to 1,322 points, against 1,408 points a week ago and 1,022 points a year ago.

Uppers.—This market has likewise declined heavily on the week but to a less extent than Sakel. The demand from abroad, while

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Port Sudan: The Egyptian Library, Post Office Box No. 44.

PALESTINE.

Haifa: Newspapers Agency Steimatzky, Jaffa Street.
Jerusalem: B. Y. and W. A. Said, 23-24, Jaffa Road.
Newspapers Agency Steimatzky, Jaffa Road

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Basrah: Jashanmal, Bridge Street, Ashar.

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Sofia: Librairie Francaise et Etrangere, 6, Bvd, Tsar Ostvoboditel.

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Nicosia: Dick Soultanian, P.O. Box 6.

GREECE.

Athens: Messageries de Journaux et Publications Etrangers, 24, Rue du Stade.

ROUMANIA.

Bucharest: Mr. L. Hamilton, 21, Strada Regala.

TURKEY.

Constantinople: The Anglo-American Book and Newsagency, 18, Rue des Petits Champs, Pera.

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Belgrade: Librairie Française, 19 and 22, Rue Prince Michel.

ALBANIA.

Tirana: Librairie Lumo Skende.

AMERICA.

New York: Brentano's, Fifth Avenue and 27th Street.
Boston (Mass): Smith and McCance, Ashburton Place.

rather better than for Sakel, is still very poor and not by any means sufficient to offset the daily increasing arrivals. The Ashmouni/American straddle has narrowed down to 288 points, against 384 points last week and 650 points at the same time last year. The present difference is the lowest for many years, and unless the American staple crop turns out much larger than at present anticipated, we do not think that this narrow straddle can continue. Upper at the moment is relatively the cheapest staple in the world, and any increase in demand will first be reflected in this market.

General.—Up to now but little interest has been shown by growers in the Government scheme for financing their crops. Officials are optimistic and expect a considerable demand for money during the next few weeks, but the fact remains that growers are, for the moment, more disposed to sell than to take advances. In this connexion, however, it should be mentioned that the natives of Upper Egypt are less disposed to borrow money than those of Lower Egypt, and it may be that quite a different attitude towards the scheme will be shown when the Delta crop starts to move.

The week's receipts amount to 87,723 kantars, against exports 62,011 kantars; the stock in Alexnadia stands at 1,148,007 kantars.

Spot.—Total sales amount to about 10,000 bales, of which we estimate 1,800 bales Sakellaridis, 8,100 bales Ashmouni and Zagora, and 100 bales other varieties.

Sakellaridis: Little interest has been shown in this variety. There has been a small demand for the better grades, but spot differences remain unchanged.

Ashmouni and Zagora: The top grades have not been much in favour, but Fully Good Fair and Fully Good Fair to Good are still keenly sought after and high premiums have been paid for new crop lots.

Other Varieties: There has been some inquiry for new crop Pilon but, so far, little of this cotton has made its appearance on the

market. A few lots of White have changed hands at about last week's differences.

Crop, 1928.—Crop news is, on the whole, fairly satisfactory. On the Upper Egyptian crop there is now very little to say. In the southern districts the crop has not proved the unqualified success which was expected, but this is compensated by the excellent results obtained in Middle Egypt, so that the Uppers crop, as a whole, will be a good average one. In Lower Egypt, the Zagora, Pilon and Nahda crops are proving less good than expected, perhaps even slightly below average in grade. The Sakel crop has not suffered to any serious extent; it is progressing satisfactorily and looks like being an average one. Ginning yields are showing all round better than last year and crop ideas are already being considerably influenced by this factor; yields better than last year to the extent of 3 and 4 per cent. are not uncommon. Temperature is about normal.

In commemoration of the proclamation of Ahmed Zogu as King of Albania a special stamp has been issued in two designs. These have the inscription of the late Republic, "Republika Shqiptare," but the portrait, instead of being in civilian dress, is, according to the *Daily Telegraph*, adorned with full military uniform and decorations. These stamps, which had been prepared some months ago in Paris, had not been put into circulation without overprint, but on the occasion of Ahmed Zogu's elevation to kingship they were overprinted with an Albanian inscription reading, "Kujtim i Mbledhjes Kushtetuese 25.8.28." There are ten denominations, the nine low values being of normal stamp size. The highest value, one franc, is of large size and bicoloured. The values are: 1 qindar, red-brown; 2 qindar, grey; 3 qindar, green; 10 qindar, red; 15 qindar, brown; 25 qindar, blue; 50 qindar, red-lilac; 1 franc, blue and grey.

Stock and Share Markets.

LONDON EXCHANGE		Prices on Sept. 25	Railways.		Prices on Sept. 25	Banks		Prices on Sept. 5
Government Stocks.								Rs.
Egyptian 4 p.c. Unified Debt ...	87		Assam-Bengal ...	923		Imperial Bank of India ...	1,621	
Do. Pref. 3½ p.c. 1890 ...	75½		Bengal Nagpur ...	101½		Bank of India ...	91	
Do. Turk 4 p.c. 1891 ...	91½		Egypt Delta Light Rly ...	4		Central Bank of India ...	24½	
Do. 3½ p.c. Eg. Trib. Bonds '94 ...	85½		Ottoman (Smy. T. Aid) ...	40½		Coal.		
Bulgaria 7 p.c. ...	90½		Southern Punjab ...	200½		Barahoni ...	1	
Greek 5 p.c. 1881 ...	65		South Indian ...	122½		Bengal ...	402½	
Do. 5 p.c. 1884 ...	65		Rubber.			Burrakur ...	12	
Do. 4 p.c. Rentes, 1889 ...	52		Ceylon Para Rubber Ord. ...	7/3		East Indian ...	17½	
Do. 5 p.c. 1890 ...	65		Doolgalla (Ceylon) Rub. Est. ...	19½		Equitable ...	18½	
Do. 5 p.c. Funding Loan, 1893 ...	65		Grand Cent (Ceylon) Rubber ...	23 9		Pench Valley ...	26½	
Do. 4 p.c. Rails, Loan, 1902 ...	60½		Hewagum Rubber Co. ...	10 9		Raneengunge ...	21½	
Do. 4 p.c. Loan, 1910 ...	62½		Kepitigalla Rubber Estates ...	1 3		Standard ...	53½	
Do. 5 p.c. Loan, 1914 (L. on. issue) ...	76		Malayalam Rub. and Produce ...	28 6		Cotton.		
Do. 7 p.c. 1924 ...	102½		Shipping.			Bengal Nagpur ...	30½	
Do. 6 p.c. St. Bds. ...	91½		Anchor 5½ p.c. Prf. ...	8½		Bombay Dyeing, etc. ...	797½	
Palestine 5 p.c. ...	106½		Cunard ...	33 3		Bowreah ...	330	
Persia 5 p.c. 1911 ...	89½		Furness Withy ...	39 6		Buckingham and Carnatic ...	185	
Roumania 4 p.c. Ext. ...	72		Khedivial Mail Ord. ...	3		Cawnpore Textiles ...	2	
Do. 4 p.c. Consolidation ...	48½		P. and O. Deferred ...	345		Century ...	367½	
Sudan 5½ p.c. Guar. Bds. ...	109½		Tea.			Central India ...	497½	
India 3½ p.c. ...	70½		Assam Co. ...	41½		Elgin ...	91	
Do. 3 p.c. ...	60½		Bengal United Tea Ord. ...	25/16		Khatau Makanji ...	3-2	
Do. 5½ p.c. ...	102½		Bramapootra ...	35		Muir ...	289	
Do. 4½ p.c. ...	94½		British Indian Tea Ord. ...	41 32		New Ring ...	362½	
Turkish 4 p.c. Unified ...	23½		Cachar and Doorga Tea Ord. ...	215 16		Phoenix ...	457½	
Banks.			Carolina ...	313 16		Swadeshi ...		
Agri. Bank of Egypt ...	7½		Ceylon Tea Plantations Ord. ...	5		Jute.		
Bank of British West Africa ...	40		Consolidated Estates ...	3½		Alliance ...	675	
Bank of Roumania ...	86 3		Darjeeling Co. ...	213 16		Barnagore ...	305	
Barclays Dom. Col. Pl. ...	30½		Dimbula Valley (Ceylon) Ord. ...	35/16		Budge Budge ...	650	
Lloyds ...	67 9		Doorga Tea Ord. ...	317 32		Clive ...	45½	
Eastern ...	7½		Dooloomram Tea ...	13/16		Dalhousie ...	601	
Chartered Bank of India ...	22½		Doom Dooma ...	44		Delta ...	630	
Ottoman Bank ...	14½		East Assam ...	44		Fort Gloster ...	1,005	
Imperial Bank of Persia ...	11½		Empire of Ind. ...	219 52		Gourepore ...	580-4	
Land Bank of Egypt Ord. ...	17½		Halem Tea ...	21		Howrah ...	61	
Mercantile Bank of India A ...	34½		Imperial Ind. ...	29/16		Kamarhaty ...	592	
National Bank of Egypt ...	54½		Iphanzie Tea Association ...	5½		Kankannarah ...	660	
National Bank of India ...	54½		Jokai (Assam) Tea Ord. ...	3½		Khardah ...	1,180	
Westminster ...	20½		Jorehaut ...	44		Kinnison ...	54	
Land.			Lanka Plantations Ord. ...	21 32		National ...	530	
Kassala Cotton ...	6½		Lungla (Sylhet) Tea Ord. ...	21 32		Standard ...	835	
Sudan Plantations ...	4½		New Dimtula ...	64		Union ...		
Mines.			Nuwara Eliya Tea Estates Ord. ...	54		Miscellaneous		
Balaghat Gold Mining ...	7½		Nudeem ...	2½		British India Corporation ...	34	
Burma Corp. ...	14 10½		Ouvah ...	33 16		Bengal Paper Mills ...	414	
Champion Reef Gold ...	11 3		Pahbojan ...	69 16		Bental Timber Trading ...	245	
Mysore ...	16 6		Standard ...	5½		Burn and Co. ...	392	
Nundydroog ...	16 9		Scottish Assam ...	2½		Cawnpore Sugar ...	261	
Oreogum Gold Mining Ord. ...	14½		Scottish Tea and Lands ...	34		Champaran Sugar ...	102	
Oil.			Upper Assam ...	28		Howrah Oil Mills ...	84	
Anglo-Egyptian B ...	211/32		Insurance.			ALEXANDRIA		
Anglo-Persian Ord. ...	43 16		General Accident Fire and Life (£5, £14 paid) ...	154		Prices on Sept. 14 supplied by G. L. Mervet, Alexandria & Cairo.		
Do. 8 p.c. Cum. 1st Pl. ...	26 9		London & Lancs (£5, £1 paid) ...	33		Agricultural Bank of Egypt ...	47½	
Do. 9 p.c. Cum. 2nd Pl. ...	28 74		Royal Exchange (£1) ...	7½		" " Fond. ...	£810	
Do. 5 p.c. Debs. ...	98		Sun Fire £10 (£2 paid) ...	42½		Alexandria Water Co. ...	£171	
Brit. Burmah ...	7 3		Trade Indemnity (£10) ...	15½		Assoc. Cotton Ginners ...	£23 32	
Burmah Oil Co. Ord. ...	411 26		Miscellaneous.			Behera Ord. ...	£12 01	
Do. 8½ Cum. Pref. ...	27 4½		Alexandria Water Co. ...	17½		Ciments d'Egypte ...	Fr. 128	
Phoenix Oil and Transport ...	14 74		Associated Cotton Ginners ...	23 32		" Div. ...	187	
Steaua Romana ...	10 6		Egyptian Hotels ...	7		Comptoir Fin. & Com. d'Egypte ...	£ 5 16	
INDIAN EXCHANGES.			Do. Markets Ord. ...	25½		Credit Foncier Egyptien ...	Fr. 1,177	
Government Loans.			Do. Salt and Soda ...	28 6		" Fondateur ...	2,950	
3½ Government Paper			Mortgage Co. of Egypt 5 p.c. Pref. ...	24		Crown Brewery Priv. ...	Fr. 164	
			Prices on Sept. 5			Filature Nationale d'Egypte ...	£31	
			Rs.			Frigorifique d'Egypte ...	£81 32	
			73½			Immeubles d'Egypte Soc. An. des. ...	£171	
						Land Bank of Egypt Actions ...	£17 31 32	
						" Parts de Fond ...	£258	
						Menzaleh Canal Navigation ...	Pt. 190	

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Steamer.	Tons.	London.	M'se's.	Destination.
MALOJA	21,000	Sept. 28	Sept. 28	Australia via Bombay
RAJPUTANA	16,600	Sept. 28	Oct. 5	Bombay and Karachi
QKASHMIR	9,000	Sept. 28	—	Straits, China, Japan
INOVARA	7,000	Sept. 29	—	Colombo and Calcutta
DELTA	8,000	Oct. 4	Oct. 11	Bombay and Karachi
SMONGOLIA	16,500	Oct. 5	Oct. 11	Colombo and Australia
QMALWA	11,000	Oct. 5	Oct. 12	Straits, China, Japan
RAZMAK	10,600	—	Oct. 12	Bombay and Karachi

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MODASA	9,070	—	Sept. 28	East African Ports
DUMANA	8,600	—	Sept. 29	Bombay and Karachi
MANDALA	8,246	Sept. 29	Oct. 6	Madras and Calcutta
IDOMAL	8,441	Oct. 13	Oct. 20	Bombay and Karachi
MANOLA	8,963	Oct. 13	Oct. 20	Madras and Calcutta
MADURA	8,975	Oct. 17	Oct. 26	East African Ports
MANELA	8,303	Oct. 27	Nov. 3	Madras and Calcutta
MUNDRA	7,275	Nov. 3	Nov. 10	Bombay and Karachi

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Steamer.	Tons.	Sailing.	Destination.
bCity of Simla	9,468	Oct. 5	Bombay & Karachi
ccCity of Exeter	9,447	Oct. 13	Colombo & Calcutta
bCity of Paris	10,902	Oct. 17	Bombay & Karachi
dCity of Venice	8,308	Oct. 24	Colombo & Calcutta
fCity of Lahore	6,983	Oct. 27	Bombay & Colombo
cCity of Hong Kong	9,678	Oct. 27	Bombay & Karachi
bdCity of Canterbury	8,421	Nov. 2	Bombay & Karachi
eCity of Benares	6,984	Nov. 3	Colombo & Calcutta
feCity of Calcutta	7,679	Nov. 26	Bombay & Calcutta

(b) Calls Marseilles. (c) Calls Naples. (d) Calls Port Sudan. (e) Calls Madras
(f) Sailing direct from Marseilles.

MARSEILLES to STRAITS, CHINA, JAPAN.

City of Lahore	6,983	Oct. 27	Singapore, Manila
City of Baroda	9,670	Dec. 22	Hongkong, Shanghai

LONDON to SOUTH AFRICA.

City of Palermo	4,699	Sept. 29	Cape Town, Algoa Bay, East London and Natal
City of Alexandria	4,712	Oct. 13	

MEDITERRANEAN and LEVANT.

Flaminian	2,699	Oct. 3	Malta and Alexandria
Roumelian	2,686	Oct. 10	Smyrna & Constantinople

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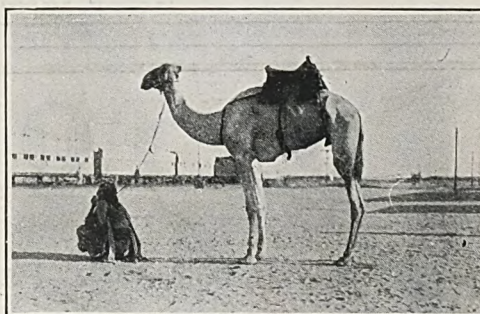
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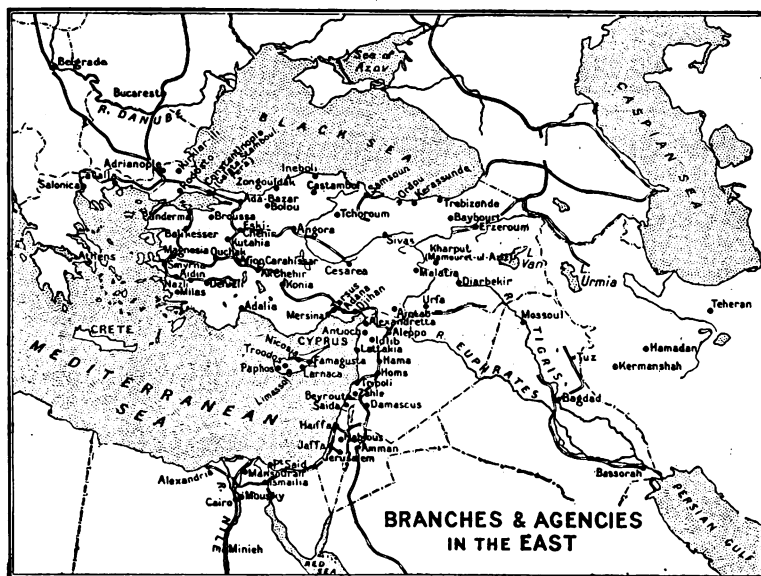
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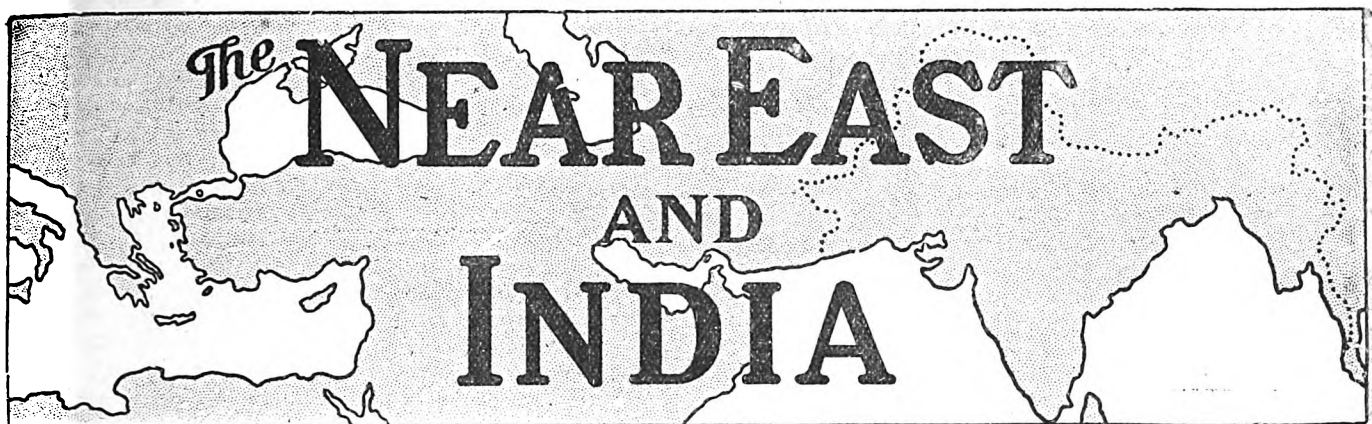
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Notes of the Week.

Greece and Italy.

The Treaty of Friendship, Arbitration and Judicial Settlement between Italy and Greece, which was signed in Rome on September 23, adds yet another to the long list of regional pacts that ought not to be necessary in view of the existence of the League of Nations with its formal Covenant, but which have become fashionable among countries that experience difficulty in living up to the spirit of the League. In a more perfect world they would be regarded as doubly superfluous; first, because they merely serve to underline the pledge implied in membership of the League of Nations, and secondly, because they are in essence political, whereas to-day the attention of small Powers such as Greece should be concentrated wholly on internal reorganisation and economic development. With regard to the first point, it may not be out of place to recall that the signatories to the Covenant of the League of Nations are pledged "to promote international co-operation and to achieve international peace and security by the acceptance of obligations not to resort to war, by the prescription of open, just and honourable relations between nations by the firm establishment of the understandings of international law as the actual rule of conduct among Governments, and by the maintenance of justice and a scrupulous respect for all treaty obligations in the dealings of organised peoples with one another." While there is nothing in these regional pacts that prevent them from being regarded as within the four corners of the League Covenant, there is rarely any definite provision of importance in the pacts which is not already covered by "the prescription of open, just and honourable relations between nations." Thus the first three Articles of the Italo-Greek Treaty deal with the altogether improbable—not to say impossible—contingency of an unprovoked attack during the next five years. It is difficult to believe that in either Italy or Greece any special store is set on these particular Articles. On the other hand, the existence of the Treaty, as has been shown by its counterparts between other pairs of

countries, can always be cited as an excuse for nervousness and consequent intrigue on the part of countries that affect to regard themselves as prejudiced by the formal understanding between Italy and Greece.

The Whole Duty of Balkan Statesmanship.

In the case of Greece it can be argued that, without the Pact with Italy, she was handicapped in any attempt to induce a spirit of sweet reasonableness on the part of Yugoslavia with regard to the Salonika Free Zone and other issues outstanding between the two countries. Whether it is better for Greece to come to an agreement with Yugoslavia by means of waving an Italian hammer over her head, or to win her over more pleasantly to the conviction that Balkan solidarity is one of the paramount interests of both States may be a matter of opinion. For the moment the question has been settled by M. Venizelos's predilection for opportunities of entering Europe's Council Chamber. The chief drawback to this weakness is that it encourages all the other Governments or Foreign Secretaries of the Balkans to do the same, and a definite European trend is given to Balkan policy, thereby distracting the attention of each country from matters far more vital to its own welfare. Now that his victory at the elections has placed Greece in the hollow of his hand, M. Venizelos has an opportunity to set an example of statesmanship to the whole of the Balkan Peninsula by stressing the importance of internal economic development. If, on the contrary, as he suggested in a statement made by him in Rome, he is bent on signing treaties of friendship "with, if possible, the whole world," his tenure of office may prove as sterile of practical achievement in the internal reorganisation of Greece as were the two years that preceded it. The whole world is quite prepared to take Greece's friendship for granted. What concerns it most is that Greece should set her own house in order, with a view to pulling her full weight in the economic rehabilitation of Europe. If, side by side with that, the influence and prestige of M. Venizelos avail to give a

similar lead to Greece's Balkan neighbours, then there will be a better prospect of the whole Peninsula, with its forty million inhabitants, equally pulling its full weight at a much earlier date than might otherwise be expected. As a separate geographical entity, Roumania being included, the Balkan States, if acting together, have it in their power to cut themselves adrift, for some time to come, from the see-saw of European politics. Any Balkan statesman, therefore, who tries to cut a figure in the Council Chamber of Europe at the present time is doing a disservice to his own country and to the interests of the Peninsula as a whole.

Choses Jugées.

M. Venizelos, who has always had the courage of his convictions, has lost no time in making it clear that the omission of all reference to the Dodecanese in the Italo-Greek Treaty was not an oversight. He has placed on record his view that no Dodecanesian question exists between Greece and Italy, just as no Cypriot question exists between Greece and Great Britain. Opinion in Greece will be as little inclined to endorse the bracketing of the two questions as to welcome the decision in regard to the Dodecanese, however inevitable. Yet M. Venizelos is right in telling the islanders not to nurse the vain illusion that Greece is strong enough to detach them from Italian jurisdiction. Circumstances may conspire to persuade Italy to hand the islands over to Greece one day; but the date cannot be foreseen to-day, and for the present the islanders will study their own interests by making the best of the situation. In the meantime, although M. Venizelos could not make this point, the "acid test" of Italy's friendship for Greece will be found in her more generous treatment of the inhabitants of the Dodecanese. By no stretch of the imagination can the position in regard to Cyprus be regarded as on all fours with that of the Dodecanese, except in regard to the fact that Greece has nothing to do with the status of that island, and it is fair to successive Greek Governments to say that they have always recognised the fact. The value of M. Venizelos's message to the Cypriots lies in the possibility of its having some effect on the Greek leaders, to the extent of inducing them to abandon a barren agitation and to show some measure of common sense in combining with the Government for the promotion of the Island's interests. It is to be feared, however, that the Greek Archbishop, who leads the agitation, will be more inclined to follow the example of an Athens colleague and perform the ceremony of publicly anathematising M. Venizelos, if his political activities allow him time for an ecclesiastical service.

The Boycott in Yugoslavia.

The Peasant-Democrat Coalition in Yugoslavia has decreed a boycott of the Government, its parties and its supporters. As the political struggle can no longer be carried on in Parliament—"in which the ranks of the ruling parties shoot and murder and in which a lawful fight is met with the organised murder of the Opposition's representatives"—so runs the Decree, the fight for equality and equal rights, for freedom and the rights of the peasants, must be transferred to the people themselves. Accordingly, "with the representatives of the Government and the Government parties, who are responsible for the existing régime of force and inequality, all social intercourse is to be broken off. The same applies to all those who with the authority of their worldly or ecclesiastical position support the régime. For the followers of the Government parties who in any way show their sympathy with the present régime and hinder the success of the national fight, the feeling of the Nation must be indicated in the conduct and attitude of those among whom they live. He who opposes himself to the Nation is no national man and does not belong to the national community." Possibly, since the Cardinal-Archbishop of Reims delivered his anathema on the thief of his ring, never was heard such a terrible curse, and it remains to be seen whether, as in that historic instance, what gave

rise to no little surprise, was that no one felt a penny the worse. The true home of the boycott is China, and there it can be made a terrible weapon. In Greece, during the worst stages of the Venizelist-Constantine struggle, the rival parties tacitly boycotted one another; but, as far as is known, it was a spontaneous movement on both sides, and not enjoined by decree. In Yugoslavia the Belgrade Government has already shown that it is afraid of the Croat weapon, as steps have been taken to strengthen the official element, if an attempt is made to extend the boycott to the fiscal sphere. The onlooker will be tempted to regret the extreme measures adopted by the Croats, if only for the reason that ultimately Croats and Serbs must pull together in their common interest, and the wider the breach is made to-day, the longer the process of bridging it.

Belgrade and Macedonia.

A Press telegram to the effect that the appointment of M. Lazitch, Chief of Public Security in Yugoslavia, as Vice-Minister of the Interior is taken as an indication that the Cabinet wishes Macedonian affairs to be conducted "with a stronger hand" has, at first sound, an ominous ring about it, in view of the general interpretation attaching to a strong hand in the Balkans. Yet M. Lazitch, who not long ago was the victim of an attempted assassination in his own office in Belgrade, is accounted as well disposed towards the Macedonians, and the dastardly attack on his life was attributed to the Macedonian Revolutionary Organisation, in its desire to embroil the relations between the Yugoslav and Bulgarian Governments. It is, therefore, to be hoped that the new appointment implies that the Yugoslav Government is anxious to see its official policy interpreted more strictly on the spot by local officials. This policy has not always been what it is claimed to be at the present time; but there can be no doubt that, under one incentive or another, the Belgrade authorities are prepared to see a more enlightened régime introduced into Southern Serbia. In common with other parts of the Balkans this region has suffered quite as much from the incompetence and irresponsibility of the officials on the spot as from any vicious policy dictated from the capital. More might, perhaps, have been done to see that the Government's intentions were not so deliberately thwarted; but it is satisfactory to know that for some little time past an improvement in the situation has been recorded. If M. Lazitch's appointment is to represent Yugoslavia's *quid pro quo* for a more careful supervision in Bulgaria of the Macedonian Revolutionary Organisation's activities, then it is permissible to hope that a brighter day is in store for this vexed region, and, in consequence, for the whole of the Balkans.

Land Reform in Egypt.

The Egyptian Prime Minister, Mohamed Pasha Mahmoud, has lost no time in giving effect to his Government's intention to meet some of the country's more pressing needs and to justify its claim to be a business Government. Last Saturday he inaugurated the Cabinet's land programme by distributing in Fayum two thousand acres of State domains among peasants owning less than ten acres. Under the proposed scheme the cultivator pays one-tenth of the purchase price in cash and the remainder by instalments spread over fifteen years. In all fifty thousand acres are earmarked at present for distribution in this way. Not the least part of the interest attaching to the Government's action lies in the fact that it constitutes official recognition of an agrarian question in Egypt. In view of the rapidity with which the population has increased and of the necessarily restricted area which can be cultivated owing to dependence on Nile irrigation, it would be strange indeed if Egypt had escaped such a question. It is presumably not contended by the Government that the distribution of these State Domains will solve the problem, which undoubtedly will call one day for far more comprehensive treatment. As

a preliminary measure, capable of immediate adoption, the move is a sound one. Anything in the way of a complete agrarian reform, such as has been introduced in Roumania and elsewhere, must follow a careful study of the subject with due consideration of Egypt's special circumstances. Both in Roumania and Yugoslavia reform was complicated by the different conditions prevailing in different parts of the two countries. Egypt presents a homogeneous whole, and will be in a position to give more generous compensation to expropriated landholders than either of the two Balkan States could. It will be of interest to see whether the success attending Mahmoud Pasha's first steps in this direction will encourage him to tackle the bigger problem. There can be little doubt that the whole body of fellahs would rally to the support of the leader who could carry through a well-thought-out scheme of land reform.

Abyssinia.

The assumption by Ras Tafari, Prince Regent of Abyssinia, of the title of King, which is reported to be imminent, implies no change in the political status of the country, but must be presumed to be intended to regulate the Prince's anomalous position. He is Regent and Heir to the Throne, but, as the Empress Zauditu is titular ruler, Ras Tafari has had to depend on his own abilities and personality to raise himself above the level of other Rases and to keep within his own hands the powers of government. The Sovereign of Abyssinia bears the title of Emperor of Ethiopia and King of Kings, a resounding phrase that seems in the case of the present Empress to have troubled grammarians as to whether the feminine of the secondary rank should be "Queen of Kings" or "Queen of Queens." A definite ruling on this point in favour of the former alternative might conceivably be used to embarrass the new King; but fortunately the relations between the King-Regent and the Empress, who is his first cousin once removed, show a tendency towards steady improvement, and it is to be hoped that his assumption of the higher title is evidence of a period of closer co-operation.

The Wailing Wall.

Few Days of Atonement now pass in Jerusalem without some violation of the feelings of Jews or of Muslims or of both. Nor was there any exception this year. For on September 24 the orthodox Jews, in accordance with Judaic regulations, had taken measures at the Wailing Wall, to separate the male from the female worshippers. Unfortunately they bethought, for this purpose, of erecting a wooden partition at the foot of the Wailing Wall. Now this area does not belong to the Jewish community but to the Muslim Wakf; the erection constituted, moreover, an infringement of the rule that nothing in this thoroughfare must impede the passers-by. The Muslims appealed, therefore, to the police to remove the offending partition. This the authorities did, with the inevitable result that the Jewish service was interrupted. The Jews thereupon protested strongly; and two days after this incident the Government issued a *communiqué* explaining that, although the Jewish attendant, on the eve of the Day of Atonement, had promised that the partition would be removed, it had not been so removed, and that the police were, therefore, compelled to take away the partition, which was in itself a violation of the *status quo*. This official explanation, however, has by no means appeased the Jewish community, who have taken the opportunity to contrast the treatment by the authorities of their Faith with that accorded to other Faiths in the Holy Land. To the outside observer this all sounds rather petty, but no one who is familiar with the daily life of Jerusalem—which, despite many changes since Palestine came under the British Mandate, has in many respects remained unaltered for centuries—will fail to realise how much such things weigh in the minds of the local community. Rivalries as between the various Christian sects

in the Holy Land are far from dead yet; nor does the solution of this persistent problem of the Wailing Wall seem to be yet in sight.

After the Jidda Conference.

It appears to be generally thought, on the Iraqi side, that little more will be heard of the frontier dispute between Iraq and Najd which a few months ago set so many facile tongues a-wagging and even more empty pens a-scribbling. The differences between the Government of the Hijaz and Najd, on the one hand, and the British Government and the Government of Iraq on the other, have been most amicably discussed, although they are by no means resolved: King Ibn Saoud has made his point; and the posts in Iraq have been duly erected. Nor is there any fear that, during the next few months, at any rate, there will be any violent manifestation of Wahhabi disapproval of these posts. What may happen when the normal winter raiding season begins is a matter of opinion, but it is to be hoped that counsels of peace will prevail. The King of the Wahhabi now understands, although he can hardly be expected to sympathise with, the position which the Iraq Government has taken up, and it is not inconceivable that he may be able to persuade his *Akhwan* that their rights, immemorial and real, will not be infringed by these posts on the other side of the frontier—or, as they may prefer to put it, towards the Iraqi end of their customary wanderings. The whole problem of the desirability, the practicability of having a hard-and-fast line to demarcate the boundary through the desert is, of course, another matter; but since the Iraq Government and its British Advisers have decided in one way, it is to be trusted, for the sake of peace that King Ibn Saoud will be able to impress upon his tribesmen the wisest procedure to follow.

Britain, Iraq and the Hijaz.

No harm is ever done in listening to the other side in a dispute, and for this reason the whole-hearted support which our well-informed correspondent in Jidda gives to the contentions put forward by King Ibn Saoud in his recent negotiations with Sir Gilbert Clayton may well stand side by side with the opposite view which has been consistently endorsed by THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA. We may hope, indeed, that King Ibn Saoud has among his subjects those who no less whole-heartedly are supporting the British standpoint and are urging him to make some concession to the spirit of progress and extra-Desert mentality. The tradition of the Desert recognizes no

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frontiers and its denizens think in terms of wells. With the inexorable march of time civilization in the Arabian Peninsula is setting a ring fence round the desert and in the interest of peace has called for frontiers. That wise Desert statesman, King Ibn Saoud, has recognised the force of the argument, but is not prepared at present to carry his recognition to its logical conclusion. He could not bring himself at first to accept the Treaty of Muhammarah with its hard-and-fast frontier, but subsequently was persuaded to agree to it on the understanding that his tribes retained their rights of grazing and watering on both sides of the frontier. With this arrangement, all was well for a time. Then came the day when Iraq in the cause of law and order within its own territory proceeded to set up police posts, necessarily near wells, at a distance of sixty or seventy miles from the frontier. The action was resented by King Ibn Saoud's tribesmen, who raided the unfinished posts and killed the workers—not wholly after desert methods, because women and children were also killed by them. Negotiations between Great Britain and the Hijaz followed, but came to nought, because, as our correspondent points out, according to desert mentality the principle counts for more than practical considerations, when it is a question of determining whether an agreed neutral zone should be limited to fifty or a hundred miles or must be vaguely regarded as co-extensive with the Continent of Asia. To-day King Ibn Saoud favours the latter view, and Great Britain the former. The matter hardly calls for tears whether in the Hijaz or in Great Britain, for time must be given for the King of the Hijaz and Najd to adjust yet further his views to the Western conception of frontiers, with or without fixed neutral zones.

Suspense in Syria.

The peoples of Syria would in all probability get the shock of their lives if a definite decision were made upon their country. For they live in a series of suspenses. They waited long for their Constituent Assembly, which had no sooner been convoked than it was suspended; they drew up a Constitution, which, however, was so unacceptable to the Mandatory Power that discussion of it was peremptorily postponed. And now they are awaiting the return from France of their High Commissioner, M. Henri Ponsot, who unquestionably is facing his extremely difficult position of endowing Syria with a polity with considerable courage and pertinacity. What decisions will be reached in France upon such disputed questions as the control of Syria's foreign policy, the

right to proclaim martial law, and so on, we can only guess: the important matter is, how can France's responsibilities as Mandatory Power be made to tally with the expressed desires of the Syrian Nationals? No jibing is now possible at the lack of generosity on the part of France towards Syria; she has, indeed, shown herself to be very generous towards a people, or set of peoples which does not, apparently, quite know its own mind. The Permanent Mandates Commission, in fact, has gone so far as almost to reproach the Mandatory Power with an excess of liberalism, and it has just recorded its hope that, until the moment for the emancipation of Syria by self-government arrives, France would "retain such a measure of authority as would fully enable it to continue to lead and superintend this evolution and fulfil all its obligations to the League." Few people fully appreciate, indeed, the change that has recently come over Syria, nearly all the inhabitants of which now perceive that collaboration with the Mandatory Power (which, to its credit, be it said, has responded worthily to this change of sentiment) is the only possible policy.

INDIAN NOTES.

The Departure of the Commission.

"The steady backing of all parties in the State," which Sir John Simon, in his farewell speech at the Aldwych Club, rightly cited as one of the advantages which he and his colleagues enjoyed in facing the difficult task before them, was emphasised by the scene at the Commission's departure on Thursday. Mr. Ramsay MacDonald, to whose "bold and clear pronouncement at a critical moment last February" Sir John Simon made particular reference, was perhaps the outstanding figure in an exceptionally representative gathering. Unfortunately, while the political situation throughout India has undergone, as we pointed out last week, a decided change for the better, the atmosphere in the Assembly has by no means improved. And the tension has been increased by the attitude of the Speaker, Mr. V. J. Patel, who has scarcely fulfilled his early promise and, possibly inspired by the success of his brother's tactics at Bardoli, has departed somewhat far from the admirable sentiments with which, an avowed Swarajist of the most extreme type, he prefaced his somewhat unexpected acceptance of that office three years ago. The latest example of political intransigence was the Government's defeat on the Public Safety Bill for the expulsion of Communist agents, with which our Bombay Correspondent dealt at some length in last week's issue. According to a Reuter telegram from Simla, the Government have decided, following the dramatic rejection of the Bill on the casting vote of the Speaker, who ruled that the case for the Bill had not been established, not to proceed further with the measure during the present session. Although the ostensible reason for the postponement, also, of the Bill to amend the Indian Penal Code, with the object of penalising the publication in the Press of statements calculated to disturb peaceful relations between the Government of India and foreign States, is the indisposition of the Foreign Secretary, we are afraid the tension in the Assembly is at least a contributory cause. Opposition to the Public Safety Bill is simply an expression of a comprehensive annoyance with Government in general, and with Sir John Simon in particular, and there is no reason to suppose that Pandit Motilal Nehru and Mr. Srinvasa Iyengar would have the slightest sympathy with any attempt to set up a Communist régime now or hereafter in India. But the attitude of Sir Purshotamdas Thakurdas, who strongly opposed the second reading of the Bill on the ground that the Government had contributed to the causes of industrial unrest by not fixing the rupee at 1s. 4d., shows to what ridiculous lengths even the most level-headed members of the non-co-operation party are prepared to go at such times.

(Continued on page 391)

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THURSDAY, OCTOBER 4, 1928.

THE BALKANS FOR THE BALKAN PEOPLES.

Once again it is M. Venizelos who seems to hold the destiny of the Balkans in his hands, and for a month he will have turned his back on his own country with its numerous pressing problems in order to engage abroad in the congenial play of international politics. Fate has not been uniformly kind to M. Venizelos, and in a less enlightened age he would be reputed to be the unconscious object of the attentions of two fairy godmothers, the one good and the other evil, with alternate sway over his fortunes. Much of the good that he has done has been short-lived, upset, as it might be, on the usurpation of power by the evil godmother. His genius for strife brought him into prominence in Crete; when he formed the Balkan League it was to declare war on Turkey. At the beginning of the General War Greece had an opportunity of maintaining neutrality for a period, but at the bidding of M. Venizelos threw it aside, at the cost of a rift in the country which has not yet been wholly filled in. His next short cut to war was the creation of a Greater Greece carved out Turkish territory in Asia Minor, but, like the Balkan League, that too proved of brief duration. From this point, however, the good fairy godmother would seem to have come into her own. M. Venizelos left Greece long enough for the country to realize that it had no one to put into his place. The political peace that had been won without him had proved to be the unruffled surface of stagnation, and the last of the Greek Republic—virtually his own creation—promised to be worse than the first. Into this false calm the veteran statesman threw a few well-directed stones, and the whole of Greece vibrated to his challenge. The people, tired of two years' inertia, rallied to his support, so that to-day the Greek State is M. Venizelos, to a greater degree than it has ever been before. One effect of this concentration of power is to disguise, as it were, with the cloak of an artificial national unity the urgency of domestic problems, and to provide M. Venizelos with an excuse to indulge his flair for foreign affairs. The inter-relation of domestic problems and foreign affairs is often close, and for many States it may be a moot point in which order the two difficulties ought to be taken in hand. M. Venizelos has decided without hesitation in favour of settling foreign questions first and has left Athens on a visit to Rome, Paris, London and Belgrade.

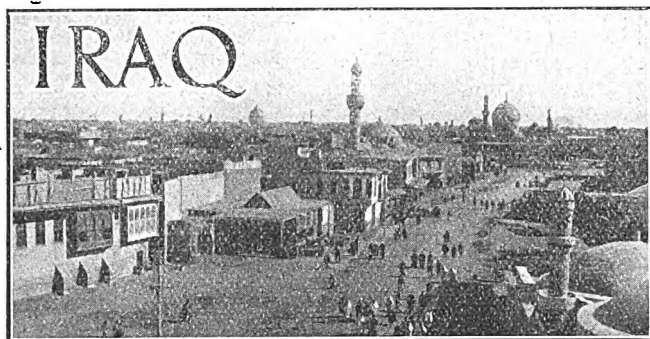
The order of the day for the Greek Prime Minister is no longer war, but peace. Before 1914 peace was a much depreciated stock in the world's markets; to-day it is a word to conjure with in all capitals, and M. Venizelos has it in his power to place peace in the Balkan Peninsula on a sounder footing than it enjoys at present. He has allowed his Oriental shrewdness to assert itself

in beginning with Italy. If the Balkan States were wholeheartedly united, Italy would mean little more to them than a useful and convenient neighbour for trade purposes. The States, however, are not united, and, as far as Greece is concerned, if not all the others as well, the main difficulty is Yugoslavia. It is an obvious tactical move, therefore, on the part of M. Venizelos, on the eve of delicate negotiations with the Belgrade Government, to emphasize Italy's good will for Greece. The actual terms of these agreements count for less than the fact that they record that an understanding, more or less close, exists between the two countries. If differences between two small Powers were allowed to reach a critical phase, the advantage directly or indirectly would lie with the State that could claim the more practical support of a Great Power, and a formal treaty, however innocuously worded, presupposes the will to lend such support. Assurances to the effect that the Italo-Greek treaty is essentially an instrument of peace are hardly necessary; certainly they would not justify M. Venizelos's railway fares to Paris and London, in order to deliver them in person to the French and British Governments. The actual terms rule out any other interpretation. Both M. Venizelos and Greece have had to make sacrifices for Italian friendship; the former in receiving nothing to set against, in the eyes of his countrymen, the drawing of the veil over the Corfu incident, and the latter in abandoning their kinsmen of the Dodecanese. M. Venizelos is undoubtedly right in allowing nothing to stand in the way of the treaty with Italy, and it is to be hoped that the Greek people will be confirmed in this opinion after his visit to Belgrade.

No opinion can be formed at this stage as to the course that the negotiations between the Greek and Yugoslav Governments are likely to take. M. Venizelos, it is certain will act fully up to his new rôle of peacemaker, using all his powers of persuasion to bring about an understanding over the questions of the Salonika Free Zone, the Ghevgeli Railway and the other points at issue between the two countries. The only chance of settling all Balkan disagreements and bringing the different States into a reasonable spirit of unity lies in sinking their relatively petty squabbles in some great over-ruling advantage that will instinctively appeal to them all. Such an advantage consists in a federation, political and economic, which will raise four or five Minor Powers, acting together, to the status of a Great Power. When the different peoples appreciate this aspect of the question their present differences will fade into insignificance. Unfortunately they have persuaded themselves that federation is impossible, until they have eliminated the present differences, and they are, therefore, approaching the Balkan problem from the wrong end. M. Venizelos is in a position to point to the better way. Federation—on however loose a basis at the beginning—will not only help to solve inter-State disagreements, but will also leave harassed Governments more time to devote to urgent problems at home. In regard to their respective domestic situations no Balkan State can claim to adopt a superior attitude towards its neighbours, and in most cases the political trouble has an economic basis. Even with an Opposition reduced to almost Turkish limits M. Venizelos will realize that the interests of Greece require his presence in the country. His business with Yugoslavia, it is true, is important, and it may be that the only way to reach the Belgrade Government was *via* Rome. Visits to Paris and elsewhere, on the other hand, tend to distract the attention of the Greek people from the more urgent business that they have on hand. The First Balkan League was brought into existence without entailing a day's absence from Greece for M. Venizelos, and a second and better federation, which has no need to be formed in secret, can also be created from Athens.

*The Near and Middle East

From Our Own Correspondents.



Baghdad, September 9.

Parliament.

Criticism of the Budget continues apace and with undiminished ardour on the part of the Opposition. A vernacular paper, encouraged, doubtless, by the vigorous attacks on the Government in Parliament, caused some stir on August 30 by announcing a grave Cabinet crisis and the imminent fall of the Government. A *communiqué* in contradiction was issued the same night by the Press Bureau.

Discussion in the House of the work of the Health Department centred round the fact that only Rs.24,000 had been added to this year's budget for that service. Members pointed out the existence of liwas in which 200,000 souls were dependent on one qualified doctor, and urged the need for more adequate sanitary arrangements in the towns. One deputy remarked that, until the high rate of infant mortality was reduced, the population of Iraq would never increase sufficiently to provide

the labour required for large development schemes. The unequal distribution among the liwas of such funds as were available for the Public Health service was complained of. After so much carping, it was pleasant to find the deputy for Kut admitting that the department was "rendering valuable services unknown to us during the Turkish régime," and urging that, if doctors were expected to go to such remote stations as Rowanduz or Fao, they should be offered more attractive emoluments. The discussion closed with a reference to the large number of Indians still employed in the Health Service, a point which offered an opportunity to Mahmud Effendi Ramiz for an attack on the Government on the subject of the employment of foreigners in general.

The debate on the budget of the Ministry of Education led to an interesting discussion opened by Saiyid Abdul Mahdi Effendi, ex-Minister of Education, with a criticism of the "defective" system at present in force. He complained of the grave lack of technical instruction—"our schools are a factory for the production of officials and employees only"—and urged that the scholars should be taught something of practical use in life. He also remarked that illiteracy still prevailed in large areas of the country.

Amin Zaki Beg, another ex-Minister of Education, made a long speech, in the course of which he said that the Government was not paying equal attention to all liwas in respect of the provision of schools; only six new schools were being opened this year, the number throughout the country was inadequate to its needs, and was, moreover, unequally distributed. He urged the necessity of introducing school books locally compiled under an expert committee, and recommended that new taxes should be levied purely for educational purposes. If Basrah levied one rupee per ton of dates, and Amarah one rupee per ton of rice, these liwas would each have at least a lakh of rupees a year to be spent by their local authorities on education.

Questions were asked in the Chamber of Deputies as to what action had been taken in the matter of some cars and lorries commandeered in Persia from Iraqis by the Persian authorities. The Prime Minister replied that the British Minister in Teheran had, on the request of the Iraq Government, made immediate representations to the Persian Government, and had secured the release of the cars. He was assured of the Persian authorities' good will and sincere wish for an understanding with Iraq.

The Iraq delegation has returned from Jidda, but the Prime Minister has not yet been able to fulfil his promise to Parliament of an early statement on the results of the Conference.

Criticism has again been levelled in the House of Deputies against the Ministry of Interior for its continuance of the practice of paying subsidies to tribal shaihs for the maintenance of law and order. A proposal to discontinue the allowance of Shaikh Ajil al Jowwar (Paramount Shaikh of the Shammar) was, however, rejected by the House.

The Haifa-Baghdad Railway.

The proposals made to the Iraq Government by Lord Wemyss, who recently visited Baghdad, are of the greatest interest to all who are watching the development of Iraq. If the company of which Lord Wemyss is a director undertakes to construct the Iraq section of the Baghdad-Haifa railway—a distance of some two hundred and fifty miles, the other section being in Trans-Jordan and Palestine—a tremendous step will have been made towards linking this country with Europe, without any financial burden to herself. Baghdad, with the prospect of becoming once more a great trading centre and a vital point on the world's highway to India, sees a rosy future opening ahead.

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Conscription.

At a private meeting of the Progressive Party, convened by the Prime Minister, the Kurdish deputies made an emphatic declaration of their firm opposition to any form of enforced military service. In spite of this, it is understood that the text of the proposed Conscription Bill is to be circulated among the members of the party during the recess, in order to enable them to decide whether or not the Bill should be submitted to Parliament.

Water Supply for Karbala.

An attempt is being made by the Railway authorities to solve the problem of water for Karbala, where the perennial shortage is accentuated in the pilgrim season by the arrival of thousands of Shiahhs to visit the shrines of Husain and Abbas. A number of wells are to be sunk near the railway station in the expectation of finding fresh water sources, and it is hoped to have a good provision of drinking water before next Muharram.

Baghdad Customs House.

A proposal has been made to collect the customs duties on all sea-borne goods at Basrah instead of on arrival at Baghdad, in order to obviate the necessity of building a new customs house and wharf when the permanent bridge across the Tigris is built at Baghdad. By making such a change the Government would save not only the costs of building—estimated at fifteen lakhs—but at least two lakhs of rupees a year for the future. The merchants of Baghdad, however, at a meeting of the Chamber of Commerce, unanimously condemned the scheme in a resolution the terms of which the Acting Director of Customs was asked to convey to the authorities concerned. They contended that by clearing their goods at Basrah duty-paid, and then bringing them up to Basrah for sale, they would lose interest on the money paid by them at Basrah for clearance, to the tune of a yearly total of nineteen lakhs or more. An increase in the earnings of the port of Basrah, or the takings of the Railways, would entirely fail to console the Baghdad merchants for their large personal losses.

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THE HIJAZ.

Jidda, September 10.

The Conferences at Jidda and Haifa.

In resuming my letters to THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA I may, perhaps, be allowed to explain that their interruption, far from being accidental or due to a press of other work, was due to my consciousness that your outlook and policy must debar you from giving the hospitality of your columns to the views which I felt bound to express, if I was to express any. No one is or has been more anxious than myself to see a satisfactory solution of the difficulties which have arisen between the British Government and King Ibn Saoud. At the same time it must have been patent to any intelligent observer that no solution would be possible, unless the question of the forts could be disposed of by the simple process of their demolition, if only as a preliminary to the reconsideration of the real implications of Article 3 of the Protocol of Uqair, which King Ibn Saoud quite honestly regards as having been infringed. All other matters were comparatively simple, but this was a basic factor of the situation, which it was impossible to ignore; and those who may have harboured the hope that it was not so have been enlightened and disappointed by the result of Sir Gilbert Clayton's negotiations, which were carried on throughout in the atmosphere of genuine friendliness, as was to be expected from the character of the two chief negotiators. That King Ibn Saoud is left with a feeling of bitter disappointment at the attitude of the British Government cannot for a moment be gainsaid; that he will not countenance any disturbance of the frontier peace by his subjects in consequence of his disappointment need not for a moment be doubted. What is far more important is the unfor-

tunate impression created by the failure of the negotiations far and wide throughout Arabia, which inevitably remains suspicious of the aims of British policy. The fallacy of the British standpoint is, surely, evident when the Government in the same breath declares its inability to reconsider the question of the forts on the ground that such a step would infringe the sovereign right of the Iraq Government to do exactly what it likes in its own territory, and suggests that Article 3 of the Uqair Protocol envisaged the prohibition of forts only within 25 miles of the frontier. Does it really affect the principle at stake, if the zone in which the Iraq Government may not do exactly as it likes in its own territory is 25 miles wide or 50 or 100? The argument is obviously *ad hoc* and entirely defeats itself, and the limitation of the sovereign rights of a country is a matter entirely within such country's competence in agreement with its neighbours. Is not the recent treaty for the renunciation of war as an instrument of policy a case in point? It is fortunately not yet too late to remedy or minimise the effects of the failure either by the executive action (which is, perhaps, not to be expected) or by arbitration, and it is to be hoped that the British Government has not altogether barred the door to the latter alternative. So much for the Iraq frontier—may peace be upon it.

The Haifa negotiations for a settlement of the long outstanding problem of the Hijaz Railway were doomed to inaction from the beginning, as it is evident that the Mandatory Governments have not the slightest intention of divesting themselves of the smallest particle of the executive management of those parts of the line which lie within their territory. The Lausanne proclamation of 1923 is but the ghost of a forced stillbirth haunting the lobbies of mock-conferences. It is inconvenient that such a pronouncement was ever made and it is difficult to understand why it was ever made. The proposed Muslim committee sitting at Madina to advise Great Britain how to manage the line could never have been anything but a howling farce. But there are more serious aspects of the matter. Up to last year France held the lion's share of the locomotives and rolling stock intended for the service of the line; Great Britain had the rest, except for a few derelict engines in the Hijaz. Both Britain and France realised that such a situation left them open to reasonable criticism, and last year, at a conference to which King Ibn Saoud was not invited to send delegates, a redistribution was agreed upon under which the material in the hands of the two Powers was pooled and divided up on a 50-50 basis between Great Britain and France. The Hijaz was somehow forgotten. Surely it is high time that the rightful share of the Hijaz should be restored to it as an act of conscience. If the Governments of Great Britain and France for strategic reasons cannot relinquish the administration of the Palestine and Syria sections of the line, let them say so openly and push the rightful proportion of the engines, etc., across the frontier to remove the blot on their escutcheons. Then the payment of the value of the line taken into secular custody to the Waqf exchequer would be a graceful act, abstinence from which is scarcely to be excused on the ground of financial stringency.

[Reference to the subject of the Hijaz Conference is made in Notes of the Week.—ED.]

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The King's Departure.

After the breakdown of the Jidda negotiations the King proceeded to Mecca, whence after a few days he went to Taif. There he disposed of all business demanding attention, while awaiting the arrival of a new consignment of motor cars, and on September 4 the royal convoy of 62 cars left for Riyadh, where it was expected to arrive on the 7th by way of Muwaih Hakran, Shara and Marrat. His Majesty was accompanied by his two brothers, Muhammad and Abdullah, six sons and several nephews. During his stay at Taif a good deal was done to restore the wrecked prosperity of this charming hill-station, which suffered greatly when the Turks were besieged and bombarded there during the Great War by the Amir Abdullah's forces, and it had not recovered when in September, 1924, it was taken and partially sacked by the Wahhabis. Since then Ibn Saud has been too busy with other matters to visit the place or attend to its requirements, but the future promises to be bright.

Jidda in the Dog Days.

Its monotony broken by the interlude of the Clayton negotiations in early August, the hot weather has slowly but surely proceeded on its merciless course, developing venom for its tail. The summer here has a method of its own, scorning anything in the way of fantastic temperatures for the adornment of statistical tables and maintaining a steady simmer in the neighbourhood of the 90's, which produces the body heat which is called prickly, with other less desirable by-products. The humidity is appalling, and a few days ago all remembered records appear to have been broken by a 24 hours' spell during which the maximum temperature was 90 and the minimum no less than 85. Many of the local residents of Jidda have recently enjoyed the respite of a visit to the Taif highlands, and the greater part of the European population has departed on leave to Europe and Asmara in Eritrea. Some of the remainder contemplate an early flight and some few are doomed to stay to the bitter

end. And some of those gone or going return no more, having run their appointed course.

Shipping Topics.

The Khedivial Mail Line Company has replaced its old ships by two new ones named respectively the Taif and Telodi (for Tall 'Auda), which have now been running for more than a month and are an admitted improvement on their predecessors. The Company has, however, forgotten to consider the long-overdue reduction of passenger rates for which we have all been hoping so long, while the rival Italian company has gone a step in a retrograde direction by raising its fares to nearly the same level as the Khedivial. Four pounds are charged for an eighteen hour crossing to Port Sudan, but in this case a reduction is under active consideration; the £12 to Suez is a local grievance, while the Italian line's charge of £8 from Jidda to Massawa (36 hours) is considered exorbitant.

Another notable sea-mark of Jidda which has disappeared for ever is the old Hijaz Government steamer Radhwa, which after more than two years of seemingly permanent attachment to the bottom of Jidda harbour has departed in peace under the escort of a Dutch tug to be broken up in an Italian dockyard. It was practically the last solid link with the almost forgotten days of the Sharifian régime.

Aeroplane Flights.

Another such link has, however, survived to deserve more than a passing mention and perhaps to form the still small cloud of Wahhabi history in the air. Since May 1926, when they were overhauled by a famous British airman, the D.H.9 aeroplanes imported by King Ali to protect him from the Wahhabi invasion have lain idle in their hangar on a purely maintenance basis. It was assumed that they were no longer airworthy, but the fallacy of that assumption has been demonstrated during the past two months by a Polish engineer, formerly

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R. B. W. Holmes,
General Manager,
HAIFA.

in the Sharifian Air Force and more recently in charge of the local ice-machine. With a courage and skill worthy of all commendation even in these days of astounding feats in the air he has not only succeeded in reconditioning the old machines, but also in vindicating their unimpaired capacity for flight. His trial flights over Jidda were followed some weeks ago by a journey to Rabigh (90 miles) and back, while at the present moment he is away on a more ambitious project—a trip to Yanbu and Wajh and back. It is undoubtedly a great achievement, which may yet exercise a profound influence on the history of Arabia.

Port Improvements.

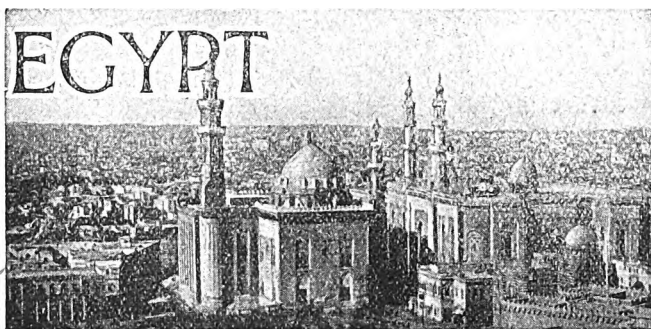
The Condenser has long been in full working order and the Jidda water-supply may be regarded as assured against all the caprices of Nature. The last notable rainfall in Jidda was in November, 1926, and it is to be hoped that the coming season will make amends for the past two years of drought. On the 16th there was a good fall of rain at Mecca, where the streets were running with water, and on many days the skies here have been heavily overclouded by the skirt of the monsoon. A new condenser is in contemplation for Yanbu against next pilgrim season.

Prohibition.

Mention should, perhaps, be made of a recent extension and stricter application of the law against the importation of liquor into the Hijaz. Hitherto European residents at Jidda have been allowed the special concession of importing such liquor as they required for their own use under special permit, stating the quantities allowed in each case, though all trafficking in liquor has been strictly forbidden. Now the privilege has been withdrawn, and the importation of liquor has been forbidden to all alike, with of course the exception of the Consular representatives of the various States, who enjoy the usual diplomatic immunity. Prohibition is more likely to be successful here than it appears to be in the United States, and the new dispensation has been accepted with reasonable equanimity by those affected. Tobacco remains to offer such consolation as it can and its import is freely allowed, though public smoking is mildly discouraged. On the whole it must be admitted that the gradual oncreep of Wahhabi discipline over a population once notorious for its licence has done no harm. And the strict application of the religious laws of Islam can scarcely be urged as a reasonable excuse for abstinence from the pilgrimage by the overseas devout.

The Pilgrimage.

Statistics show that of rather more than 100,000 pilgrims who attended this year's pilgrimage 49 per cent. came from Java and Singapore, while Egypt and India came next with 14 and 13.5 per cent. respectively. No other country produced more than 3 per cent. of the total. It is still too early to estimate prospects for next year's gathering, but the probable absence of frontier scares and the fact that the culminating ceremony is expected to fall on a Friday suggest numbers at least up to the record of 1927. The motor-transport companies are at any rate preparing for a good season, and the new rules requiring that any company desiring to operate must have a minimum of 30 cars and must refrain from fare-cutting are likely to have good results. The fare to Madina and back has been reduced from £15 to £14 including the Government tax of £6. For residents in the Hijaz the fare is fixed at £5 only including the Government tax of £2. If a profit can be made out of the latter figure it follows that the pilgrim-traffic is a gold mine for the motor-transport companies. The high fares necessarily result in a great majority of the poorer pilgrims going by camel, and it is of course in the interests of the camel-owners that the fares have been fixed so high for those who prefer to go by car.



Cairo, September 22.

The Egyptian Press.

The chief political event of the week has perhaps been the suspension for four months of *Al Balagh*, the main Wafdist organ, and of *Rosa El Yussef*, the illustrated weekly, which the party created as a reply to the very effective political weekly of the Liberal Constitutionals, and the issue of a warning to the Wafdist second string, *Kawkab Ash-Shark*. Neither of the two papers now suspended can have any complaint that they did not know what awaited them, if they continued the course on which they had embarked. Twice already they had received an official warning to desist from the campaign of false news and incitement of public opinion against the Government in which they were indulging. But each warning seemed merely to excite them to further efforts in the same direction, and they have fully merited the punishment which has befallen them. *Kawkab Ash-Shark*, which earned its warning for deliberate incitement of the students, will also have to mend its ways, if it does not wish to meet with a similar fate.

It is indeed a surprise that drastic action was not taken earlier in regard to these organs, and the Government cannot certainly be accused of not having been tolerant or patient. Two courses were open to it. One to bring the offending papers and their responsible editors before the courts, or to deal with them administratively. The former course has been tried before on more than one occasion and, apart from the question of the resulting decision, it has been invariably found to have the regrettable effect of procuring widest publicity for the articles complained of as well as providing exceptional opportunity for counsel specially engaged by the parties to which the offending papers belonged, to indulge in court in political speeches and in statements which they could not have made outside and which under the law had to be reproduced *in extenso* in the Press. In the circumstances Mohamed Mahmoud Pasha has been fully justified in making use of the administrative powers which the law gives him.

The Government is credited with the intention of introducing a new law or a new set of regulations dealing with the local Press. Certainly something must be done, and that right soon, to put an end to what has become a really scandalous conditions of things. No one who had not actually perused the so-called political section of the Egyptian Press would credit for one moment the limits to which it had gone in the matter of abuse and mendacity, while the papers which lay themselves out to pander to the lower instincts of their readers by dishing up the most scandalous, very often quite unfounded, details of the private life of prominent persons have increased beyond all conception both in number and in licence. Nothing approaching it has even been seen in any other country, and the Nationalist leader, Hafez Bey Ramadan, was fully justified when the other day he refused to give an interview to the representative of one of the Arabic dailies on the ground that the tone of the Egyptian Press had become so deplorable that he had no wish to have any dealings with it. There are, of course, one or two exceptions, such as, for example, *Al Mokattam* which continues the even tenour of its way with the

temperate comments and in great measure accurate news for which it is so well known. But these rare exceptions merely make the backslidings of other organs and political sheets all the more glaring.

Sir Jagadis Bose at the Geographical Society.

The local scientific world had an intellectual treat this week, when it attended a lecture given at the Royal Geographical Society by the eminent Indian scientist, Sir Jagadis Bose. For this it had to thank the Minister of Agriculture, Nakhla Moutei Pasha, who had met him at Geneva this summer and, being struck by his conversations with him, considered that the passage of Sir Jagadis through the Canal on his way back to India presented a unique opportunity for Egyptians to hear something of the great work that had been done at the Bose Institute. Sir Jagadis gave a most illuminating account of his research work in connexion with animal and plant life, revealing that plants are every bit as sensitive as, in fact in some cases more sensitive than, human beings, and he positively electrified his audience by illustrating, by means of the delicate instruments invented by himself, the reaction of plants to poison and antidotes in every way similar to that of animal and human life.

The Foreign Legations.

The appointment of Hassan Nashat Pasha as Minister in Berlin in the place of Seifullah Yusri Pasha, who resigned last spring, of Sadek Wahba Pasha as Minister at Brussels, of Hamed Khulussi Bey as Minister at Teheran and Ibrahim Bey Ratib as Minister at Angora, have now been approved by the Council of Ministers and the decrees promulgated. Nashat Pasha, it may be remembered, went to Teheran about a year ago under protest, but with a promise that at the first opportunity he would be transferred to a post which would be more suitable to his health. It had been on the insistence of the Liberals, who claimed to have suffered very much at his hands during 1925-1926, that he was removed from the Palace and sent to Madrid, and in the circumstances his transfer to Berlin may be regarded as a further illustration of the impartial character of the present régime. Nashat Pasha's successor is the Governor of the Canal province, to which post he was recently promoted from Secretary to the Council of Ministers.

Sadek Wahba Pasha is the son of the veteran ex-Premier Yussef Wahba Pasha. For many years he was in the Palace, and from Chamberlain to His Majesty he was appointed Minister at Brussels when the Egyptian Diplomatic Service was first created in 1922. On the suppression of his post by the Chamber of Deputies he was transferred to Athens, where he has been ever since. The revival of the Brussels post has given great satisfaction to the Belgian community in Egypt, which fortunately understood what lay behind the decision of the Chamber and was able to clear the atmosphere in Belgium in circles which at first were considerably upset at this, to them, wholly unjustified action on the part of the Egyptians.

Meanwhile the post of Minister in London remains unfilled. The difficulty is, admittedly, not merely the personality of the man, but also the expense of the post. Only £E5,000 is allowed in the Budget, which is, of course, wholly insufficient to meet the heavy expenses attaching to a London Legation. Izzet Pasha, whose resignation is everywhere deplored, found that it was necessary to dive deep into his own pocket every year to make both ends meet, and there are not many men qualified for the post who could afford to draw on their own income to the extent that he did. The Egyptian Government is fully alive to the inadequacy of the emoluments, and these will be materially increased; but it has as yet not been possible to find a Minister for this most important Egyptian Legation abroad.

Ibrahim Bey Ratib is a welcome addition to Egypt's Diplomatic Corps. The grandson of one of Mohamed Ali's most capable officials, he comes of a good family, is very cultured and has a pleasing personality and a wide knowledge of the world's affairs. He recently came into prominence owing to the courageous manner in which he expressed his disapproval of the methods of the Wafd, of which he has always been an active adherent. He was in fact peremptorily evicted from the Wafd shortly after the dismissal of Nahas Pasha from the Premiership because at a meeting of the party he criticised as revolutionary the terms of the manifesto that it had decided to issue. Ratib Bey has, since early boyhood, been known for his independence of mind and moral courage, and it is gratifying to find that the services of a man of his qualities are being made use of by his country in the sphere where they can be turned to the best national advantages; for he has an intimate acquaintance with Turkish life and affairs, having lived in Turkey for some time during the War and having served both in the Turkish Army and after the Armistice as Professor in the Military School in Constantinople.

Lieut.-Col. L. V. Thurston has taken over the command of the Egyptian military hospital at Moascar, where he is at present stationed.

The Turkish Government has decided that from December in this year all Turkish newspapers must be printed in the new Latin characters instead of the Arabic at present in use.

Dr. Hafez Bey Affi, Egyptian Foreign Minister, has instructed Nashat Pasha, Egyptian Minister in Teheran, to proceed to Kabul to sign the Afghan-Egyptian treaty of friendship before leaving for home to take up his new appointment to Berlin.

The *Times* Sofia correspondent states that, according to reports in the Bulgarian newspapers, Bulgars in certain districts of the Dobruja had been forced to leave and to surrender their belongings to Roumanian colonists brought there from Greek Macedonia by the Roumanian authorities.

We learn from the *Sphinx* that Major E. W. Slaughter, who retired from the post of Works Manager of the workshops of the Ministry of Public Works in 1927, is being appointed to supervise the erection of machinery in the new Egyptian State Railways workshops that are to be built at Khanka. He will be engaged on a three years' contract.

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CALCUTTA LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Calcutta, September 13.

Nehru Report.

The voices that are now loudest about the Nehru Report are those that have none too much love for it. The All-India Muslim League has refused to set its seal of approval on the Report, the disclaimer coming from Maulvi Mohammed Yakub, in the absence of Mr. Jinnah, permanent President of the League. A point that Maulvi Mohammed Yakub calls attention to is that, although two or three cablegrams were sent to Mr. Jinnah, asking for his blessing of the Nehru Report, no blessing was vouchsafed. "He was bound by the Calcutta resolution," says his wary leader, "and could not approve the Report in its present form." Elsewhere in the disclaimer, however, the Report is described as "a skeleton which would serve as a basis for discussion." It might make a poor feast, those articulated bones.

There has been a Muslim manifesto on the subject of the Report, and speaking of it, Mr. Fazal Ibrahim Rahimtoola said: "The statement issued by the Muslim members of the Central Legislature should show my Hindu brethren that, if they want Dominion Status, their methods should be radically changed. The Nehru Committee's Report has brought unity in the different Muslim camps." It will be as difficult, in fact, to get Muhammadans and Hindus to agree about the Constitution as to get people to adopt the same spelling "Moslem" or "Muslim," "Muhammadan" or "Mohamedan."

For a last word this week on this subject, be it added that Dr. Ansari, the President of the recent Lucknow Conference, has issued a statement in reply to the criticisms levelled against the resolution passed by the Conference, and, incidentally, against his conduct in disallowing certain amendments. You can secure unanimity of opinion, if you sit hard enough on the throats of those who do not agree with your views.

The Statutory Commission.

The cablegrams will have informed you of the Swarajist and Nationalist parties' reaction to Sir John Simon's telegram to the Viceroy regarding the composition of the Committee of the Central Legislature to co-operate with the Statutory Commission; the telegram in which it was suggested that the Council of State should elect its three representatives, and that His Excellency should nominate the other members. It has been described as a "slight on the dignity of the Assembly," and it does look a little like one. Nonetheless the Council of State, whose liberty to elect its three representatives no one can question, is attending to the matter, Sir Muhammad Habibullah taking the lead. A lobby rumour credits the Viceroy with the intention of nominating six members of the Assembly. The Central Legislature would then have its Committee of nine, as against the Committees of seven of the Provincial Legislatures. That might be felt as restoring the dignity that Sir John has slighted.

The Communists.

It now seems unlikely that the Public Safety Bill will be passed during the Simla session; for the Bill has met with a good deal of opposition. The Swarajists have learned the gentle art of obstructing. It is a gentle art. If the Government, deeming the Communist activity to constitute a public menace, introduce legislation, and, in proof of the soundness of their view that legislation is necessary, produce and publish such a document as Roy's letter, their strongest card in this present matter, all you need do, as a leader of an opposing party, is to stand up and accuse the Government of "dishonesty in publishing Roy's letter to create an atmosphere favourable to the Bill." That is easy to do. If the Government, for some reason, had withheld the letter, then dishonesty would have consisted in their doing that. If the Government say "black," that is their dishonesty; if they

say "white," that is the proof. No one considers what "dishonesty" means. Lala Rajpat Rai is abusing the Government—that is what the Assembly takes in, and whether his language is as strong this time as it was the last time. If it is not, then the Lala's sun is setting, and there will soon be a new leader.

"Forward" Newspaper.

Any talk of abuse brings *Forward* to one's mind. There is a word of that organ of public opinion in the Government Resolution on the Assam Police Administration Report for 1927; this word, namely: "A newspaper which allows its columns to be used merely as a gutter for unrestrained and libellous abuse forfeits all claim to serious consideration." Unfortunately there is little ground for thinking that serious consideration was ever what *Forward* was out for.

Khargpur and Tatas.

The Khargpur situation is reported to be easier, but not many details have been published. One does not know if the worst of the *goondas* are being "moved on" by the police, and one does not believe the place can ever be quiet for long until they have been. The long-drawn-out strike at Tatas' is ended. The terms of the settlement are in this morning's newspapers. They would not be of much interest to you.

Calcutta Bridges.

Calcutta, like London, has its bridge problems. I wrote about ours some months ago. Since then one of the Alipore bridges has sunk, and has had to be closed even to pedestrians. It carries the water mains; so it has that additional importance. There has been a joint conference, since I wrote, of representatives of the Local Government, the City Improvement Trust, and the Corporation. The Port Trust declined to participate. The conference appears to have been abortive, unless it served to clear the air a little. Even that is uncertain. The fact is, any question of a bridge hypnotises this City of Calcutta. Under hypnosis we can only moan and groan; we cannot decide what to do.

Rats and Bandicoots.

According to a writer in the *Indian Medical Gazette*, most Calcutta houses are overrun with rats, while bandicoots abound in most Calcutta compounds. May be, may not be. I have not seen a rat for longer than I can count, and, though this is my twenty-ninth year in Calcutta, I have still to set eyes on my first bandicoot. I have made friends with a long-tailed mouse and a short-tailed mouse, and leave four grains of gram for them every morning in a cup.

TOC H IN INDIA.

Mr. W. R. Elliot, secretary to the Toc H Council for India, who is on a visit to London, states that the work of Toc H is steadily growing in India. The first All-India Conference, during which the Viceroy is being initiated a member of Toc H, will be held in Calcutta in December. There are three branches and seven groups in India with one mark, and three new groups are in the process of formation.

"Too often in the past," Mr. Elliot states, "the young Briton newly arrived from home has cut adrift from his traditions as a result of having to spend his first year in India in the soul-destroying loneliness of a boarding-house. The mark in Calcutta has been getting down very successfully to the problem for 12 months past. As soon as the newcomer is discovered he is invited to a branch guest night. The branch happens to be a strong one, and includes men of all ranks in the life of the city. The new arrival finds congenial friends almost at once, and Toc H provides him with interests in his spare time. Three bedrooms in the mark are specially kept for him and his kind."

A great deal is being done by Toc H to help the poorer class of Indian. Four Indian members of Toc H in Madras have worked among prisoners in the gaol. Many European members are running Scout-troops for Indian boys. During a strike in an Indian mill area recently Toc H was called in to supervise the free feeding of the strikers' children.

The list of jobs which branches and members are doing in India is a long one, and among the most appreciated is the visiting of leper hospitals. In South India groups of Toc H in the hill stations of the Nilgiris and Ootacamund are bringing together planters, missionaries, and soldiers.

THE ANGLO-INDIANS AND THE STATUTORY COMMISSION.

(From a Correspondent.)

The position in India of those persons of mixed descent who are nowadays known as Anglo-Indians, and who were formerly styled Eurasians, is generally recognised as being one of peculiar and increasing difficulty. It is, therefore, satisfactory to see that, in stating the European case for the Simon Commission, the European Association has not forgotten this community. The legal position of the Anglo-Indian is, to say the least of it, curious. With reference to civil employment in the service of the State, he is defined officially as a Statutory Native of India; but for purposes of education, and for military service in the Indian Auxiliary Force, his status is that of a European British subject. This anomalous situation ought obviously to be cleared up. Recognising this, the European Association has wisely suggested that the legal position of the Anglo-Indian should be reconsidered; that the community should be definitely recognised as one of the communities of India; and that its members should be fully entitled, with the members of all other Indian communities, to enter into Government service. The Anglo-Indians themselves—in a memorandum which they have submitted to the Commission—agree that they should be classed as Statutory Natives of India, subject to the proviso that their military, educational, and economic claims are not thereby prejudiced. They point out, however, that where Government appointments are concerned the Indians refuse to recognise them as Statutory Natives of India; and, in support of this assertion they quote recent interpellations by Indians in the various legislatures. On the other hand, they are not, they complain, recognised as European British subjects when it is a question of obtaining commissions in the Army, although they are regarded as such for service in the Auxiliary Force. They are not numerous, as numbers go in India, seeing that there are not more than about 150,000 of them according to the last available estimate. It is natural to assume that the community should include all persons of mixed descent living in the country; but in point of fact it does not, as some of the best elements in it are able to classify themselves as Europeans. They cannot be blamed for so doing, as they thereby escape from the anomalous position in which the Anglo-Indian is placed. At the other end of the scale Christians, generally of pure Indian stock and belonging to the depressed classes, are apt to style themselves Anglo-Indians in order to better their social status.

Apart from this question of the legal position of the community, the Anglo-Indian problem is, as the European Association shows, largely economic in character. There are comparatively few avenues of employment open to Anglo-Indians or domiciled Europeans who, in consequence, are employed chiefly on the railways, in the telegraph and postal departments, and to a lesser extent in other branches of Government service. The Memorandum which the community has placed before the Commission states that 14,000 Anglo-Indians and 3,000 domiciled Europeans are employed on the railways. Of these about three-fourths are married, making the total number dependent on this source of employment about 68,000—counting three children to each family. In the Government Telegraph Service there are—according to the Memorandum—about 2,000 Anglo-Indians and domiciled Europeans or say a total, including wives and children, of about 8,000 persons. Both classes are also employed, but to a smaller extent, in other departments of the Central and Provincial Governments in commercial and industrial pursuits. The problem which the community has to face is largely economic, because the Anglo-Indian has acquired, and is maintaining to the best of his ability, Western standards of living. But he has to struggle in economic competition with the Indian, whose

standards are simpler and cheaper; and, in addition, he is being caught in the political contest which is in progress in India. Every section of the purely Indian communities is demanding the Indianisation at the earliest possible moment of all branches of the public service. The Indian insists that the European must give place to him in every State department. He does not hesitate to put the claim of race first, and the need for efficiency second. And by the term Indianisation he means the exclusion not only of the European brought from England, but also the domiciled European and the Anglo-Indian.

In their memorandum the Anglo-Indians assert that this clamour on the part of the Indians has seriously affected their interests. "Every measure of reform granted to India has witnessed," they say, "the process of Indianisation of the Services accelerated at the expense of the Anglo-Indians and the domiciled Europeans." They claim that there has been a continuous displacement in many departments, and they instance the Postal, Forest, Salt, Survey and Excise departments. The cumulative effect of this displacement has been, they maintain, to drive more and more Anglo-Indians into subordinate posts in the Railways, the Telegraphs and the Customs. But, they add, that even in these services attempts are being made gradually to push them out. It will be of course for the Statutory Commission to test the accuracy of these statements. But the fact that they have been publicly made is of itself evidence that the community is seriously alarmed at the present position. The remedy suggested in the memorandum is that there should be a definite reservation of employment to the community for a period of years, in those departments which have hitherto largely recruited Anglo-Indians and domiciled Europeans. This suggestion is put forward also by the European Association and it would seem to be worthy of attentive consideration. Another important recommendation which has been made by the European Association is that the whole question of European education in India should be examined. It is part of the prescribed task of the Statutory Commission to inquire into the growth of education in India; and to help it in this investigation it has appointed a special educational sub-Committee under the Chairmanship of Sir Philip Hartog. The European Association is proposing to make a representation to this sub-Committee, but in the meantime it has endorsed and supported the claim of the Anglo-Indians for special educational assistance. It is beyond question that the improvement of the educational facilities at the disposal of the community is urgently necessary. For both Anglo-Indians and domiciled Europeans are handicapped by the fact that their educational equipment is not all that it ought to be. Serious efforts have been made in recent years to improve the standard of European education in India, but much more still remains to be done.

When the Reforms scheme was introduced in 1919 representation in the Central Legislature and in the Provincial Legislative Councils was accorded to the Anglo-Indians. But so far as regards the Central Legislature it was restricted to one seat in the Assembly. The European Association does not hesitate to pronounce this to be insufficient—an opinion based on practical experience. The departments in which the community is chiefly interested are under the control of the Central Legislature; and it is thus in the Assembly that the community needs to be more strongly represented. The Association suggests that there should be four members to be elected respectively by the community in Bengal, Bombay, Madras and the Punjab.

The Maharaja of Patiala, Chancellor of the Indian Chamber of Princes, arrived in London on October 1 from the Continent, to preside over a series of informal conferences in Town of Indian Princes and statesmen with counsel, in preparation for the re-assembling of the Indian States Committee, under the chairmanship of Sir Harcourt Butler, on October 15.

THE INDIAN STATUTORY COMMISSION.

A most cordial send-off was given to Sir John Simon and the other members of the Statutory Commission on their departure from Victoria by the P. and O. Bombay express on September 27. It is expected that the Commission's second and final Indian visit will necessitate their absence from England for about seven months. Landing in Bombay on October 12, the Commission hope to have completed their tour and examination of witnesses by the middle of April, and to devote the remainder of next year to the preparation of their Report.

The Commission consists of Sir John Simon, M.P., Lord Burnham, Lord Strathcona, Major C. R. Attlee, M.P., Mr. Edward Cadogan, M.P., Colonel Lane-Fox, M.P., and Mr. Vernon Hartshorn, M.P. They were accompanied by Lady Simon, Mrs. Lane-Fox, Mrs. Attlee, Sir Amherst Selby-Bigge and Sir George Anderson (members of the Auxiliary Committee on Education), Mr. S. F. Stewart, Mr. J. W. Bhore, and Mr. R. H. A. Carter (secretaries), Mr. Robert Stopford (private secretary to Sir John Simon), and Mrs. Carter. Mrs. and Miss Hartshorn joined the party at Marseilles. Mr. E. W. Perry, I.C.S., one of the joint secretaries to the Commission, left a fortnight earlier to take over the Delhi office.

The Prime Minister sent a farewell message to Sir John Simon and his colleagues wishing them a successful tour, and expressing regret that his unavoidable absence at Yarmouth prevented his coming to the station. Lord Birkenhead, Secretary for India, was kept away by his family bereavement, but Lord Winterton, the Under-Secretary, was present with Colonel S. B. A. Patterson (Political A.D.C.), Mr. D. T. Monteith (private secretary), and Mr. G. H. M. G. Cartwright (assistant private secretary to Lord Birkenhead). Sir Arthur Hirtzel (Permanent Under-Secretary) and Lady Hirtzel are in Italy; but Sir Malcolm Seton, with Lady Seton, and Sir Louis Kershaw (the Deputy and Assistant Under-Secretaries) took part in the farewell. The High Commissioner for India has gone on official business to Berlin, but Lady Chatterjee was present.

Among others on the platform were Mr. Ramsay MacDonald, M.P., Sir Herbert Samuel, Sir Charles Hobhouse, Mr. A. Mackenzie Livingstone, M.P., Mr. Kingsley Griffith, M.P., Sir Montague Barlow, Major Crawford, M.P., Mr. A. S. Comyns-Carr, Mr. Percy Harris, M.P., and Mr. W. T. Layton.

The gathering also included the Maharaja of Burdwan, Lord Inchcape, Sir Harcourt Butler, Sir Muhammad Rafique, Major-General Sir Frederick Sykes (Governor-designate of Bombay), Sir Robert Holland, Mr. J. C. B. Drake (Secretary to the High Commissioner for India), Sir Stephen Demetriadi, Lady Strathcona, Sir K. V. Reddi, Sir Walter and Lady Willson, Sir Austin Low, Sir Edward MacLagan, Lady Anderson, Mr. L. F. Rushbrook Williams, Lady Selby-Bigge, Mrs. Bhore, Mr. A. L. Saunders, Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Ferard, Mr. E. Haward, Mr. S. K. Brown, Mr. R. K. Sorabji, Mr. Francis W. Hirst, Dr. Quayle, Mr. D. N. Kandalawala (Presidency Magistrate, Bombay), Mrs. Corbett Ashby (Women's Liberal Federation), and Mr. Rowlands Evans.

Immediately on landing the Commission will proceed to Poona, where the first sittings in India will be held. There the Commission will be joined by both the Bombay Provincial Committee, elected by the local Legislative Council, and the All-India Committee of the Central Legislature. Of the latter three members—Sir Sankaran Nair (the Chairman), Sir Arthur Froom, and Raja Nawab Ali Khan—have been elected by the Council of State. The remaining six members have been nominated by the Viceroy from among the members of the Legislative Assembly, viz., Sardar Shivdev Singh Uberoi, Nawab Sir Zulfikhar Ali Khan, Sir Hari Singh Gour, Dr. A. Suhrawardy, Mr. Kikabhai Premchand and Rao Bahadur M. C. Rajah.

Further details are now available of the Commission's tour programme, in amplification of the particulars given

in THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA of September 20. The Commission's stay at Poona will extend from October 12 to 28. The Punjab evidence will be taken at Lahore between October 30 and November 9. After three days at Karachi and three days at Peshawar, the capital of the North-West Frontier Province, the Commission will spend a week (November 21-27) in Delhi, and then go to Lucknow for the United Provinces' evidence (November 28 to December 11). Eight days will be spent at Patna, for Bihar and Orissa, and a short Christmas break at Calcutta will follow. After the Assam sittings at Shillong from January 2 to 11, the Commission will spend a fortnight at Calcutta for the Bengal portion of the inquiry.

Burma has been put late in the tour programme, as a general election for the Legislature takes place in a few weeks, and the new Council will nominate its Committee. The visit to the Province will extend from January 29 to February 15. For the Southern Presidency the Commission will sit at Madras from February 18 to March 3. The Central Provinces, which alone stands outside the circle of co-operation, is to be visited at Nagpur from March 13 to 23. It is intimated that while the place indicated for each Province is the headquarters at which the Commission will spend the greater part of their time, they may visit other places in the Province.

The final work of the Commission in India will be at the winter capital of the Central Government, Delhi, from March 25 to April 11. Sir John Simon and his colleagues will embark at Bombay on April 23 to return to this country for the preparation of their report, to which, if the Indian Central Committee so desires, its report will be attached as an annexe. It is essential that, subject to slight readjustments, the programme of the tour should be adhered to. In each provincial capital, with the possible exception of Nagpur, the Commission and Committees may comprise together 23 members; but there must be a time limit for interrogation of witnesses.

The Rev. W. E. Careless, rector of Farmington, Gloucestershire, and formerly Senior Chaplain, Indian Ecclesiastical Service, has been instituted to the vicarage of Pyrton, Oxfordshire—patrons, the Dean and Chapter of Christ Church, Oxford.

Mr. Seth Gourisankar Goenka, of Khurja, for the purpose of promoting the traditional methods of intensive specialisation in important branches of Sanskrit literature, has placed £11,250 at the disposal of the Government of the United Provinces as a trust fund, whence annual gifts may be awarded to pandits of distinction.



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Book Reviews

SCIENCE AND PROPAGANDA.

"DACIA." By the late Professor Vasile Parvan. (Cambridge University Press. Illustrated. 7s. 6d. net.)

"POLAND'S WESTERN TREND." By Ernst Hansen. (George Allen and Unwin, Ltd. 3s. 6d. net.)

The late Professor Parvan did more for the cause of research into the history and proto-history of his native land, Roumania, than any man now alive, though we may reasonably hope for further valuable results from the younger men whom he trained and infected with his zeal. He was an indefatigable field-worker and a careful student. His course of lectures in the spring of 1926 on the early civilisations of the Carpatho-Danubian countries was, therefore, an event of importance, and it is right that the University Press should publish a translation of them as a memorial of a great scholar and of his work.

In Roumania one hears much of the country being a Latin island in a sea of Slav barbarism, and nothing delights the Roumanian more than to talk of his Roman descent. Apart from the language, most foreigners profess some incredulity as to these claims, and it is a little unfortunate that the Professor seems to have thought it his duty, as a patriot, to shape his lectures into a defence of this theme. Almost all that does not bear on it has been omitted. Thus, instead of beginning at the beginning of things, we find ourselves being unaccountably started from the Fourth Bronze Age. There is a reason for this, as it was in this age that the Carpatho-Danubian countries first came into contact with the North Italian Villanovan form of art and civilisation. This contact was long and close and the interrelations between the two areas are well brought out and documented. The invasion of the Scythians introduced an element hostile to this intercourse and we can only regret that this period, yielding mainly facts which do not fit in with the picture which the lecturer desired to present, is passed over with far less exposition than we could have wished for. The same insistence on looking at things from one angle has, we think, largely marred the treatment of the occupation by Celtic tribes, which can hardly have made for civilisation in this area and for the opposite everywhere else. But we are grateful for the very interesting outline of the relations with the Greek Danubian colonies, due largely to the author's own researches.

It is with the arrival of the Romans on the scene that the book becomes less lop-sided. The lecture on "Carpatho-Danubians and Romans" is one of extraordinary interest. Specially we admire his proof of the penetration throughout the country of the Italian trader and man of business, the quick spread of Latin among the inhabitants and the large growth of peasant proprietorship among the veterans of the Roman army. Dacia was abandoned by the Roman Emperors long before the direct influence of Italy ceased to act on the other parts of the Danubian region, but the work had been done and its results are clearly visible to the present day. There is no evidence of any large settlement of Romans or even of Italians in the country, for the veterans were certainly mostly men recruited in or near the country. But they had gone through the mill and had been latinised by their army training. So, while we judge that Professor Parvan has failed to show that Roumania is racially in a different category from its neighbours, he

does show that the Italian tradition is one of very many centuries' standing.

While we are grateful to the translators for making this interesting work available to the English student and for many and very helpful illustrations which accompany it, we cannot but regret that the opportunity was lost of giving us that first historical sketch which Professor Parvan only could have given. We had hoped that academic circles, even in the countries round about the Balkans, would have been able to shake off the dread disease of propaganda which infests all other circles there in more dangerous forms. The book is good and innocent propaganda and full of interesting and valuable matter, but it is imperfect history.

In approaching Herr Hansen's book we find ourselves in troubled waters. Troubled waters mean mud and there is a lot of mud here. The decision of the inhabitants of Ermland and Masuria to remain Germans was a bitter pill to the Poles. So was the final decision about the "corridor" and about the partition of Silesia. It is, therefore, hardly to be wondered at that some foolish Polish publicists should agitate for the absorption of East Prussia and for the extension of Polish territory in Silesia. We do not gather, however, even from Herr Hansen's very one-sided presentation of the case, that many really serious Poles have any idea of putting these aspirations to a practical test. It seems a pity, therefore, to write an angry book on the subject with the view of convincing the public of Europe that the Poles mean mischief. Books of this kind can do no good and must necessarily tend to the growth of bad feeling exactly where it is the duty of every good European to do all he can to foster the growth of a precisely opposite tendency. In any case, one would have thought that the writer would have remembered the proverb about glass houses and would have refrained from throwing boomerangs.

C. S-W.

THE CHANGING EAST.

"EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN LANDS. TWENTY YEARS OF LIFE, SPORT AND TRAVEL." By Colonel P. H. H. Massy, C.B.E. (London: George Routledge and Son, Ltd. 12s. 6d. net.)

In the nineties of the last century Colonel Massy was appointed British Military Consul in Cilicia, and for the ten years or so that he remained in Turkey he travelled widely in Asia Minor. As he had already acquired a knowledge of Turkish before he took up his first post at Mersina, he had an exceptional opportunity for understanding the people among whom his lot was cast. The Armenian question was at the time engaging the attention of Europe, and part of Colonel Massy's duties consisted in befriending the victims of Turkish oppression. The Englishman was not a familiar object in Asia Minor in those days, although the name carried with it due respect. The presence of a British Consul walking about unconcerned in a town sufficed to keep a whole district quiet and to protect the Armenian population which, but for him, would have shared the fate of compatriots even then being massacred in other parts of Asia Minor. Thanks to a sympathetic nature which reciprocated the kindness and friendship that it evoked, Colonel Massy's days in Turkey stored up for him the happiest memories, and when in 1925 the lure of the East took him back again over familiar as well as new ground, it was with the same readiness to be interested in all that he saw and with the same powers of keen observation and understanding.

The present volume serves the double purpose of contrasting the Turkey of thirty years ago with the Turkish Republic of to-day, and of providing a running and readable account of what the traveller to the lands of the Eastern Mediterranean will want to see. Of the many books on the Near East that have appeared since the War we know of none that covers the ground so adequately and so attractively as this does. Colonel Massy has steered with complete success between the Scylla of

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irrelevant detail and the Charybdis of guide-book monotony. The book, with its admirable selection of photographs, forms an indispensable companion to any tour in the lands with which it deals.

The first section of the book is devoted to conditions in Turkey as the author found them during his official career as Military Consul. Not the least of its value consists in the insight that it gives into the character, beliefs and manner of living of the people of those days. Outwardly the Turkey of thirty years ago is passing rapidly, but during his last visit to Asia Minor Colonel Massy was able to establish that behind all the changes linger some at least of the old life, the old customs and superstitions. His tour of three years ago took him to Palestine, Syria, Turkey and Greece, and thence home by the Adriatic. It is a tour that hundreds take in whole or in part every year; few, we venture to believe, are able to see these countries with quite the same amount of pleasurable understanding as Colonel Massy did.

There are many passages in the book which lend themselves to quotation, but we will be content with one which gives the author's impressions of Angora:—

I recall many impressions of my visit, but the affability of every class of person I met at Angora is certainly one of the most pleasing. I found the people more genial in this new capital than in any other place in Turkey I had visited since the War, which is saying much, because the Turks are affable wherever met. Nevertheless, life did not appear so easy-going and leisurely as it had been when I was in Turkey before. The old fatalistic spirit was disappearing except in more remote parts, and many things the old-fashioned Turk used to attribute to the act of God alone were being accepted at a more practical valuation. The Turk seemed to be gradually realising that he must work for what he wants and not wait for it to come to him from the Almighty. The expression *Insha-Allah*—if God wills—was not so frequently heard.

INDIAN NOTES.

(Continued from page 380.)

The Separation of Sind.

It is interesting to observe the importance which is being given in the discussions of Indian politicians to the future of the little Province of Sind. The separation from Bombay, which has been asked for by the Muhammadan majority in Sind, and has been supported by the Muhammadan politicians of Upper India, if only on the ground that it will increase the Muhammadan Provinces by one unit, however small, has now been accepted, at least in principle, by the Hindu leaders, in the Report of the Nehru Committee. That Committee regards the proposed separation as justifiable on linguistic and geographical grounds, as well as for the sound democratic reason that it is the will of the majority. They admit that the administrative and financial difficulties have not been sufficiently examined, and are apparently ready to accept as a fact the view that a financial deficit would face the Province, if separated from Bombay. They somewhat airily assert, however, that these are matters for subsequent adjustment, and that they do not affect the question of separation. The Hindus of Sind naturally regard themselves as deserted by their own co-religionists, and protest against any such separation without further preliminary inquiry and without safeguards for themselves. It seems, however, probable that Sind is merely being used as a pawn in the game, if not by both of the great religious parties, at least by the Hindu leaders. They probably believe, and are indeed alleged so to have informed their outraged fellow-religionists in Sind, that actual separation is so remote, and can be so delayed by preliminary objections, that its admission in principle can carry little risk with it comparable with the advantage of presenting an apparently united front on the general question of the Indian Constitution.

A Half-Way House.

In our opinion, the truth, as often, falls between the two contentions. Sind has no real sympathy, and only an

artificial connexion, with the people and culture of the Bombay Presidency. It suffers greatly from the control of its land revenue and irrigation from a distant centre, and it can never reach its full development except by the free play of its own talents and instincts. On the other hand, separation can hardly be made with safety without inquiry into ways and means. We are, however, inclined to believe that the financial difficulty is greatly exaggerated. Of course, the Province cannot bear the cost of what the anti-separationists somewhat irreverently call "the white elephant of a Governor." But there is some force in the contention that the Provinces of India should not seek, or be obliged, to conform to one standard of development or of government. Let each Province start at the stage of progress which it has actually reached, and proceed towards complete autonomy as its circumstances admit. In this particular case, Sind could well start as a Chief Commissionership, under the suzerainty of the Bombay Government and the Bombay High Court, and develop into independence of any other Provincial Government as its circumstances expanded. If there is a financial deficiency, which may well be doubted, the value of Karachi as a place of export and also as the air port of India, to the whole of India and to the Punjab in particular, might well entitle Sind to favourable consideration in the inevitable revision of the Meston Settlement. As matters stand, however, the future status of Sind is likely to remain the pawn of Indian politicians: and, like most pawns, is likely to meet the untimely fate of being swept aside when the bigger pieces are moved.

M. VENIZELOS ON TOUR.

M. Venizelos, Prime Minister of Greece, arrived in London late on the evening of September 30. He was met at Victoria Station by M. Caclamanos and the Staff of the Greek Legation, Mr. Oliver Harvey, representing Lord Cushendun, and by many members of the Greek colony in London. From the station M. Venizelos drove to the residence of Sir Arthur and Lady Crosfield in Hampstead, where he stayed the night. On Monday the Greek Prime Minister saw Lord Cushendun, Acting Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, in order to explain to him the nature of the Italo-Greek Treaty of Friendship and Arbitration which he signed in Rome on September 23. Subsequently he was received by Mr. Baldwin, and on Monday evening was entertained to dinner at the Greek Legation. On Tuesday M. Venizelos left London for Paris.

On leaving Rome, M. Venizelos, accompanied by Mme. Venizelos and his son, was the guest at lunch of the King of Italy on September 25 at the Royal Villa at San Rossore, near Turin. On September 26 M. Venizelos arrived in Paris, where he had meetings with M. Briand. During his stay in Paris he also had two conversations with Dr. Marinkovitch, Yugoslav Minister for Foreign Affairs, with a view to preparing the ground for his visit to Belgrade, when he hopes to lay the foundations of an understanding between Greece and Yugoslavia.

The Greek Prime Minister has been invited to pay a visit to Angora on leaving Belgrade, in order to discuss with Ismet Pasha, the Turkish Prime Minister, outstanding points at issue between Greece and Turkey; but it is understood that he will return to Athens before his visit to the Turkish capital.

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CORRESPONDENCE.

The columns of THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA are open for the discussion of subjects of general interest to its readers. The publication of such letters must not be taken, however, as indicating that the views expressed by the writers are those of THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA.

THE TROUBLES OF THE SUCCESSION STATES.

To the Editor of THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA.

Sir,—It was with the greatest interest that I read Mr. Arthur Andrews' letter upon "The Troubles of the Succession States" in your issue of September 13, and I trust you will allow me to justify some of the statements made by me in my previous letter, to which he takes exception.

In the first place, I note that Mr. Andrews' chief authority upon Hungarian conditions is Professor Oscar Jaszi, whose Communist sympathies were shown clearly enough in his article upon the Kossuth celebrations, published last April in the *Nation*. A writer who holds up to admiration as "the magnanimous Count Karolyi" the man who, more than any other, was responsible for the ruin of Hungary, can hardly be accepted as an impartial judge of conditions in that country. As well might one take for literal truth the fulminations of certain Socialist members against our own Government.

Secondly, I cannot help observing that the Slovaks of America, though they are obviously free from the coercion which their European brethren suffer at the hands of the Czechs, are for that very reason none too well qualified to speak in the name of Slovakia. Abuses which are real and vital enough to those who suffer them can scarcely be seen in their proper proportion across the Atlantic Ocean. Allow me, therefore, to quote the testimony of a Slovak of Slovakia—no less than Mgr. Hlinka himself: "The Czechs may continue to drag us before their tribunals but they cannot compel our silence. They can crush us, humiliate us—but we never will be Czechoslovaks. It is true that we are now nothing but slaves—the Slovak nation is a nation of slaves!"

This was the voice of the leader of the Slovaks six years ago, before the Czech Government had found means to stifle it. But though Hlinka, by his compromise with the oppressors of his people, has dropped out of the ranks of the Slovak patriots, his party has abated nothing of its protest against Czech exploitation, as is seen in Dr. Kromery's article in the *Slovak* of March 25, 1928: "The Slovaks are blotted out from amongst the nations, the Slovak language is declared to be merely a dialect of the Czech, the name of Slovak has been changed into Czechoslovak, and there is no end to the acts and procedures tending to make Czechs of Slovaks."

In this connexion it is interesting to note that the Czech language, through being so closely akin to the Slovak, exercises a power of assimilation which the totally different Magyar tongue entirely lacked, as is shown clearly enough by the fact that the Slovaks who emigrated to Hungary in the 18th century still preserve their language, their costume, and their national characteristics almost untouched; in fact, the Slovak villages in Hungary differ scarcely at all from those which I saw in Czechoslovakia, except that in general they appear more prosperous and better-kept, showing none of that industrial decline which is such a sad feature of the once-thriving towns in Slovakia proper.

I am glad that Mr. Andrews acknowledges that his knowledge of the Slovakian problem is largely second-hand, since otherwise I should find it hard to understand his giving credence to the base insinuations so sedulously propagated by the Czechs against Father Jehlicka. It is true that their propaganda, in common with their electoral methods, presupposes that all their opponents are venal (and in many cases, alas! their own success in diverting opposition by judicious bribery has encouraged them in this idea)—but there happen to be non-Czech elements to whom this convenient theory does not apply. I have the honour to number Father Jehlicka amongst my personal friends, and I am convinced that if Mr. Andrews were to hear him—as I have done—describing with tears in his eyes and a voice broken with emotion the sufferings of his beloved Slovak people in their struggle for independence, he would no longer credit the accusations of "treachery" and "dependence upon the Magyar propaganda office" quoted in his letter. Incidentally, I would point out that Hlinka's statement: "No real Slovak... calls for reunion with Hungary" is in direct contradiction with his own paper, the *Slovak*, which stated in a leading article on May 15, 1927: "The Slovak people throughout the whole of Slovakia, people of all political parties without exception, are saying 'We were better off in Hungary!'"

Since Mr. Andrews quotes Mgr. Hlinka in support of his assertions, I think it only right to give a brief account of the relations existing between these two Slovak leaders. Ten years ago they were acting in close co-operation; together they found the Populist Party and its organ, the *Slovak*; together they went to Paris in 1919 to demand a plebiscite for the Slovaks, or at least full political autonomy. When Dr. Benesh prevented them from accomplishing their mission, Hlinka first begged the Polish Government for military help to drive the Czechs out of the country; then, when this was not forthcoming, asked Jehlicka to go to Budapest, in order to treat with the Hungarian Government for Home Rule for Slovakia under Hungary. Three years later, being still in active opposition to the Czech Government, Hlinka issued the Memorandum of Zilina (August 3, 1922), entitled: "A Cry of the Slovak Nation, doomed to

death, to the civilised world." It was not until January, 1927, that, tired of fighting and seduced by material advantages offered to his party by the Prime Minister, Svehla, he abandoned his original programme, the chief point of which was full political Home Rule—whereupon the people left him. At the Communal elections in the autumn of 1927 he lost more than 100,000 votes, so that to-day he may be considered as a general without soldiers.

Mr. Andrews has completely missed the significance of the fact that most of these votes have gone to the Republican Agrarian Party, but those who are in close touch with Slovakian politics have no illusions as to the meaning of this transfer of votes *en bloc* to the Left. In a few years time, if nothing is done to check this tendency, the Slovak people will become completely Bolshevik, owing to the economic ruin following the exploitation by the Czechs, and the incessant propaganda of Czech Communists. And herein lies the great danger, not only for Slovakia but for Europe in general. "We want," says Father Jehlicka, "not to be a bridge leading from red Bohemia to red Russia, but on the contrary a wedge between these two empires."

I should be interested to see what figures Mr. Andrews can produce in support of his assertion that Slovak ports, trade and industries show a steady improvement, since all the statistics in my possession refer to Czechoslovakia as a unity. It is this very fact that all true Slovak patriots deplore, and they invariably maintain that, whilst the Magyars acknowledged the Slovaks and their language, the Czechs deny even their existence. The Czechoslovak Constitution does not even mention Slovaks, and the official statistics take no notice of them, recognising only Czechoslovaks. Moreover, the assertion is in direct contradiction with the evidence of Hlinka's own paper, which stated on July 30, 1927: "The new frontiers have brought us economically to the ground, and Englis, the Finance Minister, says that even what we still possess no longer belongs to us but to the Czechs."

In quoting Major Temperley's article in *Foreign Affairs* (April, 1928), Mr. Andrews omits the illuminating passage which states that ethnic considerations were deliberately ignored, in order that Czechoslovakia should have some measure of economic viability. "No one denied that violation at the time," admits Major Temperley. "What the Allies said was that in this case economic necessity was a more compelling force than ethnic justice." In other words, the very principles upon which the Peace Treaties were based had to be violated, before the artificial State of Czechoslovakia could be given any chance of existence.

In conclusion, I must point out that Mr. Andrews creates a false impression by his reference to the Magyars "exploiting the resources" of Ruthenia and Slovakia. The relation between these provinces and the manufacturing towns of Hungary was one of close economic co-operation, upon which the peasants of the mountain districts depended for their very livelihood. Not only did the trade in raw materials bring prosperity to the regions that provided them, but the agricultural workers in these districts were accustomed to spend the summer months working in the Hungarian plains, from which they returned with sufficient wages both in money and in kind, to support themselves during the winter. Now that this economic union has been destroyed, the Ruthenian peasants are on the verge of starvation. Even if the Czechs had made any real effort to compensate them for the loss of their natural market—and I maintain that there is no evidence to show that they have done so—not all their ingenuity can modify the bend of rivers or cause the valleys to turn westwards. Economically and spiritually, the provinces of Ruthenia and Slovakia are bound to Hungary, and no amount of propaganda can alter that fact. As for the racial bond between Czechs and Slovaks, it has been tersely summed up in the following phrase: "People speak of the brotherhood of these two races. . . . Cain and Abel also were brothers!"—I am, etc.,

Hotel Moderne, Paris.

DUDLEY HEATHCOTE.

September 20, 1928.

[We shall not be able to publish any more letters on this subject.—Ed.]

NEWS IN BRIEF.

The German Chargé d'Affaires in Durazzo has notified the Albanian Prime Minister of Germany's recognition of King Zogu and of the monarchy of Albania.

Dr. Hikmet Bey, the Turkish Communist who was acquitted at Constantinople several months ago on the charge of spreading Communist propaganda, was again arrested last week, as the police found compromising documents at his house.

The Foreign Office announces that the King has approved the following appointments in his Diplomatic Service:—

Mr. Charles Henry Bentinck, C.M.G., H.M. Minister in Addis Ababa, to be H.M. Minister in Lima; and

Mr. Sydney Philip Perigal Waterlow, C.B.E., H.M. Minister in Bangkok, to be H.M. Minister in Addis Ababa.

Among other diplomatic appointments, Mr. Bentinck served as Counsellor at Athens in 1920 and was four times Chargé d'Affaires there between 1921 and 1924. He was appointed Minister and Consul-General in Addis Ababa in 1925 in succession to Mr. Seeds, on the latter's transfer to Albania.

THE PRESS IN THE NEAR EAST.

The Italo-Greek Treaty.

As was to be expected, M. Venizelos's tour and the pacts which are to result from it are receiving close attention in the various countries of South-Eastern Europe. While due recognition is given to the value of each fresh agreement as a contribution to the maintenance of peace, it is not always possible to disguise an undercurrent of misgiving at Italy's penetration of the Balkan Peninsula, even where her devotion to peace and the honesty of her intentions are most stressed.

After recording all that is claimed for the Italo-Greek Pact in the two countries primarily concerned, *L'Indépendance Roumaine*, a semi-official organ of the present Rumanian Government, writes:—

"There is no need to doubt the accuracy of this declaration. Greece can desire and put into practice only a policy of peace. Italy has the same interest. But when this is said, it is difficult not to call attention to the constant progress that Italy is making in the Balkans, in regard to which progress the agreements with Albania, Turkey and Greece, as well as the very friendly relations established by the Rome Government with Bulgaria, mark the stages of penetration. 'The Balkans for the Balkan Peoples' does not signify 'The Balkans for the Serbs,' writes an Athens newspaper, and it expresses the hope that this truth has at last sunk home in Belgrade. It is certain that the actual situation to-day is due in part to the slightly imperious tone adopted by certain politicians of Belgrade during the first years after the War in regard to the other Balkan capitals. The realisation of a Greater Serbia, such as they had never dared to hope for, having given them exaggerated ideas, they succeeded in ranging against their country all the other States of the Balkans, which were resolved not to allow Yugoslavia to assume the hegemony of the Peninsula. Perfect equality between the Balkan States, absolute liberty and unchallenged integrity for each in its sovereign rights, such is the political doctrine which this part of Europe has proclaimed and imposed during recent years for each of the States concerned. Yugoslavia, racked for some time past by political crises and internal and external difficulties, and exposed notably to an extra-Balkan policy which, so it is believed in Belgrade, tends to isolate her and even to encircle her, did not delay to rally sincerely to this doctrine, but it was too late. The movement of reaction against the earlier Yugoslav post-War policy had already begun in the other Balkan States, and Italy's subtle diplomacy knew how to profit by the occasion. To-day, Italy occupies in the Balkans a position obviously more important than in the past. Her merit for having succeeded in concluding even with Greece a treaty of friendship is the greater because the Greek nation remains inconsolable over the loss of the Dodecanese."

The official organ of the Bulgarian Government is content with a more objective analysis of the position, but ending, inevitably, with the usual references to Bulgaria. *La Bulgarie* considers that M. Venizelos is anxious to dissipate the atmosphere of suspicion of Greek policy which the Italo-Greek *rapprochement* would seem to have created in "certain Western circles." It points out that the new Greek Government hesitated a long time before committing itself to the foreign policy of its immediate predecessors, and thus gave rise to reports abroad that M. Venizelos intended to abandon the agreement with Rome which had been initiated by M. Michalakopoulos. It continues:—

"The evolution of Greek policy, such as it appears to be since the recent electoral victory of the Liberal Party, imposes a categorical denial on all the pessimistic views of the international Press. Far from reacting against the policy of *rapprochement* with Italy inaugurated by the Cabinet of M. Zaimis, M. Venizelos has devoted himself to assuring its triumph in crowning, so to speak, the work undertaken by M. Michalakopoulos. What is more, the Cretan knows how to take advantage of his influence and personal connexions to assure for his country the advantages of an alliance with Rome without allowing himself to lose anything of his former acquisitions as a result of his close collaboration with the West. It is for this reason, no doubt, that he is visiting Paris. . . . It would be permissible to expect a real clearing up of the Balkan horizon, if certain proceedings of our confrères of the South and West did not throw a shadow on this attractive picture and did not often cause even the least sceptical minds to entertain doubts on the subject. Thus, while the Greek Prime Minister proclaims *urbi et orbi* his country's will for peace, the newspapers of Athens and Salonika carry on a campaign against Bulgaria, who is accused of plotting against the safety of her neighbours. Voices in unison are raised in the same sense in Belgrade. The recent Ministerial crisis in our country has furnished numerous Press organs with an occasion to try to win credence for the most unlikely fables and fabrications directed against Bulgarians. . . . This is not the way

to contribute to the normal development of inter-Balkan relations, so indispensable to the success of the common task of our Balkan peoples."

The Greek Press of all denominations approves of the treaty with Italy. The royalist newspapers, however, couch a tentative lance on behalf of the Dodecanese. Thus the *Proia* says:—

"... The signature of the Italo-Greek Pact by M. Venizelos constitutes, one may say, the happy realisation of a will manifested for a long time on one side and on the other. This fact has an importance which must not be forgotten. The Pact between Greece and Italy is not the isolated diplomatic act of a certain Hellenic Government, that of to-day; it corresponds with the political conception of the whole of the country, and with the comprehension, on the part of all Greek public opinion, of the interest attaching to a consecration of the friendly relations and pacific collaboration with Italy in the Eastern Mediterranean. This is what gives to the Pact its real importance.

One should also add that at the time when the Greek desire for consolidating friendly relations with a neighbouring Power is being realised, Greek public opinion does not forget that in this same Eastern Mediterranean exists a grievous point for Italo-Greek friendship. But the fact also that, even without forgetting this point, there is no one in Greece who disapproves of the signature of the Italo-Greek Pact, in the certainty that advantage to both nations will result—this fact, we say, increases further the importance of the document that is about to be signed."

The *Kathimerini*, also royalist, is more candid. It says:—

"We welcome without joy and without enthusiasm the announcement of the signature of the Italo-Greek Pact. Having several times uttered bitter truths on this subject, we consider it superfluous to return to the question. Assuredly, the fact of the conclusion of the pact of arbitration and friendship with a Great Power cannot be regarded as not satisfactory. But the agony of an enslaved people, the Dodecanesians, is a fact of much greater importance for us than the dubious advantages of a pact."

THE SULTAN OF MUSCAT.

The Sultan of Muscat and Oman arrived in Edinburgh on September 26 by motor car from Melrose. He was met on his arrival at the Caledonian Station Hotel by Lord Provost Sir Alexander Stevenson and Bailies John Hay and Dr. T. G. Nasmyth. Later in the evening the Sultan was entertained at a civic dinner in the City Chambers. The following morning he travelled by motor car from Edinburgh to the Trossachs, proceeding thence to Glasgow. The Sultan left for Ireland on September 28.

SALONIKA REUNION SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE.

Last Sunday (September 30), the tenth anniversary of the Armistice with Bulgaria, the men and women who served in the Salonika Army during the War assembled on the Horse Guards' Parade, under Brigadier-General H. E. T. Kelly, chairman of the Salonika Reunion Association, for their annual muster and service of remembrance. They were formed up in a square for inspection by Field-Marshal Sir George Milne, Chief of the Imperial General Staff, who was the commander of the British Salonika Force. After the inspection a short service was conducted by the Chaplain-General. Members then marched in column of route to Great George Street Gate and along Whitehall, dividing to pass on each side of the Cenotaph, where wreaths were laid on behalf of those who served in the British Salonika Force and also by representatives of Great Britain's Allies in Macedonia. After passing the Cenotaph the column returned to the Horse Guards' Parade, when the national anthem concluded the proceedings.

The Spanish Government has decided to recognise the new monarchy in Albania.

Five lives were lost last week in a level-crossing accident near Novisad, where a train ran into a motor car.

Mr. Abdullah ibn Yusuf-Ali, C.B.E., I.C.S. (ret'd.), will read a paper entitled "Education in India: The New Outlook" before the Royal Asiatic Society, 74, Grosvenor Street, W.1, on Tuesday, October 23, at 4.30 p.m.

Mr. G. A. W. Booth, Royal Counsellor to the Egyptian State Legal Department, who was a Judge of the Mixed Tribunal from 1918-1926, succeeded Sir John Percival on October 1 as Judicial Adviser to the Egyptian Government.

The value of the new Albanian stamps which are being issued this month in commemoration of the coronation of King Ahmed Zogu will be added when the stamps arrive in Albania from Paris, where they are being printed, to avoid any possibility of fraud by means of stamps lost or pilfered in transit.

THE WEEK AT HOME

London, Tuesday Morning.

The Conservatives' Conference.

If the Conservatives are pleased with their Conference at Yarmouth, the only deduction is that our masters are not difficult to placate. For of inspiration, of the victorious rallying cry, there was little trace. One recognises, of course, that the Administration of Mr. Baldwin does not stoop to the wiles of the cheap-jack, but even so, more might have been made of the situation. The only things which formerly were uncertain and are now certain are that additional industries may be safeguarded; and that the Conservative Party will not go beyond public opinion in its fiscal policy: in other words, that expediency is to be the ruling factor.

But that which may have given the ordinary member of the Conference full heart for the next General Election was the fact that the Conservatives' organisation is now nearly perfect. This fact was illustrated in a timely way by the result of the Cheltenham election, at which the Conservative was returned on a minority vote. Organisation can almost always beat inspiration, and when inspiration among the Opposition is lacking, as it now is, a child can foretell the result. If no miracles intervene, such as a pact or common programme between Liberals and Labour, the return of the Conservatives next year is certain.

To assert, however, that there is any considerable enthusiasm at the prospect of another long tenure of office by the Conservatives, would be possible only to the good and, therefore, narrow Party man. The general opinion, as far as I have been able to discover it, is that the Conservative Party will be returned simply *faute de mieux*.

The Labour Conference.

Yesterday the annual Conference of the Labour Party began at Birmingham. The programme would seem to indicate that the Party has definitely committed itself to the doctrine of "gradualness," not so much from inward conviction as from realisation of the fact that, even if the Labour and Liberal members are at the next election in a majority over the Conservatives, the checks on the Progressives' power will be so numerous that it would be folly to set out now an "advanced" programme, such as the I.L.P. desire.

Sympathetic observers call this attitude one of idealism tempered by realism; harsher critics would accuse the Labour Party, as they would accuse the Conservative Party and what is left of the Liberal Party, of not scrupling to sacrifice genuine conviction to the dictates of expediency. In other words, that is to be put forward which it is estimated will obtain the greatest suffrage. But perhaps 'twas ever thus in politics.

Decision of the Bishops.

Last week the Bishops decided to sanction the use of the later version of the Revised Prayer Book. They stipulate, however, that all clergy must keep within the limits of the Revised Book (when, that is, they depart from the Prayer Book); and also that parishioners must be consulted when incumbents wish to use the Revised Book.

The justification of this action, which, coming after a double rejection by Parliament, might seem to be a little puzzling, is that, since the Revised Book was accepted by Convocation and the Church Assembly, its use cannot be regarded as inconsistent with the principles of the Church of England. The Bishops' decision is, however, being strongly attacked, on the ground, apparently, that they are setting themselves up as an authority rival to Parliament, and that a pretension to such power will inevitably end in worsening the condition of the Church of England.

On the other hand, there is being manifested very marked sympathy with the Bishops in their attempt to find a way out of the present intolerable confusion. When

loyalties are dual, the one that pertains to spiritual often appeals with stronger effect, and if in this matter the State's decision is discreetly ignored, not all Englishmen will be found to declare that the country is on the way to perdition.

The "Heresy Hunt."

The "heresy hunt" which I mentioned last week in connexion with the Church Congress at Cheltenham continues to attract attention. The interesting fact has come out since I last wrote that the attack on Dr. Major, the Modernist of Ripon Hall, is no mere "Anglo-Catholic ramp," led by Lord Halifax, but is also strongly supported by the Evangelical Party, to whom Dr. Major's creed is equally repugnant.

But there seems little possibility that Dr. Major will not be allowed to speak to-morrow upon "The Anglican Interpretation of the Christian Faith." Yet the question is being pointedly asked whether this learned man ought, *qua* member of the Church of England, to be allowed to continue to propagate his opinions, which are very far from being accepted as Christian. Of course, there would be talk of his "being hounded out of the Church"; but really the Church, even the tolerant Anglican Church, must draw the line somewhere.

Those who are protesting at Cheltenham are, of course, not protesting again Dr. Major's right to hold, in a proper position, any religious views that he likes; but in claiming that the Anglican platform is not one from which those views can properly be preached, they are, it seems, on fairly solid theological ground.

The upshot of this dispute may conceivably be such a quarrel between Orthodoxy and Heterodoxy as has not been seen in this country for many years. In any case, the reports of the Cheltenham Church Congress should make extremely interesting reading.

"Spoonerisms."

An interesting, although scarcely a surprising, fact, was made public last week, when Dr. Spooner celebrated his golden wedding: that he himself was responsible for but one of the multitudinous "Spoonerisms" that have amused a credulous world. The best of these stories set about by impostors is, I think, the one (recalled by the *Manchester Guardian*) of the aged doctor wandering distractedly about Dulwich looking for a certain hostelry. He failed to find it—not unnaturally, because he said that he was looking for "The Dull Man at Greenwich!"

Others that concern the undergraduate's hissing the mystery lectures and tasting worms are far too clever ever to have been said. The sort of thing that does occasionally get said is what I myself heard an undergraduate at the Cambridge Union utter. He was, I think, protesting against the Chestertons' attack on the integrity of the ordinary party politician, and declaimed indignantly against the "insinuations" and "innuendoes" of his opponents.

The Talking Film.

Last week, at the Piccadilly Theatre, there was held a "first night" of the talking film. Estimates upon its future in this country vary very considerably. It is held by some who were present that the theatres and orchestras will be very badly hit. It is held by others that musicians, far from suffering by this mechanical competitor, will rather benefit by it, just as they have benefited (so at least it is alleged) by the introduction of broadcasting. Nor is great anxiety being shown by the regular theatre managers, who pretend that the voice-cum-action play will never rival the real play in popularity; and the great Mr. Cochran, who ought to know when danger is looming, says that people will no more desert the regular theatres for the "talkies" than they will begin to prefer tinned salmon to fresh.

So that those who are not experts must just wait and see.

ALTER EGO.

PERSONAL AND GENERAL

TO-DAY

October 4, 1928 (New Style).
 September 21, 1928 (Old Style).
 Rabia II, 18, 1347 A.H., of the Muslim Calendar.
 Tishri 20, 5689, of the Jewish Calendar.

Princess Eudoxia of Bulgaria left London on September 26 for Germany.

Sir Henry and Lady Bax-Ironside have arrived at 23, Grosvenor Place from abroad.

Sir Ernest Blackwell has returned to 28, St. James's Court from a visit to Egypt.

Earl and Countess Winterton arrived at 61, Eccleston Square on September 24 from Paris.

Princess Cécile of Greece, who had been on a visit to the King and Queen at Balmoral Castle, left on September 26.

The Hon. Mrs. Harold Nicolson arrived on October 1 from France at her Kent residence, Long Barn, The Weald.

Mr. C. B. Chartres, President of the European Association of India, left London on September 27, to join the s.s. Maloja at Marseilles, on his return to India.

Lord Plumer, late High Commissioner for Palestine, has accepted the presidency of the Society of Miniature Rifle Clubs, in succession to the late Earl Haig.

The Nawab of Bhopal, accompanied by the Begum, embarked in the Ranpura at Bombay on September 22, and is expected in London *via* Marseilles on October 6.

M. Caclamanos, Greek Minister in London, returned to 51, Upper Brook Street, W.1, on September 7 from Paris, in order to receive M. Venizelos on his arrival in London on September 30.

Lady Irwin, accompanied by Lady Beatrice Ormsby-Gore and the Hon. Anne Wood, left Marseilles on September 28 in the P. and O. liner Maloja to join Lord Irwin at Government House, Delhi.

The Bishop of Wakefield, Dr. G. R. E. Eden, who retires to-morrow (October 5) has, on the invitation of the Bishop of Egypt and the Sudan, accepted the winter chaplaincy at Aswan on the Upper Nile. Dr. Eden will leave England about the middle of November.

PERSIANS AND ARABS IN THE PERSIAN GULF.

We have received from the Persian Legation the following statement regarding the seizure of a boat in the Persian Gulf during August:—

"As a result of investigations made by the Customs authorities into the case of the dhow recently seized off the island of Tamb, the proceedings of the sittings held clearly establish that the boat belongs to a man named Abid, a Persian subject, and contained five passengers. According to the statement made by Abid, and duly attested by him, the cargo consisted of sugar, lump and granulated, and tea, which was being conveyed to the island of Kishm. The dhow and its captain, as well as the passengers, have been released, and the cargo being contraband, and having been seized in Persian coastal waters, has been confiscated. The statement emanating from other sources that the dhow was not owned by a Persian subject, is absolutely without foundation."

THE LATE SARWAT PASHA.

The remains of Abdul Khalek Pasha Sarwat, twice Prime Minister of Egypt, who died in Paris on September 22, were transferred from Marseilles on September 26 by the steamer Providence to Egypt. On arrival at Alexandria the coffin was taken by special train to Cairo, where the State funeral took place on September 30. The coffin, conveyed on a gun-carriage, draped with the Egyptian flag, was accompanied by a procession nearly a mile long, with a military escort of all arms. Among those who followed the bier were members of Sarwat Pasha's family, the Prime Minister, Mahomed Pasha Mahmoud, and other Ministers, Tewfik Pasha Nessim, representing King Fuad and members of the Diplomatic Corps.

Marshal Pilsudski, who has been undergoing a rest cure in Roumania, arrived in Bucharest on September 29 to pay an official visit to the Roumanian Government.

Mgr. Dimitrije, Patriarch of the Church of Serbia, has contracted pneumonia. Prayers were being said last week in the churches for his recovery.

The chief of the Yugoslav Department of Public Security, M. Lazitch, has been appointed Vice-Minister of the Interior. M. Lazitch is known for his sympathetic interest in Macedonian matters, and is expected to have charge of the Macedonian department.

A draft decree for creating a Supreme State Audit in Egypt has been published. The new Department, which is to be autonomous as regards its staff and answerable only to the Prime Minister, will control all State expenditure and will be empowered to call for any documents or information which its head, who is to have the rank of Minister, may consider necessary for the execution of his duties.

Where to stay in the East

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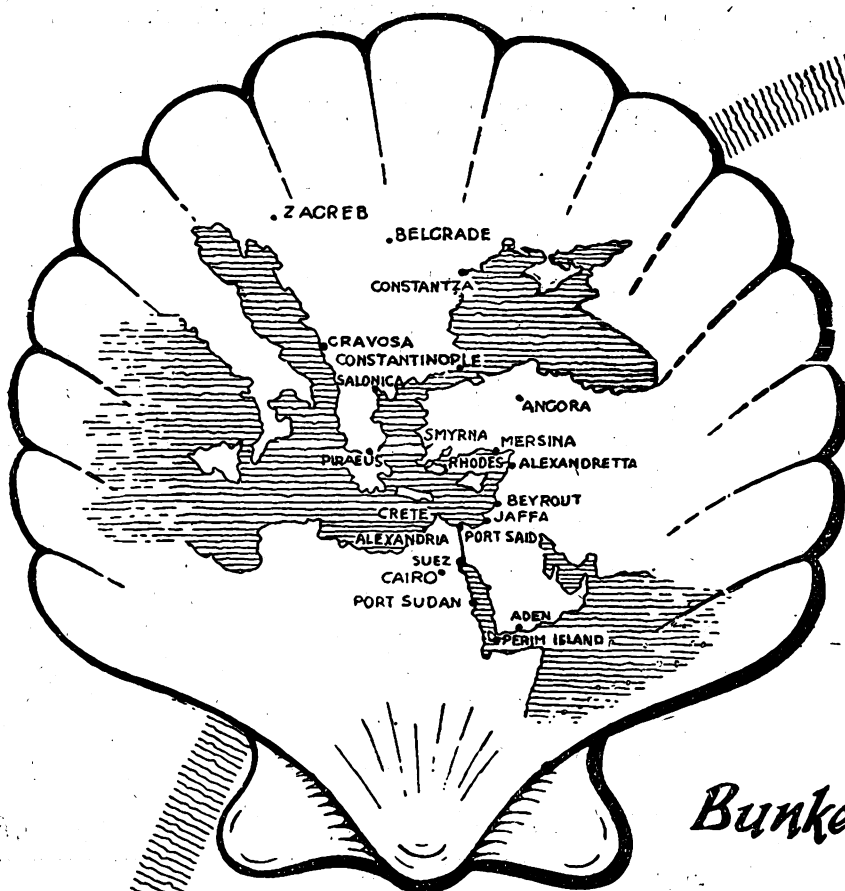
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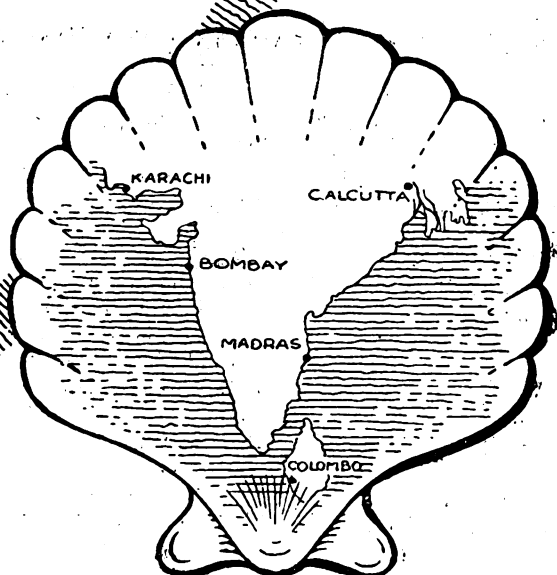
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SHELL



Commercial and Financial Section.

NOTES AND NEWS

170, Strand, London, W.C.2,
Tuesday Morning.

The Smyrna-Aidin Railway.

Shareholders of the Ottoman Railway from Smyrna to Aidin will have become accustomed by now to a tale of woe from the Chair at their half-yearly meetings. Last week's meeting was no exception to the rule. The past half-year, the President announced, was an exceedingly poor one, but he added the cryptic remark that "the prospects" of the current half-year "ought to be better." As the Board entertains hopes of making up some leeway for the first half-year of the year, the President's intention, no doubt, was to give shareholders to understand that there was some prospect of the working of the current half-year proving more favourable in spite of the reports of a famine in half-a-dozen vilayets. The Company is still handicapped by the refusal of the Turkish Government to ratify the agreement of increased tariffs from January 1, 1928. Ever since the new order in Turkey complaints as to the Company's difficulty in hitting it off with the Turkish Government have been frequent. No one contends that the Turks have been easy people to negotiate with of recent years, but the time has come when British companies must stop to consider whether failure to reach agreement with the Turkish Government does not imply something amiss on their side as well as on that of the Turks. Lack of success in negotiations with foreigners is not confined to British dealings with Turkey; but frequently, when the facts are known, it is found that the fault is not always on the foreign side. British companies will do well to realise that negotiation with the East is an art not possessed by all Britons, whatever their qualifications in other directions.

Pending Greek Loans.

The brief visit of M. Venizelos, the Greek Prime Minister, to this country, has no connexion with any financial developments, though it is possible that before he leaves this afternoon he may have had conversations with financiers. There are, it may be pointed out, a number of loans on the tapis, notably one for the City of Athens with which Hambros Bank are concerned and whose proposals are understood to have met with approval in Athens, and one for productive works for which a number of American houses are in competition. Nothing will be done officially in the case of any of these projected loans until the return of M. Venizelos to Greece. Judging by the proposals with regard to the 8 per cent. internal loan the policy of the new Greek Government is likely to be very critical to foreign loans, but its attitude is likely to be tempered by the existing circumstances. It must remain a very moot point whether it is advisable for Greece at this particular moment to contemplate a reduction of interest on the internal loan, as the step is apt to indicate the possibility of arbitrary hands being laid on other investments.

Oil Resources of Iraq.

Very naturally special attention is paid in the report recently presented by H.B.M. Government to the Council of the League of Nations on the administration of Iraq in 1927 to the development of the petroleum resources in that region by the Turkish Petroleum Company and the Anglo-Persian Oil Company. While the country is not by any means devoid of other resources, such as the expansion of grain production and cotton growing, on which to establish a sound economic basis, oil, if it exists in adequate quantities (as may now be assumed to be the case in Iraq), offers such great prospects for the development of a country that it is only to be expected that it should loom largest in importance on the economic horizon. Developments during last year, it is pointed out, had an encouraging effect on markets not connected with the oil industry, while the large amounts disbursed in wages by the companies had a most favourable effect on the purchasing power of the areas concerned. During the year it is pointed out that the Turkish Petroleum Company made great strides in the development of their programme for the testing of the concession area. Altogether eight wells were started, these being many miles apart, and, as our readers will remember, success attended the drilling at Baba Gurgur, where on October 14 an important strike of oil occurred. In the other wells no important oil or gas flows were encountered during the year. The Khaniqin Oil Company continued the testing of their concession area in 1927, but progress was slow, great caution having to be exercised on account of the high pressures encountered from time to time in the Naft Khana field. In the area on which the company are concentrating—an area about fourteen miles long and four miles wide—twelve sites had been tested or were under test at the close of the year, and in the Iraq side of the field 10,436 feet had been drilled. The well brought into production in this field in 1926 produces sufficient crude oil to meet the requirements of the throughput of the refinery.

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The Trade of Iraq.

The trade statistics for 1927 showed a considerable improvement on those for 1926, the value of the imports being Rs.1,120,69,386 as against Rs.974,33,665, while that of the exports was Rs.617,00,916 as against Rs.414,77,984. The transit trade, too, showed an improvement at Rs.582,18,445 as against Rs.556,12,230, the total volume of trade being Rs.2,319,88,747 as against Rs.1,945,23,879. If, however, the statistics are taken for the financial year 1926-27 a decrease is shown as compared with the previous twelve months, the figures being Rs.2,092,03,815 as against Rs.2,279,68,601. The conclusion to be drawn from these two sets of figures is obviously that, in common with neighbouring regions, Iraq emerged from the period of trade depression in the later part of last year. Both as regards imports and transit trade the figures for 1927, it is pointed out, do not completely represent the increase in the volume of trade. As regards imports, commodities such as textiles and sugar, which represent the chief imports of Iraq, decreased in price. As regards the improvement in the export trade, it is to be noted that the harvest of 1927 was above the average, while the date crop and the wool clip were both satisfactory, and the export of hides and skins was also good. It is noteworthy that the increase in the grain exports is to be attributed not only to the satisfactory climatic conditions but also to the extension of the area under cultivation. Irrigation pumps are now in much more extended use, and it is remarked that cultivation by pump is not dependent to such a degree as cultivation by rainfall on climatic variations, from which it follows that Iraq henceforth will not be to quite the same degree at the mercy of bad harvests as has been the case in the past. As will be evident from the trade figures, the commercial situation in Iraq in 1927 was satisfactory. A feature of special interest noted in the report is that cotton growing is increasing in popularity, as it is now being recognised that cotton is a remunerative crop.

The Roumanian 1913 Loan.

Details were issued last week of the agreement which was arrived at between the Roumanian Government and Messrs. J. Henry Schroder and Co., in regard to the Four and a Half per Cent. Loan of 1914 on July 4 last. The agreement has now been ratified by the Roumanian Parliament, and will come into operation as soon as the Committee of the London Stock Exchange has restored the quotation of the loan to the Official List. As I have already indicated the agreement is far-reaching, providing, as it does for payment to be made as arranged in time of war as well as in peace time and "whether the holders be citizens or subjects of a friendly, hostile, or neutral state without requiring any declaration or evidence as to the then present or former nationality, domicile or residence of such holders or any previous holders or as to the length of time such holders have held such bonds or the coupons attached thereto." These conditions are the natural outcome of difficulties which have arisen in respect of many loans as a result of the war, and it will be interesting to see whether in the case of future loans, particularly for Near Eastern countries, similar conditions are inserted.

COMMENTATOR.

THE PROGRESS OF THE SUDAN.

A much more cheerful story is told in the annual report of the Central Economic Board of the Sudan Government for 1927-28 than was unfolded in last year's report. The latter covered a period of economic depression, the causes of which have been dealt with in these columns: while the present report covers a year in which the Sudan, owing to a good harvest, has been making a rapid recovery—a recovery which, it may be emphasised, has been in evidence in every sphere of the country's life, and to which the trade statistics bear abundant witness. As harvest conditions have been good this year it may be taken for granted that the position in the Sudan will now be normal, and that steady progress may be looked for until the turn of a bad harvest comes again—apparently an occurrence of every five or six years. These set-backs are inevitable interruptions in the history of all agricultural countries, and while their effect on the position in the Sudan has been most unfortunate, it is happily the fact that as the country has been steadily progressing the incidence of these periodical depressions has been growing less. Of the recent visitation the report says:—

Looked at as a mere matter of business and organisation, conditions which threaten famine can now be handled effectively in the Sudan. The real difficulty lies in their psychological effect on a native population and the spread of rumour, which takes its colour from the general feeling of doubt and despondency and creates a tendency to panic. . . . It appears to be generally agreed that on this last occasion the people have been less inclined to lose their heads than in times past. There has been hardship and in some cases distress, but no panic. The early action taken by Government to help the people through their troubles has no doubt done much to keep them in good heart.

A feature of the past crisis which shows plainly how rapidly the Sudan is advancing economically was the activity of the merchant class in looking for fresh supplies of grain both in the country and abroad. It is very significant that the Government should have found it possibly to rely on them in this direction and to have confined its own purchases "to the minimum needed to maintain control of prices and to prevent starvation." The development of communications, it is pointed out, has had much to do with the activity of the local merchants, for the advent of the motor and the rapid extension of the road system have made the greater part of the Sudan accessible in the dry season. This building of roads, which is steadily being proceeded with, will in the end result in making of the Sudan a single compact entity instead of consisting of a number of districts to all intents and purposes isolated one from the other. Another important development in communications is the extension of the railway from Kassala to Makwar. The area served by this railways is at present scantily populated, though once the inhabitants were numerous and the production of produce was considerable. "The railway is certain to attract settlers," says the report, "and, in time, especially if settlement is actively encouraged, this part of the country should attain great prosperity." Reference must also be made to the development of Port Sudan. In the brief space of a few years this centre has grown almost out of recognition. It now has first-class shipping facilities, and its importance is indicated by the number of shipping lines which now run direct services to it. As

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the gateway to the Sudan it has become a port worthy of the development that is going on in the country.

Needless to say, the great cotton growing scheme in the Gezira remains the most significant development in the economic history of the Sudan. It has been pointed out in these columns that the effect of the scheme has been in the main confined so far to the Gezira district, but even so its influence throughout the Sudan has been profound, and it promises to become an outstanding factor in the progress of the country as the scheme is extended. Full attention is devoted in the report to the results which have attended the great extension of cotton growing following the completion of the Makwar Dam. The report says:—

The most powerful new factor in the situation, which it has influenced profoundly, is the great cotton growing scheme on the Blue Nile in the Gezira. Its effects have been far-reaching in many directions and it has proved the mainstay of the country during the last two years of depression. It was most fortunate that gravitation water from the Sennar Dam became available for the first time just at this critical juncture, enabling 80,000 acres to be put under cotton and large areas to be cultivated with grain and forage crops, and that in the second year of shortage this area of cotton was increased to 100,000 acres and that of dura to 50,000 acres. Large crops of beans were also raised and utilised by the poorer people for food.

The money received by the tenants in both years did much to assist trade, but it is emphasised that from the general point of view the value of the scheme has been that it afforded employment in subsidiary services such as hoeing and picking to thousands of people. It is estimated that of the seasonal labour 40,000 were Arabs, 14,500 of them coming from the White Nile Province, while 15,000 were West African immigrants. The Gezira region has also provided forage for large numbers of animals. A further advantage of the scheme, it is pointed out, is that it assists in the preservation of the grain supply. It is noteworthy that in 1927 some 23,600 tons of grain were grown on the irrigated area in the Gezira. The region thus provides more than sufficient for local requirements, and in difficult times prevents another region from being added to the areas of scarcity. The last cotton crop, as already pointed out in these columns, showed a decline on the previous year's figures, due to indifferent climatic conditions in the Gezira. This year sees a further extension of the area under cotton (and equally under grain) and it is to be anticipated that the year's results will show a further marked step forward in the career of the Sudan as a potentially great cotton growing region.

It is announced by the Department of Overseas Trade that Mr. E. H. Mulock, Commercial Secretary for Egypt, will leave for England on October 7, preparatory to his being transferred to another Commercial Diplomatic post. Mr. R. M. A. Turner, O.B.E., Commercial Secretary at Athens, has been selected to succeed Mr. Mulock in Egypt and will take over his new duties at Cairo on October 6.

NEWS FROM ALL SOURCES.

The Customs duty on motor spirit imported into the Sudan has been increased to 15 per cent. *ad valorem* with effect from August 22.

Sir W. G. Armstrong, Whitworth and Co., Newcastle-upon-Tyne, have obtained a contract for thirty-two boilers for main-line express locomotives of the Bengal Nagpur Railway.

M. Skeferis, Greek Consul-General, left Alexandria in the middle of September for Athens on two months' leave. M. Zamaria, Vice-Consul, will act for him during his absence.

The Assam Railways and Trading Company recommends a final dividend of 7½ per cent. on the "B" stock, making 12½ per cent. for the year, subject to confirmation at the meeting fixed for October 24.

The death occurred recently in Paris of Baron Jean de Neuflize, who was a director of the Bank of France, Vice-Chairman of the P.L.M., a member of the Paris Committee of the Ottoman Bank, and Chairman of a number of companies. He was 78 years of age.

The Department of Agriculture in Cyprus is holding an inquiry into the causes of the decline in the production of wheat in the Island. While ten years ago the export of wheat from Cyprus amounted to 77,960 cwt., the exports in 1927 only amounted to 1,115 cwt. Ten years ago the imports of flour amounted to 1,047 cwt., but last year the imports reached the record figure of 255,703 cwt.

The British Consul-General at Salonika reports that the number of motor vehicles registered in Greek Macedonia and Thrace as at June 30 last was 2,113. Of this total Salonika accounted for 1,105; Serres, 176; Drama, 142; Kavalla, 220; Zanthi, 75; Komotini, 44; and Kozani, 194. Salonika registrations comprised 838 passenger cars, 198 lorries, and 69 omnibuses; Serres, 149, 26, and 1; Drama, 108, 33, and 1; Kavalla, 167, 50, and 3; Komotini, 37, 6, and 1; and Kozani, 75 passenger cars, 117 lorries, and 2 omnibuses. In Zanthi there are 69 passenger cars and 6 lorries.

FORTHCOMING SAILINGS.

The following are the sailings for the Near East and India, the ports of departure and closing dates for cargo being given in parentheses:—

Anchor Line.—S.s. Britannia for Bombay (Birkenhead, October 8). (For passenger sailings and dates see advertisement.)

Anchor Brocklebank Line.—S.s. Malakand for Calcutta (Birkenhead, October 8); s.s. Mathura for Calcutta (Birkenhead, October 18).

Bibby Line.—S.s. Yorkshire for Port Said, Port Sudan, Colombo, and Rangoon (Birkenhead, October 17).

British India Line.—S.s. Mandala for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, October 6); s.s. Domala for Bombay and Karachi (London, October 20).

Cunard Line.—S.s. Bactria for Gibraltar, Malta, and Patras (Liverpool and Swansea, October 5); s.s. Brescia for Casablanca, Gibraltar, Genoa, Leghorn, Naples, Palermo, Messina, Catania, Corfu, Bari, Venice, Trieste, and Fiume, also at Gruz if inducement (Liverpool October 20, and Swansea October 23); s.s. Bosnia for Patras, Piræus, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, and Constantza (Liverpool, Glasgow and Swansea, November 10).

Johnston Line.—S.s. Quernmore for Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, October 13); s.s. Dromore for Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, November 3). (This steamer will be the last sailing of the season to the Danube ports.)

P. and O. Line.—S.s. Ranchi for Bombay (London, October 12); s.s. Burdwan for Calcutta (London, October 13); s.s. Ranpura for Bombay (London, October 26); s.s. Nankin for Calcutta (London, October 27).

Prince Line.—S.s. Syrian Prince for Tunis, Malta, Alexandria, Jaffa, Haifa, Beyrout, and Cyprus (Manchester, October 9); s.s. Indian Prince for Tunis, Malta, Alexandria, Jaffa, Haifa, Beyrout, Tripoli, Alexandretta, Mersina, and Cyprus (London, October 13).

Ellerman and Papayanni Lines.—S.s. Lesbian for Genoa, Leghorn, Naples, Palermo, Messina, Catania, Bari, Gruz*, Ancona*, Venice, Trieste, and Fiume (Swansea, October 6); s.s. Fabian for Gibraltar, Malta, Alexandria, Jaffa*, and Haifa* (Liverpool, October 6); s.s. Trentino for Patras, Piræus, Volo*, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, and Constantza (Liverpool October 6, Swansea October 6); s.s. Andalusian for Malta, Alexandria, Jaffa*, and Haifa* (Liverpool, October 20); s.s. Polo for Algiers*, Piræus, Volo*, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, and Constantza (Liverpool, October 27). *Subject to sufficient inducement. Cargo taken on through Bill of Lading to:—Algerian ports via Algiers; Moroccan ports via Gibraltar; Tripoli (Barbary) via Malta; Syria and Cyprus via Alexandria; Greek outports via Piræus or other convenient port.

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NEW T.S.S. CALIFORNIA. 17,000 TONS, carrying 1st, 2nd and 3rd class passengers, sails from LIVERPOOL, October 24; MARSEILLES, October 30. All 1st and 2nd class state rooms are fitted with Punks Louvers and with Fans.

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THE WEEK'S FINANCE.

(By Our Financial Expert.)

London, October 2.

Business men have now for the most part returned, like Shakespeare's schoolboy, unwillingly to their tasks—the unwillingness being prompted by the abnormally fine weather of the holiday period. They find the general tendencies in the world of stocks and shares very much the same as when they left it. Speculators are still flitting like butterflies from one novelty to another, and the end of the "selective boomlet" does not appear to be in sight. Among more responsible investors the chief pre-occupation remains the pursuit of opportunity for sound industrial investment, and for this reason the business outlook for the autumn is being discussed with more than usual interest. On the whole the outlook is more encouraging than for some time past. The great staple industries remain depressed, and the great bulk of unemployment for which they are responsible can only be expected to decrease slowly. But the reports from the chief industrial centres reveal a satisfactory stirring of autumn demand. Labour, with belligerent ideas discredited, is co-operating more than for many a long year in promoting efficiency. World crops are good. The competitive power of British manufactures in world markets is mainly restored. These, and other reasons, support the policy of those who are seeking not quick profit in the deferred shilling shares of speculative ventures, but sound investment in established industrials of proved capacity.

Argentine Railway Dividends: A General Review.

The whole of the Argentine railways have now announced their dividends for the past year and consequently it is possible to make a general review of the situation. In the main, the dividends were in accordance with expectations. Taking the trunk lines, each of the companies repeated last year's distribution. Thus the Buenos Ayres Great Southern pays 8 per cent., and the Buenos Ayres Western, the Buenos Aires and Pacific and Central Argentine each pay 7 per cent. Several of the companies, and especially the Central Argentine, had a very good year from the revenue point of view, the previous year being also favourable. It was only to be

expected that the companies would pursue a cautious dividend policy, however good their revenue may have been, since there were a number of uncertain factors. In particular, the belief that the Argentine Government wished to effect certain tariff reductions suggested the need for conserving resources. The Government's intentions in this connexion have, in certain cases, since been made known. Though at first they gave rise to some uneasiness, there is now a feeling of greater confidence and security prices are fairly well maintained. The junior stocks give yields which range from about $7\frac{5}{8}$ per cent. to 8 per cent. Doubtless the favourable economic outlook of Argentine has had a steadying influence. The Cordoba Central repeated last year's dividend of 2 per cent., and during the week there have been rumours that negotiations with the Argentine Government for the purchase of the line were about to be resumed. The Entre Rios Company increased its distribution from 6 per cent. to 7 per cent.

The Arrangement of Capital.

The autumn new capital issue campaign is now in full swing, the investor's breakfast table and newspaper being flooded with prospectuses most mornings. The average prospectus of to-day is novel in many ways. The character of the companies which are being floated, for instance, is distinctly different from that of ten or twenty years ago. But perhaps there is no difference so striking to those whose memory goes back to pre-War days as the arrangement of capital in the modern prospectus. Before the War the investor was accustomed to look—at least so far as the best companies were concerned—for fairly definite ratios between the capital and debenture debt and again between the preference and the ordinary capital. It was realised that it was imprudent to have too heavy fixed charges, for in bad years it might be difficult to meet them; the inability to meet interest charges was regarded as damaging to a company's credit as well as to the immediate contentment of shareholders. The pre-War practice afforded valuable protection to the investor. Where there was a substantial amount of ordinary capital, it frequently meant that an undertaking had to fall on very lean times before it failed to meet the interest on its prior charge capital; in short, there was some point in its being called prior charge capital. Moreover, in the event of a reconstruction becoming necessary, the prior charge capital was fairly safe. But to-day these points seem to be largely overlooked. The whole object seems to be to raise as much capital as possible in the form of preference or preferred securities and as little as possible in the form of junior stock—the latter, be it noted, obtaining full voting control. In these circumstances the term preference or preferred—and this will be discovered in bad times—is a misnomer. Perhaps, as the new investing public becomes more experienced, it will insist, for its own safety, upon a wiser arrangement of capital.

Tin and Tin Shares.

An outstanding feature of the week has been the advance in the price of tin, which has been reflected in a rising tin share market. This has been largely based upon important measures taken to "rationalise" the industry. Efforts are being made to organise supplies of tin by bringing the principal British producers together. In Nigeria considerable progress has already been made in this direction, the Associated Tin Mines of Nigeria having brought together many of the largest producers in that area. It is now proposed to apply the same measure to Malaya, thus securing better results for producers and enabling them to co-operate with the three other main tin fields of the world. In order to effect this consolidation a company with the title of the London Malayan Tin Trust has been formed, with an issued capital of £1,250,000, which together with its associates will control 16 important Malayan tin companies. Of these shares, £1,249,000 were offered at par (£1) during the week-end. There can be no doubt that the

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Searle & Co.
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tin industry is in need of some such "rationalisation" and it is not surprising that the Stock Exchange is viewing the future of the metal with greater confidence. Present signs suggest that there is no cause for anxiety regarding consumption. The United States used 1,800 tons more of tin during the eight months ended August than in the corresponding part of last year, while the activity of its motor and canning industries points to the maintenance of absorption at a high rate for the rest of this year. So far as can be seen, the increase of output does no more than keep pace with the requirements of industry. Stocks are not excessive, being, in fact, less than 44 days' supply. It is advisable, however, to bear in mind that the price of tin is subject to wide fluctuations.

M. Marinkovitch, Yugoslav Minister for Foreign Affairs, arrived in Paris from Geneva on September 20 on a visit lasting about ten days.

The traffic receipts of the Suez Canal from September 15 to 21 amounted to 3,480,000 francs, as compared with 3,650,000 francs for the corresponding period of last year.

The Acting Yugoslav Secretary for Foreign Affairs on September 18 instructed the Yugoslav Chargé d'Affaires in Tirana to notify the Albanian Government of the recognition of the new monarchy by Yugoslavia.

A Bill granting a fifty-year concession to a British syndicate for the provision of tramways in Baghdad was passed by the Iraq Chamber of Deputies on September 21, the Bill being adopted by 59 votes to 9.

There are two and a half miles of corridors at the new headquarters of Imperial Chemicals Industries in Millbank and the whole stretch of them have been laid with rubber tiling. This record order has been given to Macinlop, Ltd., who are producing the design for it created by the architect, Sir Frank Baines.

CORRESPONDENCE

GAS INDUSTRY RESTRICTIONS.

To the Editor of THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA.

Sir,—Gas undertakings, whether operated by municipalities or companies, are each regulated by a private Act of Parliament, the main provisions of which date from 1847 and 1871. Most of the restrictions thus imposed, whilst reasonable at that time, are now quite out of date and unsuited to modern industrial conditions. The progress of the industry is thus seriously hampered by disabilities, of which the following are typical:—

- Inability to raise fresh capital without the consent of Parliament.
- Lack of facilities to obtain capital at reasonable rates.
- Inability to offer shares to consumers, shareholders, or employees without first offering by public auction or tender.
- Undue limitation of borrowing powers.
- Inability to depart from old-fashioned methods of charge by introducing two-part tariffs.
- Inability to establish Joint Gas Boards.
- Inability to hold shares in, or lend money to, other gas undertakings or to contribute to companies laying inter-connecting mains.
- Lack of facilities for joint working of research.
- Inability to lay mains outside own area.
- Need for a statutory minimum dividend.
- Need for amendment of the Gas Regulation Act of 1920.

All these facilities are necessary for the scientific organisation, production, and distribution of gas on national lines, and would be of immense benefit to consumers, employees, and shareholders. The gas industry is therefore urging in the coming session immediate legislative action to provide these facilities, and the attention of all M.P.'s is being directed to the matter.

The gas industry serves 36 million of users through 9,000,000 meters, with 314,500 million cubic feet of gas per annum. It employs 113,000 workers, and pays £15,000,000 a year in wages. It uses 17,000,000 tons of coal a year, and is the largest customer of the coal mines. Its by-products comprise coke, tar, fertilisers, dyestuffs, and chemicals of essential importance to industry. Four thousand distinct trades use gas in their manufacturing processes.—I am, etc.,

A. USHER.

London, September 29.

EGYPT'S EXPORT TRADE IN 1927.

The increase in the value of Egypt's exports in 1927 amounting to £E6,581,112, or 16 per cent., is due primarily to the improvement in the price of cotton (says the British Commercial Secretary at Cairo in his annual report on Egyptian conditions). The chief commodities, beside cotton, in which an appreciable increase in value and quantity has occurred are benzine, cigarettes, cotton-seed, cottonseed oil, hides (both tanned and untanned), manganese ore, onions, phosphates and rice.

The increase in cottonseed of 768,608 ardebs and £E916,000 is attributed partly to the decline in the American crop and partly to the need for obtaining elsewhere the oleaginous seeds that China used to supply to Europe. In the case of rice, which has risen by 19,429 tons and £E198,000, the increase is due to the fact that cultivators, in view of the restrictions of the cotton area, disposed of a larger quantity of rice abroad than usual.

The United Kingdom has been, as usual, the principal buyer of many of Egypt's principal products, viz., cotton, cottonseed cake and oil, eggs, onions and light sheepskin leather, but owing to the fact that British purchases of Egyptian cotton have decreased both in value and quantity the United Kingdom's share of the total exports, though actually £E216,936 higher than in 1926, has dropped from 45 per cent. to 39 per cent. Further, the share of the Rest of Empire is so small as compared with that of the United Kingdom that there is not sufficient margin for a counter-balancing increase, with the result that in spite of about £E230,500 in their share, the contribution of the British Empire to the total exports has fallen from 47.5 per cent. to 41.7 per cent.



The Postal Account

It is often supposed that to live a long way from the nearest branch of a bank, or to be constantly unable to go to the bank in person, is a handicap to the enjoyment of the full advantages which, it is admitted, a banking account offers. Perhaps it is assumed that to conduct an account by post involves 'more letter-writing', or is costly, or is not welcomed by the Bank. It is the aim of the Westminster Bank to dispel such misconceptions by a leaflet entitled *The Postal Account*, which explains the convenience of the method, and offers some clear suggestions.

A copy will be gladly sent
on application to
the Secretary

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Motors and Motoring.

By G. B. B.

The Paris and London Shows.

Messrs. Rolls Royce Ltd., have favoured me with advance information regarding both the Paris Show, which opens to-day and the Olympia Show which will open on October 11. At the former event their exhibit will consist of a 40-50 h.p. Rolls-Royce enclosed limousine with bodywork by Barker, a 40-50 h.p. Rolls-Royce Sedan with body-work by Hooper, and a 20 h.p. Rolls-Royce saloon with body-work by Binder, several of which have been sold in India. Seven other Rolls-Royce cars will be shown at the Paris Salon. On Messrs. Barker's stand there will be a 40-50 h.p. Rolls-Royce fabric Sedan de Ville and a 40-50 h.p. Rolls-Royce enclosed limousine. On Messrs. Hooper's stand there will be a 40-50 h.p. Rolls-Royce saloon and a 40-50 h.p. Sedan with quarter lights. On Messrs. Thrupp and Maberly's stand there will be a 40-50 Sedan. On Messrs. Binder's stand there will be a 40-50 h.p. Rolls-Royce Sedan and on Messrs. Conti-Cancel's stand a 20 h.p. Rolls-Royce Coupe de Ville with body-work by Messrs. Binder.

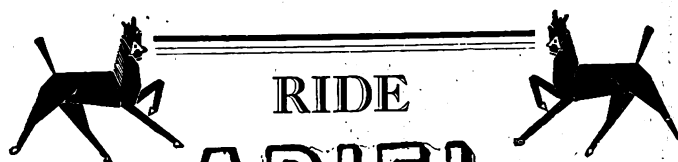
So far as the Olympia Show is concerned there is no doubt that, as regards excellence of exhibits Rolls-Royce will retain the place they have held for so long. They will be showing a 40-50 h.p. Rolls-Royce enclosed limousine with coachwork by Barker, a 40-50 h.p. Rolls-Royce enclosed Sedan de Ville with coachwork by Hooper, a 20 h.p. Rolls-Royce Sedan de Ville with coachwork by Windover and a 20 h.p. Rolls-Royce enclosed limousine with coachwork by Thrupp and Maberly. Naturally one does not only see Rolls-Royce cars on the Rolls-Royce stand. Bodybuilders, in particular, like to build bodies for Rolls-Royce chassis; we shall find many examples of this at the Show. On Messrs. Barker's stand will be a 40-50 h.p. Rolls-Royce enclosed limousine de Ville and a 40-50 h.p. Rolls-Royce Sedan; 40-50 h.p. Rolls-Royce Sedans will also be shown on Messrs. Hooper's and Mann Egerton stands, and a 40-50 h.p. Rolls-Royce enclosed limousine on the stand of Messrs. Thrupp and Maberly. There will be 40-50 h.p. Rolls-Royce enclosed limousines on the stands of Messrs. Windovers, Cockshoot, Arthur Mulliner and the Connaught Motor Co., and a 40-50 h.p. Rolls-Royce enclosed landaulet on Messrs. Rippon Bros.' stand. Messrs. H. J. Mulliner and Co. will exhibit on their stand a 20 h.p. Rolls-Royce fabric covered "Sunshine" saloon, and Messrs. Caffyns will display on their stand a 20 h.p. Rolls-Royce enclosed landaulet.

The prices of the Rolls-Royce chassis will remain as before, the 40-50 h.p. chassis being: short model £1,850, long model £1,900 and the 20 h.p. chassis at £1,185. Both models are fitted with six brakes.

The Triumph "Super-Seven."

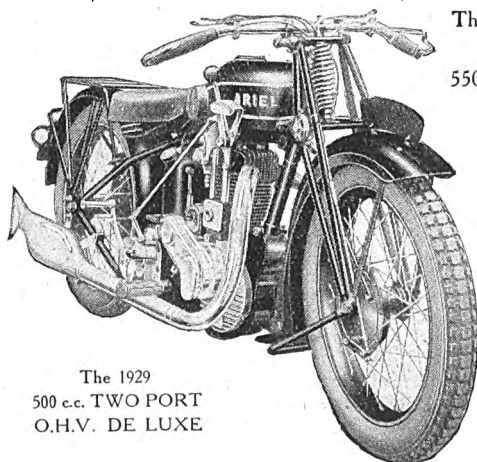
The competition amongst makers of "Baby" cars has been rendered keener by the impetus given recently to the Triumph "Super-Seven," a car which should become highly popular. The Olympia Show should bring this model to the front and deservedly so, as my readers will agree when they remember the high opinion of the Triumph engine held by all users. The specification of the new model for the Super-Seven is as follows: h.p. is 7.9; four cylinders cast en bloc in iron with detachable head; 56.5 m.m. bore by 83 m.m. stroke, capacity 832.24 c.c., compression ratio 5.1 to 1, R.A.C. rating 7.9 h.p.,

mechanism entirely enclosed and readily accessible, side by side valves with adjustable tappets, camshaft and magnet chains driven with automatic jockey pulley chain tensioner mounted on roller bearings, detachable valve cover plate held by two knurled nuts, separate adjustable chain drive to dynamo. The cylinders are cast in one with the crankcase which is split horizontally below the crankshaft centre, making the big end bearings and connecting rods readily accessible; main bearings are phosphor bronze white metal lined and connecting rods big end bearings are of white metal die cast in connecting rods, aluminium alloy die cast pistons with three rings, bottom ring is arranged for a scraper ring, gudgeon pins definitely located in small end of connecting rod of "H" section. Pressure feed lubrication to camshaft, three bearing crankshaft and big ends by means of spur gear oil pump situated in the oil sump feeding through drilled oil ways in the crankcase. Oil feed to chain drives. Oil release valve, pressure gauge on dash, conveniently placed oil filler and dip stick. Hot spot square section inlet manifold, detachable tubular type starting handle, unit construction engine and gear box with four point attachment. Starter mounted on engine and operating on gear teeth of flywheel. The car has three forward speeds and reverse, with central change; there are four internal expanding brakes on the wheels, hydraulically operated by a foot pedal, with a hand brake on the transmission, and the equipment includes instrument panel with a speedometer, ammeter, etc., switches, electric starting and lighting, electric horn with complete set of tools, lifting jack, etc.



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Near East Markets

THE DRIED FRUIT MARKET.

Messrs. C. J. Giraud and Co., of Smyrna, report as follows on the local market position for the week ended September 22 :—

Sultanas.

The estimated arrivals on the Smyrna market since the opening of the season amount to 17,200 tons against 21,500 tons for the corresponding period of the previous year, while the sales to date are put at 14,660 tons against 17,300 tons. Closing prices, Smyrna, per cwt. c.i.f. London, for types 12 to 18 and 1, 3, and 5 are:—32s. 6d.; 34s.; 36s. 6d.; 39s. 6d.; 43s.; 51s.; 58s.; 65s.; 40s.; 34s.

Market Conditions.—The market opened steady, and prices were maintained during the early part of the week, with no indication of the sharp break that was to take place on Tuesday afternoon. On Wednesday weak holders continued forcing their fruit for sale, disorganising the position still further and upsetting all estimates of values. The market found itself somewhat demoralised with a declining tendency until the close on Thursday. Stability was only re-established on the reopening of the market on Saturday, when heavy purchases exceeding 80,000 boxes were recorded.

Sales for the week total 3,460 tons as against about 4,000 tons the preceding week. The falling-off in demand during the third week of September, generally regarded as the most active period of the season, is interpreted as a bear factor. The Alcohol Monopoly is continuing purchases, but sales are being forced in excess of its capacity of absorption.

Figs.

The arrivals on the Smyrna market since the opening of the season are estimated at 14,250 tons against 14,870 tons for the same period of the previous year; the sales to date are put at 13,350 tons against 14,370 tons.

Market Conditions.—This week has witnessed a general advance in values for all qualities. Figs suitable for Layer and Pulled packings have been very firmly held notwithstanding the fact that arrivals in these sorts appear in abundant supply, but buyers have had to accept sellers' ideas of values.

Outstanding qualities continue in very short supply. Natural figs are coming to market in smaller quantities than is usually the case at this time; sellers are taking full advantage of the shortage to hold up prices against shippers who cannot delay the filling in of end September engagements. Prospects are for continued firmness during the coming week. It is reckoned that half the yield has now come to market.

Messrs. J. C. Houghton and Co., of Liverpool, report as follows under date September 29 :—

Currants.

It is a debatable point whether the prolongation of the summer well into the month of September, which has been exceptionally bright and fine, has delayed the opening of the season's trade. The fact remains that, whatever circumstances may be responsible, the arrival of overland samples of new season's fruit received very scant attention from buyers. Possibly more business would have transpired by now had the first consignments come to hand, as is usual, in the early days of the month; but the initial cargo did not appear until the 27th, the latest date on record during living memory.

During the month old fruit proved difficult to sell, and prices continued to sag, buyers showing pronounced apathy to the article and latest sales of ordinary quality were done at 47s. 6d. to 48s., Patras 49s., Zante 49s. 6d. to 50s. 6d., Vostizza 52s. to 55s. Forward

business in new crop was exceedingly disappointing, buyers showing very little interest. S.s. Hatasu, the first cargo of the new season, arrived during the closing days of the period under review. Buyers have not displayed any exceptional anxiety to purchase, and the small progress made centred on Cleaned varieties:—Gulf, 56s.; Small, 55s. Patras, 54s.; Amalias, 52s. to 53s.; Pyrgos, 51s. In addition to above sales, the steamer had a small consignment of Vostizza, and these were disposed of at 64s. Bold, 52s. Smalls. Bactria and Lesbian are close at hand with further supplies.

Sultanas.

With the declining c.i.f. quotations for shipment from Smyrna, it is not surprising that the trade has concerned itself little with fruit afloat for this port, of which samples were to hand. Possibly with the arrival of s.s. Hatasu more attention will be paid to the article. Shipments are very light, and latest estimates reduce the exportable quantity available to below 35,000 tons. The increase in imports of Californian will be more than sufficient to counterbalance any shortage of supplies from other countries. A little business was put through on samples mentioned on the basis 52s. to 53s. landed terms.

Cretans.—Overland samples of coloury fruit attract attention, and business is passing at 70s. to 82s. 6d. for parcels on the water.

Greeks.—A little activity is reported on tin samples of fine fruit of good colour at 80s. landed terms.

New Fruit.—Good coloury has commanded some attention and sales were 58s. to 62s., with a few special lots 65s. to 72s.

Figs.

The s.s. Hatasu with the first new arrivals was available the last few days, and sales were:—Large boxes Layers, 58s. to 80s.; small boxes, 72s. 6d. to 76s.; Locoums, 90s. to 140s.; bags genuine, 34s.; bags choice, 42s.

TENDERS INVITED.

Tenders are invited for the following contracts, and must be made by the dates mentioned.

(Particulars of tenders marked D.O.T. are to be obtained from the Department of Overseas Trade, 55, Old Queen Street, S.W.1.)

EGYPT.

Lighthouse Tower, Etc.—The Director-General, Ports and Lights Administration, Arsenal, Alexandria, invites tenders for the construction of a lighthouse tower and annexes on Daedalus Reef in the Red Sea. November 12.

Portland Cement, Etc.—The General Management, Egyptian State Railways, Telegraphs and Telephones (Cairo Station), invites tenders for the supply of 6,000 metrical tons artificial Portland cement, October 30; and for the supply of materials and works connected with the replacement of the superstructures of 4 fixed bridges of the Sherbin-Kallin line and the adaptation of the abutments to the new superstructures. This project includes, among others, the supply and laying of the following materials: Reinforced concrete, about 3 c.m. and rolled, cast, etc., steel, about 38 tons. November 10.

Bridges.—The Egyptian Government invites tenders for the construction of two bridges. October 20 and 22. (D.O.T.)

Steel Boiler Stay Taps.—The Egyptian State Railways, Telegraphs and Telephones, invites tenders for 128 best high speed steel boiler stay taps and 112 reamers, 47 sets best cast steel boiler patch taps, and 3 sets best high speed steel taps and 5 best cast steel taps for bushes.

Lock Gates, Etc.—The Resident Engineer, Delta Barrage Directorate, at Delta Barrage, invites tenders for (1) construction of eight lock gates for Damietta and Rosetta locks, both at Delta Barrage, and their delivery at site and erection in position; (2) construction of twenty regulator gates and their delivery at sites. November 1.

Marble Gauges.—The Inspector of Irrigation, Assiut Barrage Circle, Assiut, invites tenders for the supply of marble gauges. November 10.

INDIA.

Radial Gates.—The Indian Stores Department invites tenders for the supply of radial gates for the head and cross regulators for main canals and branches. November 6. (D.O.T.)

PERSIA.

Canning Factory.—A proposal is on foot to erect a canning factory at Hamadan. The individuals concerned desire to receive quotations for a canning machine and a machine for making tins. (D.O.T.)

TURKEY.

Tape.—The Direction des Achats du Bureau des Postes and Telegraphes at Constantinople invites tenders for the supply of 10,000 rolls of tape. October 17. (D.O.T.)

Grindstones and Emery Stones.—The Military Authorities at Angora invite tenders for the supply of grindstones and emery stones. October 17. (D.O.T.)

YUGOSLAVIA.

Ice Plant and Refrigerator.—The Municipality of Zagreb invites tenders for the supply of an ice plant and refrigerator. October 8. (D.O.T.)

FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

Country.	Method of Quoting.	Parity of Exchange.	Latest Quotations.
Alexandria.....	Piastre to £	97½	97½
Amsterdam ...	Florins to £	12.107	12.09½
Athens	Draehmæ to £ ...	25.22½	375
Belgrade.....	Dinars to £	25.22½	276
Berlin	Marks to £	20.43	20.34½
Berne	Francs to £	25.22½	25.19½
Bombay ...	Sterling to Rupee	18d.	18 1/32 -1/16
Brussels	Belga to £	35	34.89½
Bucharest	Lei to £	25.22½	799
Budapest	Pen to £	27.82	27.84
Calcutta	Sterling to Rupee	18d.	18 1/32 -1/16
Constantinople	Piastres to £	110	937½
New York	Dollars to £	4.86 2-3	4.84 15/16
Paris	Francs to £	25.22½	124.05
Prague	Kronen to £	24.02	163½
Rome	Lire to £	25.22½	92.79
Sofia.....	Leva to £	25.22½	670
Tehran	Krans to £	47½	48
Vienna	Sch to £	34.58	34.45
Warsaw	Zlotv to £	25.22½	43.25

British Consular Reports

VII.—ABYSSINIA.

The British Consul at Addis Ababa, in his report on the commercial and economic situation of Abyssinia in the year ended June 30 last, mentions that there has been a decline in the imports of cotton goods, while artificial silk, in which Italy has greatly increased her trade, is being imported in considerable quantities. Other features of the import and export trade are as follows:—

Iron and Steel.—The principal imports under this heading are corrugated sheets and bars. In the first-named a fair amount formerly came from Great Britain, but the bulk of the business has now gone to Belgium owing to the willingness of Belgian manufacturers to meet the requirements of this market with a gauge which offers better value for money. These sheets are sold by the ton, and a merchant getting, say, 4,500 kilog, sheets obtains more sheets per ton than the merchant who buys 5,000 kilog. sheets. The iron and steel bar business has gone entirely to Charleroi. Belgian mills seem to work through concessionaires, who run large stocks of every size and length and who act as wholesale agents for all the small foreign markets. Thus any order, however small and assorted, is sure of satisfaction. The agent, moreover, works on a narrow margin and his prices always challenge British competition.

The bulk of the cement imported comes from Belgium and Italy. Normally the business is very small, as the heavy freight and Customs duty (over 150 per cent. on c.i.f. Jibuti price) kills it, but in the past year the Government has imported large quantities. About 150 cars were sold during the year, of which 80 per cent. were American, 10 per cent. French and 10 per cent. Italian. British tyres are making a good showing, and compete well with those of foreign manufacture. A considerable trade in native bottles and glasses is done with Belgium, owing to the fact that the manufacturers have studied the market and catered for it.

Salt.—This is an important article of import, and comes mainly from Jibuti, with subsidiary sources of supply in Zeila and the Sudan. Owing to the railway, the Jibuti salt has the greatest sale, but is also superior in quality to Zeila salt, costing 9 dollars per 100 kilog. bag as against 8½ dols., in spite of the greater difficulties of transport from Zeila. Projects are in hand for the improvement of the Zeila salt pans and of the means of transportation into Abyssinia; Zeila would then become a more important competitor of Jibuti.

The values of the leading imports into Abyssinia from and via the Sudan in 1927 were: cotton and silk goods, £32,225, as compared with £83,331 in 1926; salt and products of the Sudan, £12,502 (£11,710); and Maria Theresa dollars, £4,783 (£5,070).

Exports.

The exports of hides from Abyssinia has, from a variety of causes, been decreasing for some years past. It is believed that the high prices ruling during the past season artificially stimulated a waning supply—a theory which can only be proved by results during the next year or two. It is, however, certain that the collection of raw hides in Abyssinia is on a very much smaller scale than formerly. The average caravan during this year has not carried more than 500 hides, whereas in the past caravans of 5,000 to 10,000 hides were not unknown. The quality of Abyssinian hides is in general not high, partly owing to lack of care in preparation, and disease, and partly to water damage. An interesting experiment has been made by a German firm of tanners at Fitché, the capital of Salali, a province bordering on Addis Ababa. The local hides and skins are collected wet and shade-dried on frames. The resultant product is not equal in quality to the Addis Ababa butchery hide or skin, but it is far ahead of the ordinary sun-dried article of the same district and commands a very much better price. It is possible that

rise in the value of Abyssinian hide exports can only come through improvement of the product on these lines. The bulk of the exports during the year went to British and German ports, France and Czechoslovakia coming next, with relatively small shipments to Italy, Spain and the Balkans. Very little went to the United States, and those mainly light hides.

Goatskins.—This article, depending as it does principally on North American buyers, has moved quite independently of the hide market. From June to November, 1927, a fair average was 25d. per skin c. and f. From then on there was a gradual advance to about 29d., at which level American buyers are beginning to hold off. There is, however, an increasing demand for the better-class skins from German and French tanners, who have recently paid as much as 32d. a skin. Available supplies have been extremely light, and the quality has also been below normal. It is said that the percentage of hides and skins exported to Aden merchants for final grading and bailing for shipment to Europe and the United States is now but very small. It is anticipated that exports will continue to decline in the case of goatskins as in that of hides. Shade drying already applied in Addis Ababa to the goats slaughtered there, would make a distinct increase in the value of the exports in spite of their diminishing bulk.

Sheepskins.—The trade in these skins only began about five years ago, at which time they were regarded as of doubtful value to tanners, and could be bought locally for two or three dols. a score. The quality was, however, steadily improved with the increasing demand, and local merchants have paid up to fifteen dols. per score in the past year. It is believed that France takes the great proportion, Germany and England taking the rest. Butcher sheepskins, that is, from beasts killed in and near Addis Ababa and shade-dried—total production possibly one hundred thousand skins per annum—have steadily risen in value during the year, from 34d. each in June, 1927, to 42d.

Coffee.—A demand which, owing to lack of transport facilities in the interior, has continued to outrun supplies, has kept prices on the increase during the year—roughly from ten to twelve dols. per farasula in the local market. At recent prices the margin for exporters has practically disappeared. Exports, in spite of the restrictions on supply, have probably exceeded those of previous years, and quality continues to improve.

The chief exports from Jibuti in 1927 were: hides, 9,522,134 kilogs., as compared with 8,200,544 kilogs. in 1926; coffee, 13,224,808 kilogs. (11,096,289 kilogs.); and wax, 372,527 kilogs. (305,232 kilogs.). During the first quarter of the current year the totals were: hides, 4,048,617 kilogs.; coffee, 4,618,102 kilogs.; and wax 56,244 kilogs. Exports from Abyssinia to and via the Sudan last year were: coffee, £164,604 (£214,369 in 1926); wax, £823 (£6,842); and other goods, £15,133 (£24,775).

For the first seven months of the current year Bulgaria's imports amounted to 4,038 million leva, while the imports totalled 3,305 million leva, there being an adverse balance of trade of 733 million leva. It is expected, however, that exports of rape, tobacco, and barley in the concluding months of this year will considerably diminish this adverse balance.

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Cotton and Cotton Goods.

THE LIVERPOOL COTTON MARKET.

Messrs. Reynolds and Gibson report as follows for the week ended September 26:—

Egyptian Futures.—Sakel Contract.—Rather erratic fluctuations have been experienced in this market during the past week, but on the whole we consider the undertone has shown some improvement; certainly sentiment has become more mixed, and those who have been working rather confidently on the short side are now beginning to show more caution in their dealings. During the earlier days of the week, under the influence of better trade support and a strong reactionary movement in the American market, values started to appreciate; the recovery was gradual in its initial stages, but later, with "stop-loss" orders becoming uncovered, the advance became more precipitate, at the peak about 120 points over last Wednesday's close being paid. At this level the market began to run into more cotton; consistent selling orders from Alexandria started to come in, and with trade sources withdrawing their previous support we have since lost much of the earlier gains, to-night's close being 60 to 70 points higher for near and 64 to 68 points dearer for more distant options since our last circular. The most satisfactory feature of the week has been a slight improvement in the trade outlook; a healthier offtake for yarns appears to be developing, but it has been significant that business in actual cotton fell away materially as soon as prices moved up strongly. It thus appears that spinners, and quite rightly so, are not going to be stampeded. The crop is only just starting to move, and, whatever happens later on, there appears no justification at the moment for any runaway tendency. Under normal conditions a Sakel crop of 2,750,000 kantars—and this seems a most optimistic figure for this season's outturn—would prove barely sufficient for requirements; but so many mills have turned on to other cottons, particularly the Upper varieties, that we doubt last season's consumption being maintained. Certainly at a difference of 725 points over American values, we cannot visualise consumers now using other cottons, under present trade conditions, reverting to Sakels. Our latest advice from reliable sources in Egypt is to the effect that the recent advance has checked demand and that prices have receded under the weight of arrivals and speculative liquidation. A more important bit of information is added to the effect that the Sakel crop has deteriorated latterly, the condition being now barely average. We rather look for prices to fluctuate round the 17d. level for the immediate future. Should, however, fresh pressure develop, easing the level off, say, fifty points from this figure, we think that a policy of down-scale purchases would be a fairly sound proposition.

Upper Contract.—Some brisk trading has taken place in this option during the past week. In the earlier days, substantially higher American values, helped by liberal trade purchases, caused a recovery of nearly 1d. per lb. from the recent low level. More latterly, some heavy hedge selling has resulted in part of the earlier advance being wiped out, to-night's close showing 67 to 70 points rise for near positions and 68 to 76 points rise for distant positions on the week. Straddle purchases of Uppers against sales of American at about the present difference continues to be a favourable operation. Whilst cotton covered by this contract certainly appears comparatively cheap in comparison to other qualities, the crop is now moving rapidly, consequently hedging and importing transactions furnish the market with a continual supply of contracts. Owing to this it appears probable that those who are entering into the above straddle may have to wait some little time before the desired widening takes place; in fact, at the time of writing it rather appears as if weight of cotton may easily force a temporary narrowing in the ruling difference. For the near future values will probably be closely governed by American crop news. Should a material decline from the present level be witnessed, we think opportunity ought to be taken to enter into moderate commitments.

Egyptian Spot.—The market has displayed a better tone recently, and purchases of actual cotton have been made on a freer scale than has been the case for a long time past. The upward movement which started last week, partly as a result of storm damage in America and partly because price levels looked reasonable to consumers needing cotton, carried F.G.F. Sakel (Spot) to 18.03d. and F.G.F. Upper to 12.10d., a recovery from the lowest of 125 points and 90 points respectively. The advance failed to hold, however, as it was generally felt that it had been too rapid. Probably, it is all to the good, from a trade point of view, that it has not held, as there would have been grave danger of buyers being "driven" out again. As it has turned out, there has been but little diminution in the turnover; price levels still remain attractive (particularly for Upper), and, provided that the present reaction is not overdone, there seems to be every prospect of a steady business continuing.

Uppers continue to attract most attention owing to the favourable parity at which they stand with staple American and "outside" growths, such as East African, etc. Offers from Egypt appear reasonable at the present time, and, in spite of the fact that a large crop is expected, we are of the opinion that consumers, who are in a position to do so, should certainly secure a portion of their requirements for the coming season before the basis hardens, as it is almost certain to do later on.

Sakels are not so attractive. F.G.F. and above have been difficult to move at current differences, and, in spite of the fact that recent reports have not been quite so optimistic regarding the ultimate

outturn of the crop, very little attention has been attracted. Probably the difference between Sakel and Upper will have to narrow by a further 1d. per lb. before the trade finds Sakel a commercial proposition. Pilon has been in good request and undoubtedly looks reasonable at current prices. Low cotton of all descriptions has been in popular request at from 6d. upwards. Maarad, Nahda, White, etc., have rather suffered from neglect. A steady business has again been done in Sudan and Tokar qualities, mainly in the medium or lower grades.

Manchester reports have been higher, and quite a lively c.i.f. business has taken place. Forwardings last week were returned as 5,599 bales Egyptian and 688 bales Sudan. Estimated spot sales for the week, 3,200 bales Egyptian and 700 bales Sudan. F.G.F. Sakel to-day, 17.55d. F.G.F. Upper to-day, 11.75d. F.G.F. Pilon to-day, 13.20d. nominal.

THE EGYPTIAN MARKET.

The Alexandria Commercial Company, in their report for the week ended September 20, state:—

The market since our last report has been fairly active. Prices show a decline since last Thursday, but the tone at the close to-day was decidedly better than it has been for some time past. The week's summary of price movements is as follows:—Sakellaridis: November, 33.63 dollars, 0.49 dollars down; January, 34.00 dollars, 0.45 dollars down; March, 34.40 dollars, 0.25 dollars down. Ashmouni: October, 20.40 dollars, 0.50 dollars down; December, 20.97 dollars, 0.23 dollars down; February, 21.45 dollars, 0.20 dollars down.

Sakellaridis.—There is nothing new in the Sakel situation and the market has been a distinctly professional one; both speculators and commercial houses have bought to-day, but during the early part of the week there was little outside interest whatsoever. Demand shows little, if any, improvement, and the holders of the November position are becoming anxious. The crop has deteriorated recently, but, for the time being, it is the grade that has suffered, not the quantity. The Sakel-Ashmouni straddle stands at 1,323 points against 1,322 points last week and 1,048 points a year ago.

Uppers.—This market has been weak under the weight of the

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arrivals, which are now about 4,000 bales a day. There has been no speculative interest and the hedge selling has resulted in a widening of the October/December straddle to 50 points. This difference is more than a carrying premium, and any widening will probably send some of the hedge selling on to the distant months.

The demand from spinners shows some improvement. We do not think that the demand reflects an improvement in the yarn trade, but rather an appreciation of the cheapness of Uppers as against American; spinners seem disposed to take advantage of present levels to secure probable requirements, hedging with American in the interim. This does not constitute a real improvement in the demand, but, on the other hand, it may eventually mean the using of Uppers in the manufacture of yarns usually spun from American staples and a consequently increased share in any revival in the demand. The Ashmouni/American straddle is 272 points against 288 points last week and 705 points at this time last year.

The week's receipts amount to 166,103 kantars, against exports 81,897 kantars; the stock in Alexandria stands at 1,232,213 kantars. Spot.—The past week has seen a recrudescence of activity at Minet el Bassal and we have had a series of busy markets. The Upper Egyptian crop is now moving freely, and, with the premiums on the distant months as they now are, spot cotton bought on the October contract looks an attractive proposition, the more so as present spot differences for the better grades are undoubtedly reasonable. Upper Egypt looks very reasonable to-day compared with any other growth and should attract spinners' attention. Sales for the week amount to about 12,650 bales, of which we estimate 1,550 bales Sakellaridis, 10,600 bales Ashmouni and Zagora, 450 bales Pilon, and 50 bales other varieties.

Sakellaridis: As yet is not in favour with spinners and only a small

business has been done. Spot differences are without much change. Small lots of new crop cotton keep arriving on the market, and, though no real guide to quality, seem at least as good as last year.

Ashmouni and Zagora: Have been in good demand with buyers, and a good business has been done in all grades. Spot differences are somewhat easier for Good and better and unchanged for the other grades. The bulk of the cotton which has arrived hitherto is from the Southern districts, which do not produce the best cotton in Upper Egypt, and not much from the better districts has appeared, though it will arrive from now on in daily increasing quantities. Without committing ourselves to a definite opinion, we think that the staple is as good as last year, but the average grade is not quite as good. Such Zagora as we have seen compares very favourably with last year, especially in staple.

Pilon: Has met with a very fair demand and a good business has been done. Spot differences are rather irregular.

Other Varieties: A small business has been done in White and Nahda.

Crop, 1928.—Crop news is slightly less satisfactory. The Sakel fields are now being picked and the results obtained at the first picking are not up to expectations. The quantity picked per feddan is below that of last year, and the top grades will not be in such full supply. The plants are still carrying plenty of bolls, and, given good weather for three or four weeks longer, they will produce a lot of cotton, enough to make the crop an average one as regards quantity. Weather conditions are fairly good; both temperature and humidity are about normal, although one or two morning fogs are reported. Worm attack shows a small increase on the week. The factories in the Delta will probably start working regularly in about 10 days.

Stock and Share Markets.

LONDON EXCHANGE		Prices on Oct. 1	Railways.		Prices on Oct. 1	Banks		Prices on Sept. 12
Government Stocks.								
Egyptian 4 p.c. Unified Debt ..	...	87	Assam-Bengal ..	...	92 1/2	Imperial Bank of India ..	...	1,470
Do. Pref. 3 1/2 p.c. 1890 ..	...	75 1/2	Bengal Nagpur ..	...	101 1/2	Bank of India ..	...	80
Do. Turk 4 p.c. 1891 ..	...	91 1/2	Egypt Delta Light Rly ..	...	34	Central Bank of India ..	...	24 1/2
Do. 3 1/2 p.c. Eg. Trib. Bonds '94 ..	...	85 1/2	Ottoman (Smy. t. Aid) ..	...	40 1/2	Coal.		
Bulgaria 7 p.c. ..	...	91	Southern Punjab ..	...	200 1/2	Baraboni ..	...	402 1/2
Greek 5 p.c. 1881 ..	...	64	South Indian ..	...	123 1/2	Bengal ..	...	12
Do. 5 p.c. 1884 ..	...	61	Rubber.			Burrakur ..	...	17 1/2
Do. 4 p.c. Rentes, 1889 ..	...	51 1/2 x d	Ceylon Para Rubber Ord. ..	...	7 1/2	East Indian ..	...	19 1/2
Do. 5 p.c. 1890 ..	...	61	Doolkalla (Ceylon) Rub. Est. ..	...	19 1/2	Equitable ..	...	25
Do. 5 p.c. Funding Loan, 1893 ..	...	63 x d	Grand Cent. (Ceylon) Rubber ..	...	22 1/2	Pench Valley ..	...	21 1/2
Do. 4 p.c. Rails, Loan, 1902 ..	...	60 1/2	Hewagum Rubber Co. ..	...	10 1/2	Raneengunge ..	...	54 1/2
Do. 4 p.c. Loan, 1910 ..	...	61 x d	Keptigalla Rubber Estates ..	...	1 1/2	Standard ..	...	
Do. 5 p.c. Loan, 1914 (Lon. issue) ..	...	76	Malayalam Rub. and Produce ..	...	28 1/2	Cotton.		
Do. 7 p.c. 1924 ..	...	103	Shipping.			Bengal Nagpur ..	...	38 1/2
Do. 6 p.c. St. Bds. ..	...	91 1/2	Anchor 5 1/2 p.c. Prf. ..	...	8 1/2	Bombay Dyeing, etc. ..	...	79 1/2
Palestine 5 p.c. ..	...	103 1/2	Cunard ..	...	34 1/2	Bowreah ..	...	330
Persia 5 p.c. 1911 ..	...	89 1/2	Furness Withy ..	...	39 1/2	Buckingham and Carnatic ..	...	185
Roumania 4 p.c. Ext. ..	...	72 1/2	Khedivial Mail Ord. ..	...	3	Cawnpore Textiles ..	...	11
Do. 4 p.c. Consolidation ..	...	47 1/2 x d	P. and O. Deferred ..	...	250	Century ..	...	267 1/2
Sudan 5 1/2 p.c. Guar. Bds. ..	...	109 1/2	Tea.			Central India ..	...	497 1/2
India 3 1/2 p.c. ..	...	70 15 1/2	Assam Co. ..	...	21 1/2	Elgin ..	...	91
Do. 3 p.c. ..	...	60 13 1/2	Bengal United Tea Ord. ..	...	21	Khiatau Makanji ..	...	3 1/2
Do. 3 1/2 p.c. ..	...	102 1/2	Bramapootra ..	...	35	Muir ..	...	289
Do. 4 1/2 p.c. ..	...	94 1/2	British Indian Tea Ord. ..	...	4	New Ring ..	...	362 1/2
Turkish 4 p.c. Unified ..	...	23 1/2	Cachar and Dooars Tea Ord. ..	...	215 1/2	Phoenix ..	...	362 1/2
Banks.			Carolina ..	...	313 1/2	Svadeshi ..	...	457 1/2
Agri. Bank of Egypt ..	...	72 1/2	Ceylon Tea Plantations Ord. ..	...	415 1/2	Jute.		
Bank of British West Africa ..	...	41 1/2	Consolidated Estates ..	...	31 1/2	Alliance ..	...	620
Bank of Roumania ..	...	86 3/4	Darjeeling Co. ..	...	213 1/2	Barnagore ..	...	294 1/2
Barclays Dom. Col. Pf. ..	...	39 1/2	Dimbula Valley (Ceylon) Ord. ..	...	35 1/2	Budge Budge ..	...	653
Lloyds ..	...	66 3/4	Dooars Tea Ord. ..	...	317 3/2	Clive ..	...	46
Eastern ..	...	7 1/2	Dooloogram Tea ..	...	41 1/2	Dalhousie ..	...	692
Chartered Bank of India ..	...	22	Doom Dooma ..	...	44	Delta ..	...	632 1/2
Ottoman Bank ..	...	14 1/2	East Assam ..	...	29 1/2	Fort Gloster ..	...	1,010 1/2
Imperial Bank of Persia ..	...	11 1/2	Empire of Ind. ..	...	23 1/2	Gourepore ..	...	545
Land Bank of Egypt Ord. ..	...	38	Halem Tea ..	...	29 1/2	Howrah ..	...	601 1/2
Mercantile Bank of India A ..	...	34 1/2	Imperial Ind. ..	...	24	Kamarhaty ..	...	773
National Bank of Egypt ..	...	35 1/2	Jhanzie Tea Association ..	...	51	Kanknerrah ..	...	596
National Bank of India ..	...	54 1/2	Jokai (Assam) Tea Ord. ..	...	328 3/2	Khardah ..	...	690
Westminster ..	...	20 1/2	Jorehaut ..	...	41 1/2	Kinnison ..	...	1,138 1/2
Land.			Lanka Plantations Ord. ..	...	2	National ..	...	525
Kassala Cotton ..	...	6 1/2	Lungla (Sylhet) Tea Ord. ..	...	11 3/2	Standard ..	...	849 1/2
Sudan Plantations ..	...	4 1/2	New Dimbula ..	...	6 1/2	Miscellaneous		
Mines.			Nuwara Eliya Tea Estates Ord. ..	...	5 1/2	British India Corporation ..	...	31
Balaghat Gold Mining ..	...	7 1/2	Nedem ..	...	5 1/2	Bengal Paper Mills ..	...	40
Burma Corp. ..	...	15 1/2	Ouvah ..	...	3 1/2	Bengal Timber Trading ..	...	245
Champion Reef Gold ..	...	11 3/4	Pabbajan ..	...	69 1/2	Burn and Co. ..	...	386
Mysore ..	...	17 1/2	Standard ..	...	513 1/2	Cawnpore Sugar ..	...	20 1/2
Nundydroog ..	...	16 3/4 x d	Scottish Assam ..	...	2	Champaran Sugar ..	...	101
Oreogum Gold Mining Ord. ..	...	14 1/2	Scottish Tea and Lands ..	...	33 1/2	Howrah Oil Mills ..	...	8 1/2
Oil.			Upper Assam ..	...	2 1/2	ALEXANDRIA		
Anglo-Egyptian B ..	...	211 3/2	Insurance.			Prices on Sept. 21, supplied by G. L.		
Anglo-Persian Ord. ..	...	49 1/2	General Accident Fire and Life (£5, £14 paid) ..	...	14 1/2	Morters, Alexandria & Cairo.		
Do. 8 p.c. Cum. 1st Pf. ..	...	26 1/2	London & Lancs (£5, £1 paid) ..	...	33 1/2	Agricultural Bank of Egypt ..	...	£725 3/2
Do. 9 p.c. Cum. 2nd Pf. ..	...	28 1/2	Royal Exchange (£1) ..	...	73 1/2	" " Fond. ..	...	£810
Do. 5 p.c. Debs. ..	...	98	Sun Fire £10 (£2 paid) ..	...	42 1/2	Alexandria Water Co. ..	...	£177 1/2
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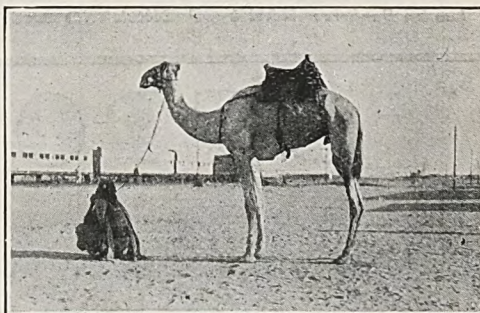
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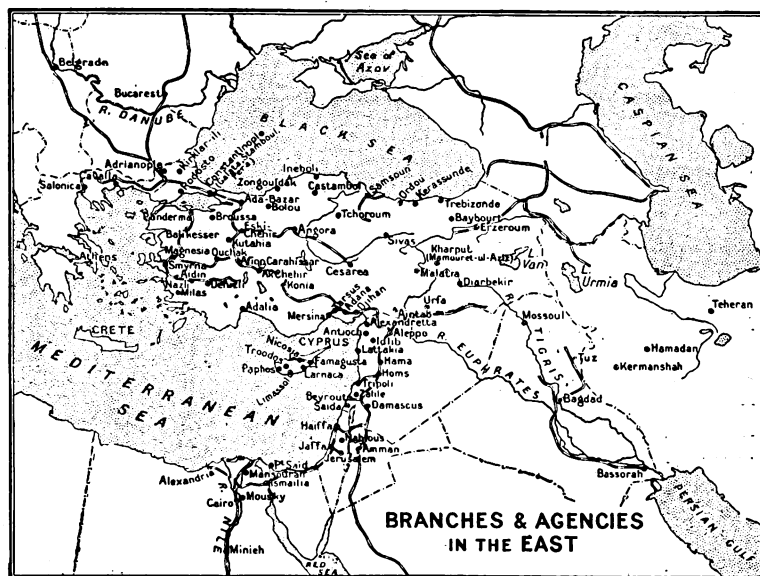
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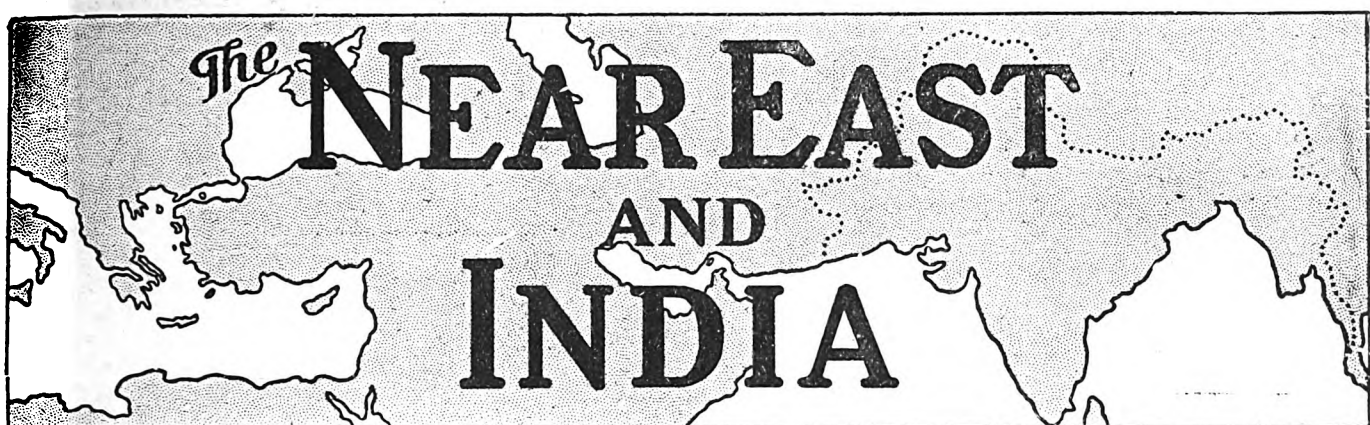
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No. 908.—Vol. XXXIV.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 11, 1928.

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Notes of the Week.

Greece and Yugoslavia.

The negotiations that are taking place this week in Belgrade between M. Venizelos and the Yugoslav Government will not have opened under the happiest auspices. In signing a treaty—albeit of friendship and non-aggression—with Italy and in making preliminary visits to Paris and London, the Greek Prime Minister has hoped to secure tactical advantages over the dour politicians of Belgrade. Whether Serb psychology will react in the way that he evidently anticipates remains to be seen. It has become an *idée fixe* among Yugoslavs that from one direction or another a policy is afoot to isolate their country. France has hitherto been regarded as an opponent, or at least a stranger, to any such scheme, and Greece was supposed not to be of sufficient account to need to be drawn into it. With the return to power of M. Venizelos the situation in regard to Greece underwent, in Yugoslav eyes, an ominous change. When the Greek Prime Minister immediately proceeded to make common cause with Italy, the worst was feared, and now, on the top of all, he has apparently been able to neutralise France. M. Venizelos will, therefore, find the atmosphere of Belgrade charged with suspicion, and his own personal popularity will be obscured under resentment at his "slimness." It will be a great tribute to his powers of persuasion, if he is able to overcome these drawbacks and to win the Yugoslav Government to his own way of thinking in connexion with the Salonika Free Zone. The Belgrade authorities are handicapped by the political situation in the country, as they will be fearful of giving their Croat opponents any further handle against them. M. Venizelos's tactics may testify to his diplomatic cleverness and may even achieve their end, in an agreement on paper with Yugoslavia. A great opportunity, however, has been missed of consolidating the Balkans by offering Yugoslavia a chance of coming to terms with Greece *pro bono Balkanico*, instead of perpetuating, as M. Venizelos has done, the suicidal policy by which one Balkan State tries to steal a march on another by flaunting its reliance on one or more Great Powers.

The Isolation of Yugoslavia.

When Yugoslavia complains of isolation, she needs to make sure that it is not the isolation of Ishmael, whose "hand was against every man, and every man's hand against him." Italy would have been powerless to throw—or to scheme to throw—a ring-fence round Yugoslavia, if that country had not delivered itself into Italian hands by making itself unpopular among its Balkan neighbours. The most glaring instance of the hand-to-mouth existence which serves Belgrade as a foreign policy is to be seen in the Yugoslav attitude towards Albania. If any country could have been relied upon to adopt Yugoslavia as a big brother, it was Albania, when she rose up and drove the Italians from her midst. Yet the Belgrade Government could think of no better plan for winning Albanian friendship and co-operation than to seek to take the place of the dispossessed Italians. When this policy failed, she became wholly bankrupt in ideas, and resigned herself to looking out for every fresh grievance that she could exploit; in so doing, she inevitably drove Albania farther into Italy's hands. As soon as Italo-Yugoslav antagonism was seen to be inevitable, Yugoslavia should have left no stone unturned to rally her Balkan neighbours round her. Her actual policy has been the reverse. She has lost no opportunity of bullying and insulting Bulgaria, when her own armed strength and superior resources ought, if nothing else, to have made her tolerant of any mild Bulgarian attempt to kick against the pricks; and now she is apparently prepared to push to extremes an obstinate antagonism to Greece, when the original importance that a Free Zone in Salonika possessed in Yugoslav eyes has been superseded by port and railway developments on the Adriatic coast. Yugoslavia has celebrated this week the tenth anniversary of the victory on the Salonika front. It would have been of happier augury for the Balkans and for Europe, if she could have commemorated the anniversary—even the first—of Balkan or, haply, Yugoslav unity, for the intransigence shown in foreign affairs would seem to be reflected in the unhappy divisions in the country itself.

A Bulgarian Anniversary.

October 3 was the tenth anniversary of the accession of King Boris and on it was also commemorated the twentieth anniversary of the proclamation of Bulgaria as an independent Kingdom (October 5, 1908). Earlier in the year the country celebrated the jubilee of its creation as a separate State. Modern Bulgaria has crowded much history into these few years, and it is inevitable that the recurrence of the various commemorations should challenge a domestic stock-taking. At the present time, however, it is to the interest of all Balkan countries to have their gaze fixed on the present rather than on the past. Bulgaria, indeed, is prevented by force of circumstances from building much on a future which, she is persuaded, is dependent more on the actions of others than on her own activities. Within her existing frontiers she regards herself as too cramped to do herself justice; she is convinced that, at the least, she needs a port on the Ægean, and at present she can obtain one only by the favour of Greece. Yet Bulgaria has little cause for despair. It may seem a long road to the attainment of her aspirations, but her face is set in the right direction. In many respects she has nothing to fear in comparison with her neighbours. The most prominent feature of last week's celebrations was the personal popularity of King Boris—no small asset for a country these days, and in Bulgaria it spells a national unity of which nearly all her neighbours have occasion to be jealous. It may well be that the advent to power of M. Venizelos brings nearer a settlement of the question of a port on the Ægean Sea. Any Greek suggestion must almost necessarily be an advance on the Dedeagatch offer. This time Bulgaria will have to decide whether it may not be better to accept something short of her desires for the sake of helping on the cause of Balkan unity and co-operation, in the knowledge that when the latter goal is reached it will be easier to meet the full requirements of individual States.

Reforms in Afghanistan.

If it be true that King Amanullah's attempt to introduce the immediate abolition of *purdah* in Afghanistan has had to be abandoned in face of the fanatical opposition that it has aroused in the outlying districts, his failure will afford an object-lesson of the value of a disciplined nation such as Mustapha Kemal Pasha has to deal with in Turkey. The Turk is a born soldier to some purpose in the modern scheme of things. Military experience has not only provided the Ghazi with capable helpers to carry out his schemes, but has also predisposed the Turk to obey the orders of his superiors. King Amanullah's problem promises to be more difficult. He may console himself with the reflexion that similar difficulties present themselves, in different circumstances, in Egypt. There the proposed reform of Al Azhar University encounters the same kind of opposition as his own reforms. Public opinion in Egypt may enable the ulama to be overruled in the matter of University reform, but Afghanistan has no reason to be disappointed with the progress already made since the King's return from his foreign tour. Mustapha Kemal Pasha had not to contend with the extensive tribal system that is a feature of King Amanullah's country, and he was supported to no little extent by perhaps the most civilising agent of all, a railway system. A few railways in Afghanistan will do much to spread the fashion of the towns to the tribes, and in the meantime a safe beginning is being made in the dispatch of women among the young people who are being sent from Afghanistan to study abroad.

Iraq's High Commissioner Designate.

The official intimation that Brigadier-General Sir Gilbert Clayton is to succeed Sir Henry Dobbs as High

Commissioner for Iraq considerably post-dates general anticipation in this regard. For the fact that the actual High Commissioner has for some time expressed a desire to lay down the burden which he has borne on such broad shoulders for more than five long years, coupled with the distinction of the services which Sir Gilbert Clayton has already performed on behalf of Iraq and the omission to grant him a definite post during the years since he retired from the Chief Secretaryship for Palestine, has left the road to Baghdad exclusively open to the negotiator of the Treaties of Bahra, Hadda, and Jidda. The work of Sir Henry Dobbs, who is due to retire early next year, in consolidating Iraq, and in rigidly separating fact from fancy in the new Arab State, we shall have another opportunity of appraising. Suffice it to say at this moment that to Arabia in general the appointment of Sir Gilbert Clayton, who has made friends of the Arabs wherever he has gone—in Egypt, Palestine, Syria, Iraq, the Hijaz, or the Yaman—will certainly be welcome. To Iraq in particular, the fact that a man who, probably, has a unique knowledge of the origins of the Sharifian movement, has been appointed to collaborate with King Faisal in training the young country to independence may seem doubly gratifying. If one were asked to single out the chief feature of the High Commissioner Designate in his dealings with Oriental problems, one would refer to his tact and his caution. Both these qualities will possibly be required in full measure before the consummation of Great Britain's supervising period in Iraq comes to an end with the admittance of the Arab Kingdom into the League of Nations.

The End of an Epoch.

We have referred in our leading article to the fact that the termination of Sir Henry Dobbs' High Commissionership may in a sense be regarded as the end of an epoch in Iraq. Sir Gilbert Clayton will go to a country whose frontiers are now definitely fixed (except in regard to Syria), although, unfortunately, relations with neighbouring Persia and Najd are not all that could be desired. Previous High Commissioners have gone to an unstable charge, both in the internal and external sense: Sir Gilbert will proceed to one that at least has fixed boundaries. But in yet another sense his appointment marks, if not a departure, at any rate a sign of the times. For Sir Gilbert Clayton, unlike Sir Arnold Wilson, Sir Percy Cox, and Sir Henry Dobbs, has little experience of India: his conceptions of the governance of Oriental States derive from nearer London. To the Arab Nationalist this fact may be not without significance. In congratulating Sir Gilbert Clayton on his appointment, we may also be allowed to express the hope that to him will fall the privilege of guiding the young State into the harbour of independence.

INDIAN NOTES.

The Simla Conference.

After a short interval for preliminary study of a work which Lord Irwin has aptly described as "the most complete creative document hitherto published for the furtherance of the rural regeneration of India" the Central Government and the Provincial Governments have now begun to set about the more difficult task of implementing some at least of the Linlithgow Commission's recommendations. It has already been stated that a Bill will shortly be introduced into the Legislative Assembly to establish a Central Council of Agricultural Research. We understand that the measure, which is likely to come up at the next Delhi Session, will differ from the Commission's recommendations in that connection to the extent that the proposed organisation will be divided into two parts. One, to be called the Governing Body, will consist of a dozen members, of whom three will be nominated by the Central Legislature, and the other, to be

known as the Advisory Body, will be composed mainly of experts in the particular branches of agriculture. Meanwhile the Punjab and several other local Governments have convened special conferences of departmental officers to discuss the report and decide upon the action called for in such matters, as the initiative rests with the provincial administration. But as the Viceroy, whose intense interest in and experience of the subject are well-known, observed at the opening session last week, co-ordination is the one magic key to success in any attempt to grapple with the vast problem of rural reconstruction in India. Particular interest, therefore, attaches to the Conference between representatives of the Central and Provincial Governments which met at Simla last week to consider how far and in what direction concerted action was either desirable or feasible. It is, of course, for the Provinces to decide whether they are prepared to accept the principle of the proposed Central Research Council, but Lord Irwin made it plain that this Government were of opinion that no delay should be lost over its institution and that its establishment, on the terms above indicated, would in no way restrict the freedom of the Provinces in regard to the administration of a question which is now a transferred subject in the control of the Provincial Governments. The Conference, which lasted one week, appears to have been a great success, complete unanimity, we understand, being forthcoming as to the desirability of accepting the Report as a whole as a basis for rural reconstruction and agricultural development, and also as to the necessity for the progressive application of the Commission's main recommendations as the circumstances of each province permit. At the same time, as we anticipated, stress was laid by the Provincial representatives on the number and variety of the financial implications of the recommendations, which made their immediate or simultaneous adoption impossible. And that unfortunately is likely to be the crux of the whole matter so long as the financial resources of the provinces are still regulated by the Meston Settlement.

Calcutta's Record Year.

During the year ended March 31, 1928, the tonnage entering the port of Calcutta was greater than in any previous year. It amounted to 4,639,569 tons, representing 1,418 vessels. In 1912-13 more vessels entered, the number being 1,730. But they represented a gross tonnage of only 4,367,222. The quantity of merchandise handled last year by the Calcutta Port Trust was likewise the heaviest on record. It looks, therefore, as if a state of trade not unlike that which prevailed immediately before the War has been established in Calcutta. If this proves to be so, it is very satisfactory, not only in the interests of India generally, but also because the great new dock is now approaching completion. There will thus be a very large extension of port accommodation and facilities, which means that there will be plenty of scope for trade development. The revenue fund, which the Commissioners established three years ago to safeguard them against possible deficits at the time when the new dock should come into operation, has made great progress. In fact it is now such that, instead of having to charge higher rates when the Dock is in use, the Commissioners are actually contemplating a reduction. This will be a triumph for them, and will bring them well-merited congratulations on the skill and foresight with which they have planned and completed so notable an undertaking.

The satisfactory progress which has been made by the Dock Scheme is in striking contrast to the delays which appear to be inseparable from most large public works in Bengal. We mentioned in these columns twelve months ago that after a discussion extending over fifteen years it had been decided to build a new Howrah Bridge of very much the same type as had been recommended by a competent Committee of Engineers at the beginning of that long period. It was hoped last year that the end of the discussion was at hand, and that definite steps in the way of building the bridge would be taken forthwith. But,

to judge by the most recent available information, the scheme would appear to be in very much the same position to-day as it was at this time last year. In the meantime the old pontoon bridge goes on. It was built in the early seventies of the nineteenth century, and it is admittedly at the end of its career of usefulness. Of necessity it is constantly under repair, which means heavy expenditure. It has to carry a ceaseless stream of heavy traffic as there is no other bridge between Calcutta on the east bank of the Hooghly and the large and busy town of Howrah on the west bank. Its reconstruction has been for years the most urgently necessary public improvement in Calcutta, if not indeed in the province, but it makes no definite progress.

A Brighter Outlook.

Although the latest dastardly attempt to wreck the Allahabad-Bombay mail train falls in a somewhat different category, it is unfortunately symptomatic of the general state of industrial unrest in which the instigators of such crimes find ready instruments for their lawless activities. Fortunately, the past few weeks have witnessed a welcome improvement in other directions, in spite of the Government's failure to secure the Legislative Assembly's assent to the passing of the Public Safety (Removal of Communist Agents) Bill and the further postponement of the long-overdue legislation on the lines of the English Industrial Courts Act. Following the settlement reached last month at Jamshedpur and the successful handling of the trouble which threatened to develop on H.E.H. The Nizam's State Railway, comes the welcome news of the calling off of the Bombay cotton mill dispute. After prolonged negotiations the operatives, we understand, have agreed to return to work on the rates of wages in force in March last year, while the millowners' proposals for the reorganisation of the industry are to be referred to a Committee of Inquiry to be appointed by Government. As the appointment of the Committee, and the terms of reference to that body, were agreed to by both parties as far back as August last, the terms of the provisional settlement will no doubt be acclaimed as a victory for the operatives, whose rates of pay, pending the publication of the Committee's findings, are to be those ruling prior to the commencement of the trouble. In point of fact major credit must in fairness be given to the millowners for their conciliatory attitude, and they can view with every confidence the outcome of the inquiry, especially if, as is probable, the personnel of the Committee is similar to that appointed on the last occasion, in 1924, on which recourse was had to the same method of adjudication.

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PERPLEXITY IN IRAQ.

He would, indeed, be an optimist who, studying the present condition of Iraq, would aver that he could already see the solution of the problem which the Mandatory Power and the people of Iraq set themselves, when a form of constitutional government for the young Arab State and an indefinite period of tutelage were decided upon. In other words, perplexity upon the political future of Iraq is fairly general. Neither Arab nor Briton is prepared, so far as our knowledge goes, to assert that by such and such a date Iraq will possess complete independence. The year 1932, as one in which Iraq may possibly enter the League of Nations, is alternatively regarded with hope, doubt, or fear. In this speculation there is unity among neither the Iraqis nor the representatives of the Mandatory Power. What is the reason for this unsatisfactory state of affairs? It would appear to lie, not in the personality, either Arab or British, of those working the system, but in the system itself. The plain fact is that talk of Iraq's sovereignty and independence is apt to be regarded as an idle dream, so long as Great Britain has to appear year by year to answer for her charge of Iraq before the Permanent Mandates Commission at Geneva. Iraq, says the Baghdadi politician, has abolished the Mandate. Nominally, yes; but in actual fact it is this very responsibility which rests upon the shoulders of British Advisers in Iraq that seems to be the stumbling block of the more vocal section of Iraqi "public opinion." In the smaller things of Iraq's life, this dilemma is of little account; but in the larger domain, such as concerns the defence of Iraq, the "interference" of the British—which derives solely from their sense of responsibility, that is, their reading of the necessities of the situation—becomes little short of determined opposition in the eyes of the Iraqi eager for his country's complete independence. Is there, then, a direct conflict between the real facts and the alleged facts of the existing situation in Iraq: is there an essential disparity between the letter of the Anglo-Iraqi Treaty and the obligations of the Mandatory Power towards the League of Nations? Zealous observers on both the Iraqi and the British sides may be tempted to supply a hasty affirmative. Either the British or the Iraqis, they will say, must govern Iraq; Crown Colony Government we understand, complete independence we understand, but this scent without the taste of full sovereignty is both unpleasant and unhealthy. This mandatory system, they continue, breeds neither gratitude, trust, nor good-will; nor, until hypothesis is made reality or reality made hypothesis, will there cease to be on both sides suspicion, mistrust, and belittlement of respective achievements.

Now that there are grounds for such an analysis we should not be disposed to deny; in the larger view, however, we believe both these British and Iraqi critics of the present system to be mistaken. That differences of opinion arise between Iraqi Cabinets and British Advisers is inevitable in the very nature of things; but that fact in itself obviously does not damn the mandatory system. It is true, moreover, howsoever cynical observers may deny the fact or howsoever Iraqi enthusiasts may prematurely assert it, that Iraqis do possess honesty, that they do possess ability, and that they are acquiring experience. Examples of the contrary can no doubt be found; they can be found in the administrations of every

country in the world. But in the less conspicuous elements of governance—the elements in which, in the long run, a country is most progressive or reactionary—Iraq has during the last few years made unquestionable advance. It is over the more prominent matters, such as the problem of creating a patriotic, or Iraqi spirit, the problem of Iraq's assuming full responsibility for external defence and internal security, the problem of the unification of the country, not only in the correct treatment of minorities, but also, as we have been reminded by the recently issued Report on Iraq for 1927 to the League of Nations (Colonial No. 35), in the collaboration of Sunni and Shiah, and of tribesman and townsman, that a cloud of perplexity is seen to hang. But out of these peculiar problems there must be found a way; no Mandatory Power could leave a country without indicating a solution (and the mere presence in a new State of a foreign civilised Power will not in itself help to assuage existing differences—rather, unless wisdom guide its steps, the contrary). How the question of the defence of Iraq is to be answered we confess we do not precisely know, but it is manifestly unsatisfactory that so large a proportion as a third of the Budget should have to be spent, as it is now spent, on the Army. When the demand for Conscription is left to the Iraqis themselves to respond to, the key to this particular door will have been found. Conceivably it may involve a longer period of British tutelage than those who advocate Conscription would like; conceivably it may hasten further British evacuation. That is one great subject of perplexity; the other, not unconnected with it, is the possibility of reconciling the Shiah majority to the present share of power which a predominantly Sunni Administration enjoys. Round this particular obstacle there should certainly be found a path, for as the Shiahs in Iraq become better educated and trained, their demand for posts, for representation in the country's counsels, can obviously brook no refusal. There is reason to hope that wise advice will be given in this matter of co-operation with the Sunnis by the Shiah leaders (reference is not made in this connexion to the *ulama* of the Holy Cities), and the better brains among the Sunnis will presumably not neglect to avail themselves of the general support in the country which permission to the Shiahs to participate in the Administration would bring—even were their attitude guided by no higher motive, as one would like to believe it will increasingly be guided, than this. In short, the setting out, the display, and the exposition of the two prominent problems of Iraq which may now be said to have been achieved, do in themselves help, as all such exposition helps, to the fundamental solution of the country's future.

It may be said, in fine, as the High Commissionership of Sir Henry Dobbs approaches its end, that the first and hardest stage of Iraq's career as an independent State has been passed. Her main difficulties, internal and external, are now fully known; and the sources of her future and undoubted prosperity are also now sufficiently laid bare. It is recognised that mistakes, serious mistakes, have been made; several of the geese of the early days of King Faisal's State are now seen to be swans; and generally speaking there is less tendency to be deceived by the mirages of early enthusiasm and premature judgment. Nor will Iraq suffer through this contact of sentiment with reality; the foundations are most truly laid of that State whose early days are spent in a hard school. Much water, of course, will have to flow down the Tigris and Euphrates before the average Iraqi becomes what the Western world would understand by an Iraqi citizen; the old love of tribe, the still more persistent conception of the advancement of the family—and this latter sentiment is a curse in Oriental politics, in which the Occidental idea of merit as a qualification for position sometimes appears to play only an accidental part—such features as these die lingeringly, stubbornly, even romantically. But die they will, as the Iraqis gain in experience of administration and in knowledge of Western European ways.

*The Near and Middle East

From Our Own Correspondents.



Belgrade, October 4.

The Political Situation.

While there are no real grounds for optimism, the black pessimism with which the political situation was regarded in Belgrade a few months ago has passed, and signs are already discernible, faint but enheartening, that a way out may yet be found from the apparent *impasse* which resulted from the murders in the Skupshtina on June 20. The difficulties of the situation are still enormous and are added to by the foolish declarations of extremists on both sides—those in Belgrade who talk of ruling the Croats with a firm hand, and those in Zagreb who declare that they will be satisfied only with complete and absolute independence. The Peasant-Democrat Club, despite the predictions that it would fall to pieces after Raditch's death, still remains to all appearances firmly united; but its policy of social boycott has proved a failure and is rapidly becoming merely farcical. Its extremist members declare that they can never negotiate with anyone even remotely connected with those in power on June 20, while in Belgrade it is pointed out that it would be foolish for the present Government to resign and a crisis to be opened, until preliminary negotiations had proved the possibility of an agreement being reached. Even the very solidarity of the *Prechanski* parties serves to make an agreement more difficult, since it is preventing the open split of the Radical Party which would otherwise take place between the supporters of the present régime and those favouring the National Executive Committee of the party, which has dissociated itself from all responsibility for the events leading up to the tragedy of June 20 and for the policy adopted by the Belgrade Government from then onwards. Now the very faintest signs are to be seen of disaccord in the Peasant-Democrat ranks, and, if this develops, it will make an agreement far more easy.

Politika reports also that, following on a chance meeting between Dr. Dragotin Koyitch, a member of the Radical Executive Committee, who has always demanded that steps should be taken to come to an agreement with the Croats as soon as possible, and Dr. Sv. Popovitch, a well-known member of the Independent Democrat Party, a further meeting was arranged and held last night. Besides Dr. Koyitch and Dr. Popovitch, M. Milosh Savchitch, another Independent Democrat, was also present. M. Savchitch had earlier in the day been received in audience by King Alexander, and immediately after the meeting Dr. Popovitch left for Zagreb, where he will take part to-day in a meeting of the Peasant-Democrat Club. It is hoped that an attempt is being made to find a formula for the renewal of relations between the Peasant-Democrat Club and the Radicals of the National Executive Committee, inasmuch as it is believed that the only chance of agreement is with those Radicals who openly opposed the policy of the Government before June 20 and have constantly attacked M.

Velya Voukitchevitch and his group ever since. Small though it is, a beginning seems to have been made, and it is to be hoped that it will lead to a speeding-up of the work of those who are trying to bring about the reconciliation of the Serbs of Belgrade with the *Prechanski* Serbs and the Croats.

Dalmatian Agriculture.

The vexed question of the Dalmatian Agriculture Regulation Bill which has been brought forward many times and has always been postponed almost caused a split in the Government Coalition last week and made M. Grg. Anjelinovitch, a Dalmatian, and the only Croat Minister in the Cabinet, threaten to resign. The matter has been postponed again, as have many other important matters on which the Four-Party Coalition cannot agree, but this merely indicates that, if the present Government remains long in office, it will be faced with difficulties which will make reorganisation necessary.

Tenth Anniversary of the Salonika Victory.

Outside Belgrade a great camp of fully armed men has grown up within the last few days, and her streets resound again to the once familiar sound of marching troops. The houses are gay with national flags and festoons of the flags of the Allies are hung across the main streets. The air is thick with aeroplanes, and a foreigner arriving here unwarned might think that we were on the eve of another war. It is, however, only the preparations which are being made for the celebration of the tenth anniversary of the brilliant success on the Salonika front, which caused the Austrians and Bulgarians to make their peace and brought the end of the War in sight. General Franchet d'Esperey, who was Commander-in-Chief of the Allied Forces, and General Sir Charles Briggs, who commanded the XVIth Corps and later the whole of the British troops on this front, are expected to arrive in time for the official celebration, which is to begin on October 7, and their coming is considered as a tribute to the valour of the Serbian troops, the fury of whose attacks, as they neared the fatherland from which they had been exiled for over three years, was largely responsible for the sudden and complete collapse of the enemy.

M. Venizelos's Visit.

Considerable importance is attached to the approaching visit of M. Venizelos to Belgrade. While it is understood that no definite steps can yet be taken immediately to solve the many outstanding problems between the two countries, this visit is expected to make possible the renewal of negotiations for the conclusion of a pact of Friendship and will also serve to allay any nervousness which may have been occasioned by M. Venizelos's pact with Mussolini. Not that this Greco-Italian Pact has been taken too seriously in Belgrade, where it is understood that this is but one of a whole series of similar pacts which M. Venizelos is preparing to sign with neighbouring States, and that Greece has now far more interests in common with Yugoslavia and far greater difficulties outstanding with Italy.

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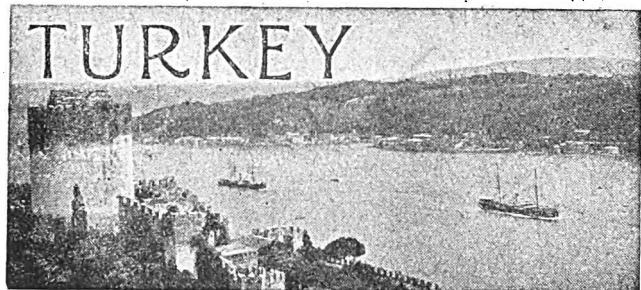
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Constantinople September 27.

Salvage of Sunken Vessels.

A foreign group of shipbreakers whose identity has not been divulged, have applied to the Prefecture of the City of Constantinople for authority to retrieve the hulls of vessels lying at the bottom of the Golden Horn, in much the same way as salvage operations have been carried out for some time past among the derelicts of the German fleet at Scapa Flow. The foreign group have apparently taken the pains to ascertain approximately what profit the operation is likely to yield before making a bid, as it has been calculated that 130 vessels of varying tonnage, the bulk of them warships, have gone to the bottom of this narrow waterway since Sultan Abdul Aziz ascended the throne. The foreign group offer to turn over to the Prefecture everything that they are successful in salvaging, provided that they are allowed to retain 50 per cent. of the copper and brass taken out of the raised vessels. The proposition is a somewhat unusual one, and, as the Prefecture of the City has little experience in maritime matters, it is anticipated that some time must elapse before the applicants receive an answer.

Salvage operations, undertaken by an Italian firm, have been proceeding for some months past at the Dardanelles on Allied warships sunk during the Great War. Activities have so far been confined principally to searches by divers, and about a month ago, a few silver-plated spoons, inscribed "Ward Room Mess" were retrieved from the hull of H.M.S. Majestic which was torpedoed off Morto Bay by an enemy submarine in the early part of 1915.

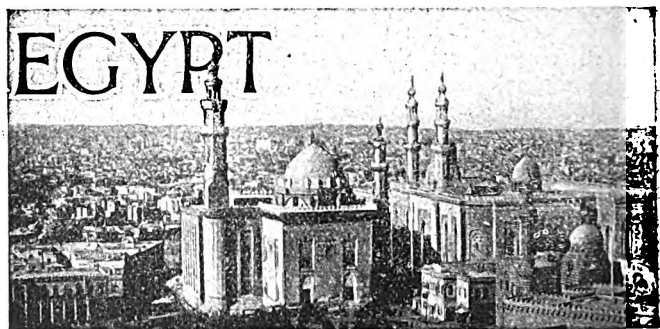
Departure of the Ghazi.

The return journey of Mustapha Kemal Pasha to Angora has been marked by a series of enthusiastic receptions at every port of call on the Black Sea coast where the Izmir, the vessel in which he embarked at Constantinople, put in, and by festivities and dinners at which he was the principal guest in the picturesque inland towns of Amassia, Tokat and Sivas. Many institutions, many customs and many traditions in this country have latterly gone by the board, but it is pleasing to know that the old up-country reputation for hospitality to the wayfarer, be he Prince or beggar, is as alive to-day as it was in those far-off days when the foreign sojourner, travelling through Anatolia, was put up and boarded in the village rest house as a guest of the community.

The Ghazi took the opportunity, in the course of his journey, of examining the senior Government officials with whom he came into contact in their proficiency in the new Turkish characters. Those, naturally, who had a grounding in the French language passed with flying colours, but certain others who are still occupied in learning the Latin alphabet were reprimanded for their backwardness.

An Archæological Discovery.

M. Eugène Pittard, Dean of the Faculty of Science at the University of Geneva, has lately spent two months in Asia Minor whence he has returned with information which will prove of the greatest interest to Scientists throughout the Western world. At Adi-Zamman, situated half-way between Malatya and Diarbekir, the Professor discovered what he describes as a "paleolithic factory" dating back to the Aurignacian period. Should the Professor's theory prove to be correct, it will go a long way to establish that Anatolia was inhabited by an autochthonous race tens of thousands of years before either Greek or Roman had been heard of. M. Pittard is reported to have found not only a goodly collection of paleolithic implements and weapons, but also actual traces of the workshops which manufactured and sold these implements and instruments to the then inhabitants of the highlands of Anatolia.



Cairo, September 29.

The Death of Sarwat Pasha.

Throughout this week little has been talked about except the sudden death of Abdel Khalek Sarwat Pasha. Mohamed Pasha Mahmoud's tour in Upper Egypt, which would normally have proved an absorbing topic, has had to take second place, and the funeral of the "Father of the Constitution," as Sarwat Pasha has often been called, which is to take place to-morrow, is likely to give further impetus to the discussions in regard to the past in which Sarwat Pasha had such an outstanding place, and to the future which will have to be envisaged without his guiding spirit. The death of Sarwat Pasha is undoubtedly a tragedy, a tragedy for his friends, who expected him to continue to play, for yet another decade at least, the dominant rôle in every political situation which he has played since 1918 and who hoped that during that period he would succeed in putting through the settlement of Egypt's outstanding questions, and a tragedy for Egypt herself, since he was the one man on whom she could count in times of stress and in whom most of her hopes for the future reposed.

Sarwat Pasha leaves a blank—a blank far greater than that left by Zaghloul Pasha. The leader of the Wafd was in many respects a great man. But for his courage and tenacity the movement which he headed would never have reached the point it did. But for his peculiar knowledge of how to handle, and appeal to, the people national unity would never have been achieved. Yet Zaghloul Pasha never achieved any really constructive results. On the other hand, Sarwat Pasha was constructively personified. He, like Zaghloul, aimed at the independence of his country, but in addition he had a positive policy which the head of the Wafd sadly lacked. The result has been that, whereas Zaghloul allowed opportunity after opportunity for achieving something definite for his country to escape when these opportunities were actually within his grasp, Sarwat was able to turn what appeared to be an *impasse* into an occasion of profit for Egypt. He was the Cavour, as Zaghloul was the Mazzini, of Egypt, and history will undoubtedly allot to each of them a rôle very similar to

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that played by those two Italian patriots in the Renaissance of their country.

Sarwat Pasha will be sorely missed by all who came into contact or worked with him. He was affable, courteous, loyal to his friends, tolerant of his adversaries. Even his bitterest enemy could never complain that in his intercourse with, or his reception of, him Sarwat Pasha had ever displayed the slightest impatience or coolness. Indeed, herein lay one of his great sources of strength in dealing with his fellow-men. No Egyptian has been more pilloried than he. Yet he never for one moment showed any resentment of these calumnies, no matter how violent or unjustified they might be, nor did he display any animosity towards those who he knew were responsible for them. Rarely did he deign to reply to those attacks, and on the rare occasions when he did his answer confounded his traducers. As a debater he was indeed without equal, and Zaghloul Pasha himself, who feared no man in the public forum, always took particular care never to cross swords with him, for he knew well that he would have the worst of the encounter. And when the time came for a reconciliation, none was more pleased than the "Rais El Mahbub," for he had come fully to appreciate the value of the man whose loyalty he had been foremost in impugning.

An able lawyer and administrator, he left his mark in all the developments which he directed. He alone of all his contemporaries showed qualities of statesmanship—indeed, the past forty years have produced no one in Egypt to approach him in this respect—and his subtle and fertile brain, breadth of view, and grasp of detail, coupled with his more personal qualities, made of him, from the Egyptian point of view, an ideal negotiator.

Sarwat Pasha's name will ever be associated with the great change in Egypt's political status introduced by the Declaration of February 28, 1922, of which he was admittedly the main inspiration, and, although events proved too strong for him, and he could not obtain acceptance in Egypt of the Treaty, which, single-handed, he offered his country last February, his apparent failure will always stand to his credit in regard to both the courageous patriotism and the ability which he showed in putting through the negotiations with Sir Austen Chamberlain and Lord Lloyd.

The Premier's Tour.

Mohamed Pasha Mahmoud has just completed a very successful round of official visits to Upper Egypt. The tour has included Assiut, which is for all practical purposes the capital, Minia, Beni-Suef, Deirout, and Giza, and at each point the Premier had a most enthusiastic reception. The popular demonstration was, however, not restricted to those towns, and the steamer by which he made the trip was met at every available point by "feluccas" bearing shouting fellahin, who also crowded on the river banks to greet the Premier. To a certain extent the reception which Mahomed Mahmoud Pasha has had south of Cairo is a tribute to his family, which has always held a great place amongst the "Saidis," and

particularly to his father, who is greatly venerated. Nevertheless the fact that nowhere was there a discordant note, that at no place was there any pro-Wafdist demonstration of even the smallest dimensions, shows clearly that even in places where the Wafd has always been supposed to have a strong following, feeling has veered over towards the new régime.

Undoubtedly Tanta has had a tremendous influence on the whole country. The Premier was, indeed, very wise to insist on first visiting the enemy's stronghold, and he has received the reward of his courage by the manner in which that visit revealed the utter failure of the Wafd provincial organisation and by the success of his subsequent tour. It must be admitted that the respective tactics of the two leaders have counted for much in this revulsion of opinion and feeling. Nahas Pasha, never a very sympathetic personality, has been able to do nothing but repeat his plaint that the country had been betrayed, and that he and the Wafd alone could save it from the loss of its rights which the present Cabinet has sacrificed for personal ends. On the other hand, Mohamed Mahmoud Pasha, instead of railing at the Wafd and dwelling on its backslidings, has concentrated on laying before the country a constructive policy of economic and social reform, which has appealed to the masses who have for long wanted some such assistance, and he has managed astutely and without any apparent effort to place the Wafd in a thoroughly bad position, from which none of its efforts can really extricate it.

Mohamed Mahmoud Pasha has indeed proved a complete "surprise packet," even to his friends, none of whom ever suspected that he possessed the qualities which he is now revealing. His three months of office have proved most satisfactory, and his administration has had just that touch of the dictator which the country wanted. So far at any rate—and in these matters it is the first weeks that decide—he has succeeded in stultifying the efforts of the Wafd to create throughout the country an agitation making the task of the Government impossible and in drawing the people towards himself by giving them something practical and of advantage to their country to think about. If he and his colleagues can continue along the path on which they have embarked, the end of the three years, which they have set as their term of office, should record a complete transformation in the life and outlook, economic and political, of the country, and its rescue from the stagnation which the Wafd régime introduced and the ruin with which that régime threatened it.

CYPRUS.

Nicosia, September 30.

The Passport Scandal.

On September 13, at Nicosia, three Greek officers were charged with offences connected with the issue of passports, and of certificates of British nationality to persons who were not entitled to such registration. They were allowed bail in £200 and £300, and are to be defended

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by Greek members of the Bar. The case is to come before the Court for hearing on October 11.

Dengue Fever in Cyprus.

Great anxiety prevails regarding the danger of introduction of dengue fever, especially from Greece, where an epidemic of this disease has had such fatal results. A paper states that in August there were at Athens and the Piræus 589 fatal cases: 270 of males and 319 females. There are also cases in Egypt. One case has occurred in the Famagusta district, and it is suspected that there are others. The Medical Department is taking measures for very strict examination of passengers desiring to land in the island. Among those suffering in Athens is the Bishop of Kitium, Nicodemus, who has been visiting Greece. The Bishop of Papho, Jacobus, has also been seriously ill, in Cyprus, for some time (not from this disease) but is said to be much better. He is very popular in his diocese.

Progress of the English Language.

The number of natives who passed the public examination in English recently, some with distinction, was large, and candidates tend to increase. Many have been taught in the English School at Nicosia, founded by Canon Newham. Not only is the number of native youths rapidly increasing, but there is now also a remarkable number of Greek girls who are proficient in the language. Miss N. Chrysafini, of Nicosia, has recently obtained a certificate of proficiency in English at the London University, and others are studying in England.

A Great Island Fair.

The great fair of Omodhos, a large village of the wine-producing district of Limassol, is held annually on September 27, and is always largely attended. A Church and Monastery of the Cross are the centre of attraction, and near them are pitched numerous stalls, booths, etc. Much business is transacted, including the purchase of animals. Horse races are held and prizes given. The fair is generally held to mark the break up of summer, and the approach of the rainy season.

Paper Money.

According to a Government notification, paper money notes of £5, £1, and 10s. will be legally current till August 31, 1930.



Sofia, October 2.

Bulgarian Minorities.

The problem of the Bulgarian minorities in the Balkans was raised at a special conference which, assembled in conformity with the decision of the last Congress, at The Hague, of the International Association of League of Nations Unions, was held on September 29, at Prague, under the presidency of the British deputy, Sir Willoughby Dickinson, to hear the complaints of the Bulgarian delegation and the explanations of the Roumanian, Yugoslav, and Greek delegates.

In this connexion, it is stated that the Bulgarian League of Nations Union has elaborated, for the use of this conference, two detailed *exposés* on the condition and claims of Bulgarian minorities in Roumania (the Dobruja) and in Yugoslavia and Greece (Macedonia). The situation in these two provinces, peopled by a population essentially Bulgarian, is depicted in this Report as quite intolerable and in contradistinction to the régime for minorities stipulated in the Peace Treaties.

The Dobruja.

The Union complains that the question of the nationality of the population is regulated in a defective, partial, and complicated manner, owing to which a great number of the inhabitants domiciled in the country at the moment of the Roumanian occupation, on July 28, 1923, are refused the right to be regarded as Roumanian subjects and have in consequence been placed in a most precarious position, because the rural property of all these inhabitants is wholly expropriable in virtue of the law of Agrarian reform—and that almost without compensation. Rural property is generally subjected to exceptional and profoundly unjust legislation, with the result that the indigenous population, Bulgarian and Turkish, is forced to emigrate to Bulgaria and Turkey to make room for Roumanian colonists coming *en masse* to the Dobruja where, to obtain this end, the Roumanian functionaries—there are no others—apply a régime of expropriation, confiscation, *corvées* and arrests, all quite arbitrary and under all sorts of imaginary pretexts. And when this procedure does not immediately bring about the desired result, they have recourse to a simpler and more radical method, which consists of installing these colonists by force in the homes of the indigenous people and of compelling these others to leave. The Roumanian State similarly confiscate all the properties belonging to the schools, the Churches, the mosques, the religious communities—in fact, to all institutions of culture and good works.

Before the Roumanian occupation, the Bulgarian population of the country possessed two complete *lycées*, ten *progymnases* (superior elementary schools), and ninety-eight elementary schools. All these schools have either been closed or turned into Roumanian schools. It is only in Silistria, Dobritch, Baltchik, and Cavarina, formerly endowed with admirably organised scholastic institutions, that the Roumanians have permitted the re-opening of four Bulgarian schools, after having taken away all the property therein which had been obtained through gifts of the population in Bulgarian and even in Turkish times. The carrying on of these schools, which are placed under strict control, is a matter entirely of individual initiative, the State refusing them any subsidy. The Bulgarian population is thus obliged, even in



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the villages which are exclusively Bulgarian, to send their children to schools where only Roumanian is taught. As for the Bulgarian churches, they have been, except in isolated cases, occupied by Roumanian priests and their property has become public property. Moreover, the Bulgarian schools and churches in the Dobruja very often date as far back as the times of Turkish domination. At this period, these institutions, as well as their property, were administered by autonomous scholastic and ecclesiastical committees, elected by the population. Their origin coincided with the Bulgarian renaissance. But the Roumanian legislator has put an end to their existence, and the Roumanian State has appropriated to itself all the wealth collected with such pains through scores and scores of years.

Naturally, the iniquity of this economic, political, and cultural oppression is not failing to have regrettable but inevitable repercussions on the soul of the local population, which is passionately attached to the soil and to its scholastic and religious acquisitions. Thousands and thousands of peasants who formerly lived in ease and even in opulence are to-day reduced to misery and to flight. Can we wonder, then, that certain of them, in despair, allow themselves to be won over by promises of subversive propaganda and are led on to commit acts hostile to the authorities of the new country to which they find themselves annexed? Rather is it to be wondered at that the proportions of the revolutionary movement in this province (which was formerly the granary of Bulgaria) have been so small.

A general amnesty is badly needed in the Dobruja. An amnesty has been foreshadowed by certain organs of the Roumanian Press, as an efficacious means of establishing calm and peace in the country. But this measure will not prove efficacious if the present injustices are not suppressed, if seventy-five per cent. of the land of the population is not restored to it—not only land, but also forests, vineyards which the Roumanian State has confiscated—if schools, churches, and mosques are not re-established, and if legal action does not follow all the crimes committed by the civil and military functionaries, without regard to the position or the personality of the guilty ones. For it is impossible for the present position to obtain any longer, in flagrant contradiction as it is of all conceptions of justice and equity. The minority population is obliged to expatriate itself, abandoning its property or selling it for ridiculous prices, and is swelling the already excessive number of refugees in Bulgaria, as well as in Asia Minor, where the adverse climate has fatal effects. This oppressed population grows poorer day by day; it is despairing of its future and becomes all the more easy a prey for the Bolshevik agents.

In Macedonia.

Nor are things any better in Macedonia (divided between Yugoslavia and Greece) where, as we read in the Memorandum of the Bulgarian Union, after having suppressed all the liberties and national rights of the Bulgarian population, the Yugoslavs and Greeks are making exactions which are a shame to humanity. Arrests and ill-treatment, pillage and extortion, physical and moral constraint, a system of different customs dues for different regions, a law for the defence of the State under which every citizen in Macedonia is classified, a situation which is in fact a permanent state of siege in which the exclusive rights of the military and civil authorities are all-powerful, the intervention of "occult factors," such as the Serbian Military League, *Bela Rouka* ("The White Hand") and the Greek organisation called "The Greek Fist" directed against the "Bulgarian bandits"; the expulsion *en masse* of the Bulgarian population, the enforced "Grecisation" or "Serbisation" of that section of the population which remains in its home; civil and military authorities who persecute and deliberately exterminate the Bulgarians, not even stopping short of massacre—as in the instance of the murder at the village of Tarlis, in the region of Drama, ordered by a Greek officer, Captain Doxakis, and

of the still more cruel murder in the village of Garvan, in the region of Radovishte, ordered by the *Joupan* Matkovitch; the pitiless condemnation at Skoplye of the Macedonian students who had committed the crime of wishing to organise a brotherhood of youth for the cultivation of their language and for the political defence of their character as loyal minority subjects of King Alexander, and the systematic assassinations of Bulgarians who were the most refractory to the denationalisation undertaken by the Governments of Belgrade and of Athens to stamp out Bulgarian nationality in this province, which was formerly the cradle of the Bulgarian renaissance, at the beginning of the nineteenth century—all these things constitute a sorrowful reality whose remedy is urgent, if tragedy is not to ensue and if the original Macedonians are not to go over definitely to the famous Revolutionary Organisation, which is now the sole protecting agency against Serb and Greek oppression.

Finally, the Bulgarian Association formulates the four following claims, the moderation of which must be recognised and which would result, not in detaching the Dobruja and Macedonia from the States in which they have been joined by the Peace Treaties, not even in raising up, as has been generally feared, a separatist or autonomous movement, but in suppressing the causes of discontent now existing and in reconciling the Bulgarian population in these two provinces with the respective Powers who are strangers to them. These claims are:—(1) To apply the clauses relative to the protection of minorities, that is to say, to re-establish the cultural rights (language, church, and school) which the population possessed before the War; (2) to put an end to the existing situation, in which the Macedonians and the Dobrujans are deprived of all rights and to introduce complete equality in the exercise of the civil and political rights; (3) to give full amnesty to all emigrants and the possibility, to those who desire it, of returning to their homes; and (4) guarantees on the part of the League of Nations that all these demands shall be satisfied.

SALONIKA ANNIVERSARY.

Lieut.-General Sir C. J. Briggs represented the British Army at the celebrations in Belgrade on October 7 and 8 on the occasion of the tenth anniversary of the Allied Victory on the Salonika front in 1918. In addition to General Briggs, who left London for Belgrade on October 4, the British delegation included Colonel Giles, British Military Attaché in Belgrade. The French delegation was headed by Marshal Franchet d'Esperey and a Rear-Admiral. The Italian delegation consisted of twelve members, led by two Generals and an Admiral. There were also Czechoslovak, Belgian, Roumanian, and Greek delegations.

KING OF ABYSSINIA.

The Regent and Heir-Apparent of Abyssinia, on whom the Empress Judith has conferred the title of Negus, or King, was crowned in Addis Ababa on October 7. Invitations to attend the ceremony were sent to the Governors of British and French Somaliland and the Italian Governor of Eritrea. The King-Regent Tafari is the senior representative in the male line of Saleha Selassié, King of Shoa, grandfather of the Emperor Menelik II., who was the present Empress's father. The King-Regent, then Ras Tafari Makonnen, deposed her nephew, the Emperor Lij Yasu (Joshua), in September, 1916, and placed her Majesty on her father's throne as Empress and Queen of Queens of Ethiopia, the official name for Abyssinia.

Captain Bennet Baggs left Croydon Aerodrome on October 3, flying an Armstrong-Siddeley Atlas reconnaissance aeroplane, for Constantinople, where he is demonstrating the machine in an effort to obtain for Britain aircraft orders which it is understood that the Turks are about to place.

The Executive of the English Zionist Federation has protested against the action of the Palestine Administration in their interference with the Jewish worshippers at the Wailing Wall in Jerusalem on the Day of Atonement, and has invited the British Government to make impossible any similar incident in the future.

CALCUTTA LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Calcutta, September 20.

The Statutory Commission.

The problem that Sir John Simon and his colleagues have been set to untangle gets more tangled every week. There have been so many memoranda; there is the Nehru Committee's Report; there has been, this week, the criticism of that Report by a group of Muhammadan members from Bengal and the Punjab that met in the house of Malik Firozkhan Noor in Simla; there has been, also this week, the challenge of the Report by Sir Manubhai Mehta, formerly Dewan of Baroda and now Prime Minister of the Bikanir State, a challenge in which the treatment of the question of the Indian States in the Report is characterised as "superficial and light-hearted;" a challenge in which Sir Manubhai Mehta said: "The Princes do not acknowledge the paramountcy of the Government of India. The only paramountcy which they admit is vested in the Crown of England." Lastly, this morning, we have the memorandum of the European Association. The chief proposals of this last memorandum, as summarised in the *Statesman*, are:—

An increase in the proportion of nominated non-official seats in the Assembly to strengthen the Executive.

No extension of responsible government as far as the Central Government is concerned.

The introduction of responsible government in the Provinces subject to a number of safeguards.

No extension of the present franchise in the Provinces.

No further reduction of the British element in the Services.

The building up of a federation of Indian States to develop an All-India Government.

The reorganization of the legal position of the Anglo-Indians.

Other matters of interest connected with the Statutory Commission, but I cannot do more than just mention them, are that the Council of State has adopted a motion for the election of three members on the Committee of the Central Legislature, and that the Legislative Council of the United Provinces, reversing its former decision to boycott the Statutory Commission, has decided to appoint a Committee to co-operate. Have not I said from the beginning that the leading Indian politicians' boycott of the Commission would end in smoke?

Public Safety Bill.

The Government, contrary to some expectation, won the day over the Public Safety Bill, the Assembly, after a four days' debate, agreeing on Saturday to refer the Bill to a Select Committee. The voting was very close, 62 against 59. The Committee's work is understood to have been completed already, with no little improvement to the Bill. It may be anticipated that it will soon form part of the law of British India, and that the Communist menace, of the extent of which not much information has been given out, will have been met to some extent.

The Assembly and its President.

Last Friday Pandit Motilal Nehru brought to the notice of the Assembly a telegram published in the *Daily Telegraph* suggesting that the President's ruling in connexion with the Public Safety Bill was a party move. The Pandit also drew attention to matter that had appeared in the *Times of India* and the *Pioneer*. There was a debate that made interesting reading. The President spoke last. He deferred his decision for a week. We shall hear more of it.

The Assembly and its Secretariat.

There has also been a debate on the question of the Secretariat of the Assembly and its separation from the Legislative Department of the Government of India, and we have had the *Statesman*, in a leading article on the

question, writing such things as: "... Mr. Crerar's heart has been in the right place throughout on the matter, and indeed it was impossible to suppose that there was any member of the Government who did not feel intensely humiliated at the position to which the Secretary of State had publicly reduced it. By the mails we receive photographs of Lord Birkenhead yachting at Cowes or disporting himself at other centres of pleasure. The mails also bring us his bright and breezy contributions to the Press on non-political subjects, while the cables speak of projects for making money in the City. But we have..." but as your Correspondent is not sure that the rest is not rebellious, he will quote no more.

The European Association and Education.

The European Association has also prepared a memorandum for presentation to the Hartog Committee on the subject of the state of education in India. Nothing may be said in it that has not been said one hundred thousand times already. That anything should be said that has not been said already was not to be expected. What is said, however, does not matter so much sometimes as who says it, and there may be more attention paid to the Association's expression of well-worn views than was paid on the one hundred thousand prior occasions on which they were expressed. The point sought to be made, to put it briefly, is that there is much so-called university education given in the country, where there are very few good schools, so that it is an attempt to do, before what has to be done first has been done, what can only be done after that first thing. It is as if you all tried to shave before lathering your chins. The Association would, further, have all the standards raised in the university examinations, and would have that done, no matter how great an improvement had been wrought in the teaching of the schools. Very right and proper.

Education of Women.

The Assembly spent a day debating a motion concerning the education of women in India. In the course of the debate the Secretary in the Department of Education, Health, and Lands made a speech that was listened to with interest. The Government of India are to appoint a Committee to investigate the whole problem. Perhaps that must be done, but one would have supposed that the problem had already been investigated. In my view, what is wanted is not a Committee and its hurriedly expressed views, this year or that year, but some thinking minds working out of sight all the time.

On November 1 the *Pioneer* of Allahabad will reduce its price from two annas to one.

Ten political prisoners sentenced to death under the Defence of the Realm Act have been reprieved by the King of Bulgaria on the occasion of the tenth anniversary of his accession, and their sentences commuted to imprisonment.

Nine lantern lectures on Greek art are to be given by Dr. Percy Dearmer during the autumn term in the Great Hall, King's College, Strand. The first lecture, dealing with Greek architecture, was given on October 9.

A tablet in memory of its late vicar, the Rev. F. Penny, formerly of the Indian Ecclesiastical Establishment, and author of "The Church in Madras," has been placed in St. Mary's Church, West Twyford, the smallest church in the diocese of London.

Sir John Stratheden Campbell, K.C.S.I., C.I.E., of Regent's Park Road, N.W., successively Magistrate, Deputy Commissioner, and Commissioner for the United Provinces of India, who died on August 16, aged 64, left estate of the gross value of £19,890, with net personalty £19,666.

Owing to the scarcity of interpreters in foreign languages in India, it has been decided to send a number of selected officers to various countries for a year's study. In November twelve officers will go to Turkey, Iraq, Persia, Kurdistan, and the Baltic States. Hitherto the bulk of interpreters in foreign languages have been furnished by the British Army, while the Indian Service has specialised in the dialects of that country and adjacent States.

THE MASSES OF INDIA.

BY THE HON. SIR PHIROZE SETHNA, O.B.E.

[Well known to readers of THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA as an able exponent of the Indian point of view on current constitutional and economic problems, Sir Phiroze Sethna, in the following extract from the (Parsi) New Year number of the "Sanj-Vartaman," discusses various means of improving the economic condition of the masses.]

No other internal problem of India is of such vital importance as that of improving the condition of the masses and raising their general level of existence. The masses form nearly seventy per cent. of the total population of India, and it is obvious that the improvement of their condition is an essential and vital factor in the future development of India as a self-governing, progressive and strong nation. If we neglect their condition or refuse to face the problems which a harmonious development of their national, mental, moral and political condition has brought into existence or prominence, we can do so at our own peril. The most notable and satisfactory feature of the modern State is that it concerns itself much more thoroughly and actively with the interests of the masses, their well-being and progress, than States of the old type used to do, and in Soviet Russia this solicitude for the supposed interests of the masses has been carried to such an extravagant or extreme length that what is called the dictatorship of the proletariat has been established, with the result that serious injustice has been done to other classes and their legitimate interests sacrificed before the Moloch of proletarian requirements. Of course Soviet Russia represents an extreme type and happily there is very little possibility of her example being followed by other countries. But no State can in these days justify itself or vindicate its character as an enlightened and progressive State if it does not seek to do all that is humanly possible to elevate the masses, to improve their status, to raise the general level of their life and to qualify them for the enjoyment of the rights, and for the discharge of the responsibilities, of citizenship.

The problem of improving the condition of the masses and enabling them to take their proper place in the general life of self-governing India is a gigantic, and, by no means, easy one. Nor can it be solved except by patient and strenuous efforts extending over several years. But it can never be solved satisfactorily, unless Government and Indian leaders form a just appreciation of their character, of both their virtues and their faults, and have correct ideas of their requirements and the part they are to play in the future evolution of India.

The Indian masses with all their faults possess considerable innate wisdom; they have a culture of their own inherited from the remote past and, though they are highly conservative by nature, they are yet not so utterly lacking in the spirit of progress as some people are apt to think. Masses all over the world are more or less conservative, and the conservativeness of the Indian masses need cause no surprise. It is none the less true that even they are touched by the modern spirit, and will not be averse from improvement in every sphere of their life, if only they can be made to realize its benefits. Again the *Mahab* attitude hitherto adopted by officials and national leaders in dealing with them must be given up; such an attitude tends to repress their personality and all but sterilizes their thought centres. This method of paternal autocracy, however benevolent it may be, must be replaced by the process of education of natural understanding, and of spontaneous unfoldment of individuality, however slow and toilsome it may be. Nothing tends so much to stereotype a mode of existence, keeping it to the same dead level, than benevolent despotism, be it social or political, and unless the Indian masses are made to see,

think and decide for themselves and to become more self-reliant and more self-progressive, their improvement will never be real and lasting. The real function of the Government is to set in motion those forces, economic, intellectual and political, which will slowly but surely bring about this result.

After these general observations, the importance of which is by no means minimised by their general character, let us consider some concrete aspects of the problem.

The most outstanding aspect is, of course, the economic. The economic condition of the masses is, in general, so low that it is really little short of a disgrace both to Government and to the Indian community. The Imperialistic character of British rule has resulted in the steady deterioration of the economic condition of the masses, while on the other hand, the national leaders have made no strenuous efforts to work among them and promote their economic improvement even within such narrow limits as are possible under foreign economic domination and exploitation. It is only recently that both seem to have realized that the masses constitute a problem which must be faced. Personally, I am not sanguine that with all the unanimous recommendations of the Agricultural Commission Government will do anything but tinker with the problem. No important Indian problem have Government faced in a spirit of far-seeing and courageous statesmanship. Their imperialism, their irrepressible desire to prolong their political and economic domination make them delude themselves with the thought that such statesmanship demands rather that every such problem should be tinkered with, and not really and permanently solved, and I own to a misgiving that in spite of the heavy labours of the Linlithgow Commission, the same will happen with the problem of the economic condition of the agricultural population who form the vast bulk of the masses of this country.

This is, however, by the way. The economic condition of the masses, whether agricultural or non-agricultural, can be improved only by raising their income. The average income of the Indian population is very low, so low indeed that a decent standard of existence is impossible. The Agricultural Commission has expressed its conviction that the cultivator must have the will to achieve a better standard of living and that no substantial improvement in agriculture could be effected without such a will. In other words, in the judgment of the Commission, the root of the problem is psychological, which ultimately means educational. Change the psychology of the cultivator by education, let the will to achieve a better standard of living be created in him, and he will then spontaneously utilize every means of improving agriculture, his average income will be increased and his general economic condition raised. While there may be some force in this, on the other hand, the cultivator is not so blind to his own economic improvement that he will not seek to profit by all means within his reach whereby he can improve his agriculture and add to his income. The experiences of the War have proved beyond doubt that when a farmer gets more income, it naturally leads to an improvement in his standard of living. What is wanted therefore is to promote better and more intensive cultivation, to relieve the peasant of his indebtedness, to lessen the pressure of population on agriculture, to establish a more liberal and less vexatious land revenue and also irrigation, and to foster and develop new indigenous industries. The utmost agricultural output, the highest possible industrial development of which India is capable so that a proper balance may be established between agriculture and non-agricultural industries—this is the keynote to the economic salvation of the masses. And when this is achieved, the operation of modern civilization and modern world-forces to which India, like every other country, is exposed, will inevitably bring about a better standard of living.

(To be concluded.)

AN EGYPTIAN ANNIVERSARY.

The eleventh anniversary of the accession of King Fuad was the occasion of loyal celebrations throughout Egypt on October 9, and on the following day a Reception was held by Sesostri Sidarouss Bey, Chargé d'Affaires, at the Royal Egyptian Legation in London, in honour of the event. The keen personal interest taken by the King in all branches of public life and particularly in the material development of the country and the social welfare of the nation has had the effect during the last eleven years of bringing the Throne and the people in close touch. King Fuad's tour in Europe last year still further identified the Sovereign with the national aspirations.

As the King's accession took place in the third year of the Great War, each returning anniversary serves as a landmark in the progress of the country since that upheaval. In spite of the controversy that has ranged round its interpretation, Egypt's independence remains the watchword of King Fuad's régime. For the world at



KING FUAD I.

large, in regard to all the ordinary relations that characterize the dealings of countries in normal times of peace, Egypt has attained full independence, as the points still outstanding between her and Great Britain may be said to lie outside those dealings. Material development is marked by the gradual improvement of irrigation and, no less, by the growing appreciation of what is yet needed in this respect for the adequate provision of water in the country. On a problem of this kind there is inevitably a clash of opinions, and Egypt has been no exception to the rule that little can be done until the talking is over. While, however, big projects, which seem now to be on the eve of being taken in hand, have been delayed, improvements at the other end of the intricate irrigation system have been introduced.

In other directions the most notable progress that has been made in the last decade concerns public instruction and the social life of the people. With possibly twelve to fifteen per cent. of the population literate, the country has much ground to cover in the education of the people.

The last few years have seen a marked stimulus, by the expenditure of more money on public instruction and the building of schools; and it is stated that to-day there are 670,000 pupils in the various educational establishments. Public hygiene has received special attention on the part of the Government, and the general welfare of the country has been considered in the steps taken to promote the interests of the cotton industry and the improvement of agriculture in general. Mainly at the instance of King Fuad Egypt's interest in the advancement of science has been shown in the number of international congresses to which he has offered hospitality—the International Geographical Congress of 1925, the International Navigation Congress of 1926, the International Congress of Cotton Manufacturers and Spinners of 1927, and this winter will see an International Congress of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene held in Cairo.

If achievement has lagged behind intention, Egypt will not be singular in this respect; and it would be strange, if a country where politics have been placed on such an exalted pedestal had proved as efficient in execution as it was prominent for eloquence. With the change of Government last July the new Ministry found that, whereas Parliament might debate reforms and even pass them, their practical application presented almost insuperable difficulties so long as executive authority found it necessary or expedient to remain subservient to the prestige of the legislature. The suspension of Parliament has thus been the signal for the carrying out of a number of measures which are no longer in danger of being thwarted or delayed by the subtle means that are never wholly lacking when a deputy may overrule local officials. Among these measures may be mentioned the clearance of insanitary ponds—a question which has been a problem of village life in Egypt for nearly forty years, until to-day there must be as many as four thousand of these forcing beds of disease—the supply of clean water in villages, and the provision of better accommodation under healthier conditions for the working classes in towns. Further there is to be a rapid extension of hospitals throughout the country. It is proposed to construct one hundred and fifty in all during the next five years, fifty in the chief towns of the various districts and one hundred in villages, at the rate of ten county-town hospitals and twenty village hospitals each year. The practice of selling State Domains is to be placed on a systematic footing as a measure of agrarian reform, and already two thousand acres have been distributed in Fayoum in lots of two-and-a-half acres among peasants without land or owning not more than ten acres. The purchase price is fixed at a low rate, one-tenth being paid in cash and the balance in instalments spread over fifteen years.

"WORLD DOMINION."

The October issue of *World Dominion*, an "international review of Christian progress," contains certain articles which will specially interest readers of *THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA*. The Editor touches the East at several points in his "World Movements of Moment," and other essays of particular import are "A New Day in the Near East," which describes the tendency of Islam to break down in favour of materialism; "The Inner Situation in Egypt To-day," which is a balanced exposition of the position as it was before Mahmoud Pasha's coup; and "The Religious Situation in Hungary" and "Transylvania in Transition," which concentrate on what is too often overlooked in this peculiar problem—the spiritual qualities of the lands the future of which is at present so much in dispute.

King Ibn Saoud is reported to have returned last week to Riyadh, in Najd, from the Hijaz.

A motor car in which the Chief District Finance Superintendent was travelling was held up by bandits in the neighbourhood of Czernowitz (Roumania). The party is reported to have helped themselves to a sum of about £20, after which they allowed the car to proceed. The same party later stopped a funeral procession and stripped the mourners of all their valuables.

THE QURAN.

[We are privileged to publish extracts from the paper on "The Quran" which M. A. Gad el-Mawla, Delegate of the Egyptian Government, read on August 31 to the Seventeenth Orientalist Congress, held at Oxford. Gad el-Mawla Bey divided his subject into a Description of the Quran, its Contents, and its linguistic, social, moral, and scientific influence. It is his remarks upon those influences which we print below.—ED.]

Its Influence upon the Language.

The tribe of Quraish had the greatest influence, and was largely responsible for the unification of the various dialects of the Arabic tongue, because they inhabited the province of the Hijaz which was the ultimate destination or nucleus of pilgrims and merchants; where most of the Arab dignitaries, poets and orators of both sexes used to meet and challenge one another by reciting to the public poems, and delivering discourses or speeches touching on their genealogical glory and splendour in the most elegant style and eloquent composition. This afforded the Quraish the opportunity of storing and turning into advantage the purest of these Arabic dialects, which thus played an important part in refining their own dialect, in improving and polishing their style, and in developing their language to such an extent as to render it the language of Revelation. It was, therefore, no wonder that the Quran should have been revealed in the language of the Quraish, which was not only the pulp and essence of the Arabic language but was also the language of the Apostle (may God bless him) who was also a Quraishite, and it was quite natural that the Quran should become the high standard of diction, for the tribe of Quraish had distinguished themselves by possessing several ingredients of leadership which the Arabs had acknowledged and which they *a fortiori* recognised in the speech revealed by God the Almighty.

Had the Quran been revealed in a language other than that of the Quraish of which the Prophet (may God bless him) was conversant, the counterpoise between the style of the Quran and the speech of the Prophet (may God bless him) would have been lacking—this would have led each Arab tribe to decide its own dialect, thus causing an irreparable schism.

The language of the blessed Quran was so elegantly styled that it could be easily read, even by the Arabs with their various dialects, without depriving it of its lustre of elocution which lay in its construction or composition—a linguistic policy which brought the Arabs to one tongue and subsequently to one solid body.

Thus the sacred Quran had the conspicuous influence in unifying, spreading and arranging the language as far as its aims, its vocabulary and its style were concerned, and in addition it insured to the language a long happy life.

The Quran was composed in one language, the beauties of which were stuffed therein—thus becoming a complete embodiment or example to which the votaries unanimously adhered irrespective of the various conditions and circumstances in which they lived. Owing to the absence of a linguistic standard or control for reference before the Quran, each tribe had been under the impression that the language they spoke was more refined, and that its rhetoric was more elegant and forcible. It was certainly beyond the power of man to measure or gauge the capacity or impotence of a nation in something abstract as a language, unless such a man had reached the stage of utter perfection.

Since utter perfection belongs to God alone, His words should naturally form the highest ideal.

Without the Quran it would have been impossible for anyone to trace anything about the Arabic language, its orthography or pronunciation; but the constant transmission of the text of the Quran has perpetuated and reserved to us the Arab mode of pronunciation.

The Arab races in Egypt, Syria, Morocco, and other

countries speak the Arabic language with more or less variation in the dialect, according to the distance separating them and the various conditions under which they live. Had it not been for the Quran, each race would have had an independent language, obscure and incomprehensible by the others, as has been the case with the branches of the Latin language (French, Spanish, Italian, etc.), but the preservation by the Arabic speaking races of the language of the Quran, and their reference to it in their writings and speeches, have insured the maintenance of a permanent standard to which all the various Arabic dialects owe their origin.

This is why the Quran is considered the finest book that ever appeared among men. From the point of style alone, it is nothing less than a miracle, as great a miracle as ever was wrought. It is nothing but the eternal utterance of God.

Its Trace in the Scientific World.

Up to the time of Islamic Dispensation, the Arab world, properly so called, restricted within the Peninsula of Arabia and some outlying tracts to the north-west and the north-east, had shown no signs of intellectual growth. Poetry, oratory, and judicial astrology formed the favourite subjects of pursuit among the pre-Islamic Arabs. Science and literature possessed no votaries.

The words of the Prophet gave a new impulse to the awakened energies of the race.

"To listen to the words of the learned, and to instil into the heart the lessons of science, is better than religious exercises."

The definition by the Imam Jaffar al Saddik of science or knowledge gives some idea of their faith in the progress of man.

"The enlightenment of the heart is its essence; Truth, its principal object; Inspiration, its guide; Reason its acceptor; God its inspirer, and the words of man its utterer."

The study of the history of modern science shows that the Quran was the basis of the Islamic revolution which had preserved, refined, and filtered the knowledge of ancient lore. It afforded the human mind freedom of thought to examine, discuss, deduct and induct. The revolution was, therefore, regarded as the foundation of scientific history in Europe: the Quran having become the sole factor which sent forth the human mind from its embryo to its present complete form. Do you see that it encourages and emphasises the necessity of speculation, reflection, and induction as shown in the following verses of the Quran?

"Or do they not contemplate the Kingdom of Heaven and Earth, and the things which God hath created, and considered that peradventure it may be that their end draweth nigh? And in what new declaration will they believe after this?"

"There is no beast on earth, no fowl which flieth with its wings, but is a people like unto you."

"Say this is my way, I invite you unto God, by an evident demonstration, both I and he who followeth me."

Such and similar verses, have naturally led to the scientific emancipation of the human intellect, with the result that as soon as Europe got a brand of it, it revived, taking the lead of the world and directing it to its general interests. That the Quran has been the cause of the Islamic Revolution is shown by the fact that when men of learning made a deep study of it, they adopted various modes of thinking:—

Reading authorities who directed their attention to the control of pronunciation.

Grammarians who took interest in the syntax of the Quran.

Diction authorities who were enraptured by the multitudinous presence of logical arguments in the Quran.

The authorities on Jurisprudence who, investigating the meanings thereof, discerned between the general and particular applications of the rulings therein.

Historians and narrators who studied the narratives of past centuries and nations gone by.

Preachers and orators who became alive to the aphorisms, proverbs and admonitions therein.

Others devoted themselves to the study of the ruling of inheritance and the calculations attached thereto.

Computers who dedicated themselves to the study of the conspicuous signs which speak of the marvellous wisdom of the creation and travel of the night, the day, the sun, the moon, and the stars.

Thus it transpires that the Quran, which was revealed in the wilderness to an illiterate man among illiterate nomads who owned only their tongues and their hearts and distinguished themselves, therefore, in sentimental effusions and in the art of talking which was limited to description and proverbial sayings, led the people of learning to the formulation of different arts and sciences, each of which branched out through the hand of time and accounted to the development of science during the Islamic civilisation which forms the pith of the modern generation.

Those who still pursue a deep study of the Quran do not fail to find some reference to the latest inventions or an explanation to some of the scientific points which have hitherto been obscure or abstruse; such as being attested by the Quranic verse: "Do not the unbelievers therefore know that the Heavens and the Earth were solid and we clave the same in sunder"—which strongly confirms the theory held by scientists that the earth clove through the influence of the solar system.

Again, the verse: "And He has thrown upon the earth mountains firmly rooted, lest it should move with you," concurs with the view expressed by scientists that had it not been for the mountains, the rotation of the earth would have been disturbed and irregular.

Further the verse: "O ye collective body of genii and men, if ye be able to pass out of the confines of Heaven and Earth, pass forth; ye shall not pass forth but by absolute power," refers to aviation, and to the fact that it will be within human power to fly.

In short, it was the intellect that has been capable of understanding the Quran, excavating its rich mines and unfolding its secrets in the course of time, since he to whom the Quran was revealed was the last of human prophets and since human perfection or decency requires nothing more than sound intellects which awaken or arouse one another. It was for this that God says: "Hereafter we will show them our signs in the regions of the Earth, and in themselves, until it become manifest unto them that this book is the truth. Is it not sufficient for thee that thy Lord is witness of all things?"

A careful examination of all human science would clearly show that collectively speaking they all come within the pale referred to by God in the above verse: "In the regions of the Earth and in themselves." The more deeply one meditates over the contents of the Quran, and the better the means of studying it, the purer the truths of nature manifest themselves and the clearer the signs hidden within its folds illuminate, "For God is well able to effect His purpose, but the greater part of men do not understand."

Its Influence on the Social Conditions.

When the Quran was revealed, the Arabs were still in their primitive state: proud and boastful. The Quran directly gave a lie to their thoughts and waged an implacable war against idolatry, sweeping away their false notions about the Divine Beings and their system of superstitious ceremonies. They resigned themselves to the teachings of the Quran which brought about them a complete change, and which made them look, and seem as if they had inherited the teachings of the Quran from their ancestors for a long time of the past ages.

This radical change took place in conformity with the Prophet's saying: "The age in which I live ranks the best, then the age that follows and so on."

The Quran introduced vital changes into the customs, traditions, and beliefs of those who embraced its teachings. Under the influence of the Quran, the Arabs caught up the lessons of wisdom from the east and the west,

fitting them to the teachings of the Quran and thus combining both the qualities of the soldiers and scholars.

It was only a short time ago that the Arabs' minds were saturated with idol-worship, silly habits and foolish beliefs, but when the Quran came with its magical power which they could not resist, it changed their character and did away with their pride and arrogance. They tried to oppose it with all possible force and not to pay any heed to its powerful teachings, but at last they succumbed to its eloquence; otherwise the Quran would have been in no better position than that of other Holy books to-day.

Had not the Quran been so full of eloquence as to become a miracle in the style in which it was introduced to them, it certainly would not have reached the pedestal that it has occupied, and its fate would have been the same as that of poetry and fiction.

Arabs, as a rule, used to boast of their forefathers, but the Quran came between them and their false pride, urging them to action and to build for themselves, and announcing to them plainly that Nature was under their control, so that they should not be subdued by Nature. It further explained to them that the greatest virtue of the Prophet lay in the fact that he was a man of work and deed, and was neither a poet, a braggart, nor a man of superstitions. He taught them perseverance on which the present civilisation and culture stand. The Quran says: "If they accuse thee of imposture, say I have my work and ye have your work; ye shall be clear of that which I do, and I shall be clear of that which ye do."

We do not find a single man among the historical personages, who had the courage to reform a nation in this manner, particularly a nation like the Arabs who adore bravery, frankness and similar virtues. No one except the Prophet, could invite such a nation to change itself totally, and submit themselves to truth to which they were not accustomed to give their hearts entirely and do away with their customs. They were certain that he desired no earthly power, or cherished worldly ambitions, yet they said: "Our hearts are veiled from the doctrine to which thou invitest us; and there is a deafness in our ears, and curtain between us and thee."

Nevertheless, he would not treat them with hypocrisy nor employ flattery or falsehood; nor would he pretend to adopt their belief in order just to inveigle them to go under his colours as most statesmen and politicians are known to do. The secret of his leadership and implicit obedience of Arabs lay in the fact that in spite of his being the weakest, he by his teachings of the Quran conquered their hearts and minds, for the teachings of the Quran were in harmony with Nature.

"This because God is truth, and because what they invoke besides him is vanity, and for that God is the High, the Mighty."

It was the Quran that gave an impetus to the Arabs, carrying their influence to the four corners of the world, so that the frontiers of the Islamic Empire spread to distant lands; whereas a short time before the Quran, the Arabs were but shepherds, worshippers of idols and full of superstitions. No philosophy has ever so wonderfully succeeded in moulding the nature of a nation as the teachings of the Quran had been able to mould the character of the early Muslims who were noted for their dignity, faith, honesty, sense of justice, submission to the truth and other great virtues.

Its Influence on Morals.

Ethics alone is not all that is required to ensure the moral advancement of humanity, since it fails to unfold all truth about human nature; its function being to deal generally with human weakness, to improve and correct same by the use of powerful arguments and conclusive reasoning. The result is not always satisfactory, for if it succeeds in convincing the mind, it often fails to satisfy the heart. It is only a cultural teaching.

The Quran, however, is something quite different: it enters with the soul, forces its way to human nature, and

fills with wonders the minds of those who comprehend its contents and the savants who are well versed in understanding the meaning and subtleties of the Arabic language. This coincides precisely with the saying of the Prophet: "He who reads the Quran embarks himself to prophethood, but does not receive a revelation."

The Quran has not put so much emphasis on anything more than it has on good conduct, and it has glorified it to such an extent that in praising the Prophet, it only described him thus: For thou art of a great and noble disposition.

The Quran contains much of a noble and deep moral earnestness and sententious oracular wisdom. It is, in the eye of Muslims, the standard of all laws and all practice. The Quran has based ethics on one virtue, and that is piety.

After reading the verses referring to piety and the pious it is quite imperative that a man should avoid matters injurious to himself or harmful to other members of human society, so that the principles of equality in a society should be deeply rooted, inasmuch as it may be guarded against any defect or deterioration, as stated in the following verse: "We have created you of a male and female; and have distributed you into nations and tribes that yet might know one another. Verily the most honourable of you in the sight of God is the most pious of you."

The verse clearly points out the fact that the social aim of humanity is to cultivate mutual acquaintance—a term which comprehends all social virtues, and which does not admit any vice to its pale. In this verse the Quran has established the foundation of morality, because it considers the pious man, who is a member of a society of equal state, to be the most honoured only on account of his piety, irrespective of his wealth, knowledge, power wisdom and so forth.

In truth piety is the perfect and the highest virtue, and for this reason justice is the nearest to piety, as is explained in the following verse: "Let not hatred towards any induce you to do wrong; but act justly; this will approach nearer unto piety." The Quran has embodied piety in three things: to bid people do good and forbid them do evil and to believe in God. These three virtues are the embodiment of all canons of ethics and social principles. The Quran says: "Ye are the best nation that hath been raised up unto mankind; Ye command that which is good, and ye forbid that which is evil, and ye believe in God." Good means anything which is taken as true by sound reason, and inviting to do good cannot be realised except when there is strong and independent will. Evil is that which is denounced by sound judgment, and to forbid people do evil requires freedom of reasoning and faith in God.

To believe in the existence of God and in God only, requires the complete freedom of one's self from the chain of evil customs and superstitions, by observing the wonders of the creation and pondering over them.

This is the faith which inspires a man and encourages him to command good and forbid evil, and does not let any of the human defects like cowardice, hypocrisy and love of worldly things, enter into his mind. Since these defects are the result of worshipping power, despotism, passion and similar vices.

Every one who has read the Quran carefully cannot but admit that it gives every man his social will based on freedom. The Quran says: "The truth is from your Lord; wherefore let him who will, believe, and let him who will, be incredulous." It was owing to this that when the early Muslims practised its teachings, making them their goal, this social will came into existence.

Had the Arabs been endowed with the treasures of science and philosophy instead of with the Quran, they would not have made such miraculous achievements, since the intellectual reasoning which is based on knowledge alone does not necessarily lead towards practical will. But the teachings of the Quran about morals derive to practical will, for the Quran lays great stress on action

and deeds. It says: That a burdened soul shall not bear the burden of another; and that nothing shall be imputed for righteousness, except his own labour.

He who meditates over the verses of the Quran will readily realise that all its teachings aim at spreading the social spirit among the Muslims. Such spirit was the paramount cause of the spreading of Islam, even amongst the bitter enemies of Islam such as the Tatars and Mongols, who tried to eradicate Islam from its very roots and who later ranked amongst its strongest supporters and ardent votaries.

THE "ASIAN CIRCLE."

The contributions to the October issue of the *Asiatic Review* by the "Asian Circle" are an anonymous one upon "The Sultanate of Muscat and Oman" and an article, by Mr. W. E. D. Allen, on "The Turkish Mirror." The first of these articles, which is very happily timed in view of the present visit to London of His Highness the Sultan of Muscat and Oman, contains obviously authoritative information upon a part of the world which, as is pointed out at the end of the article by Colonel M. J. Meade, formerly Political Resident in the Persian Gulf, provided at the end of last century a somewhat knotty international problem. The whole article is of considerable interest as providing an idea of the later development of Muscat and Oman and conditions obtaining there at present.

Mr. Allen's study of Turkey to-day is an admirably dispassionate yet vivid review. He neither dogmatizes nor generalises. The Turkish peasant, he says, has changed in this: that he now understands the motor-car and the gramophone—and he leaves it to his readers to speculate on whether the much-advertised changes in Turkey have gone deeper than that. He points out the force in the State which the well-to-do farmer now is: an element which, if a crisis emerged, would support a protagonist of "the older ways." Another excellent observation is that the Turkish Revolution (like the Russian) was "the result of exterior forces," of siege conditions in fact. Mustapha Kemal Pasha is the Revolution: it is his personal prestige which has made reforms and innovations possible without open civil war. His followers, or rather, his immediate entourage have no hold upon the popular imagination: the military leaders who with him won the independence of Turkey are living in obscurity or retirement. If the Ghazi were to disappear, he would leave behind him a party composed (with two or three exceptions) of "the aggressive and optimistic exponents of an adventurous experiment, men out of touch for the most part with the masses of the people." Such an article it is impossible to summarise: it should be read and studied by all observers of the Near East to-day.

The Bulgarian Minister in Washington has been authorised to sign the Kellogg Pact on behalf of his country.

The Persian Government has officially notified the State Department at Washington of its intention to sign the Kellogg Anti-War Pact.

M. Venizelos arrived in Belgrade on October 9, the King having sent his own train to the frontier to meet him and bring him to the Yugoslav capital.

Lieutenant-Colonel Robert T. K. Auld, who assumed command of the 1st Bn., Welsh Guards last week, will take the unit to Egypt on February 16 in the hired transport *Neuralia*.

The double anniversary of the accession to the throne of King Boris, and the proclamation of Bulgaria's independence, was celebrated in Sofia on October 3 by the chanting of a solemn *Te Deum* in the Cathedral.

A 19-mile section of narrow-gauge railway which has recently been opened between Belgrade and Obrenovatz gives direct communication without breaking bulk *via* Shabatz and Serayevo to Dubrovnik (Ragusa) and the South Dalmatian ports on the Adriatic.

An action is being brought by the Turkish Government against the Banque Perrier for the return of £200,000 paid into the bank as the last instalment on the purchase price of the Reshadiyeh, which was requisitioned for the Royal Navy and became H.M.S. *Erin* at the beginning of the War.

In honour of the coronation of Ras Tafari as Negus of Abyssinia, a commemorative overprint is to be applied to the as yet unused postage stamps of that country, which have been impending for the past 18 months, according to *The Times*. The superscription, in Amharic characters, reads: "Moa Ambeca Zemeguede Yeouda" (Conquering Lion of the Tribe of Judah), and the face values of the stamps are $\frac{1}{4}$, $\frac{1}{2}$, $\frac{3}{4}$, 1, 2 mehalects, 1, 2, and 3 thalers. Certain denominations present a portrait of Ras Tafari, while the others portray the Empress Zauditou. All former issues of Abyssinian stamps are demonetised as from October 1.

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THE PRESS IN THE NEAR EAST.

Greece and the Dodecanese.

As was to be expected, the declaration made by M. Venizelos after the signing of the Italo-Greek Treaty that there was no Dodecanese question between Greece and Italy has not been allowed to pass without comment in Greece. While the Monarchist Press tries to make what political capital it can out of the "betrayal" of the Dodecanesians, Republican newspapers are inclined to restrict themselves to endorsing M. Venizelos's contention that the question of the Dodecanese must not be allowed to be an obstacle in the way of good relations between Greece and Italy. They cannot, however, resist the opportunity of reminding their political opponents that, if the Dodecanese does not form part of Greece to-day, it is because the policy adopted by the Restoration of 1920 had the effect of annulling the Tittoni-Venizelos Convention which gave the Dodecanese to Greece. The semi-official *Messenger d'Athènes* amplifies the hint already given by M. Venizelos by reading the Italians a long lesson on the way in which the Dodecanese ought to be administered, and it concludes the homily by quoting with approval the explanation of M. Venizelos's remarks given by a Dodecanesian exile:—

"Venizelos seems to say to the Dodecanesians: 'No. Never imagine that it is possible that Greece and Italy should collaborate on one side and that on the other a section of Hellenism should be in a state of servitude under Italian occupation.' That could not be, for it would be something false, not sincere and, what is worse, stupid. No! In future you will be governed by Italians, but you will not be slaves. On the contrary, you will become the spoilt child of Italo-Greek collaboration and you will serve as the touchstone of the sincerity reigning between the two countries. The way in which the Italians treat you will constitute infallible evidence of the sincerity of their attitude towards Hellenism. Therefore, have no fear. You are not on the threshold of an era of oppression, humiliation, suffering and annihilation. On the contrary, there now opens out for you a period of security, protection, progress, prosperity. All you have to do is to take stock of the present situation, to forget the past, to look upon the Italians not as tyrants but as protectors, to change your antipathy for them into sympathy, esteem and respect, and finally, and above all, to have faith in Providence which alone rules over all."

Against these counsels of perfection has, unfortunately, to be set the official declaration of the Central Committee of Dodecanesians, domiciled in Alexandria.

"The Central Committee of the Dodecanesians, having taken cognisance of the declarations made at Rome by the President of the Council, M. Venizelos, is obliged to point out—expressing at the same time the opinion of the population, compulsorily dumb, of the Dodecanese—that, although these gratuitous declarations in no way diminish the strength and justice of our cause, our grief is great at seeing Greece, who regarded it as a duty of honour to formulate, in a letter addressed by the President of the Hellenic Delegation at Lausanne to the President of the Conference, reservations in regard to the definitive solution of the Dodecanese question, has to-day judged it to be in her interest to declare that there exists between Greece and Italy no Dodecanese question. However that may be, our Central Committee considers it to be its duty to emphasise the fact that the sacred campaign in favour of the liberation of the Islands will continue with greater intensity and until times more propitious and a more equitable verdict of the Powers crown our efforts."

The Italo-Greek Treaty.

The inference that the signature of the Italo-Greek Treaty on the eve of the reopening of negotiations between Greece and Yugoslavia was intended to induce an attitude of greater reasonableness on the part of the Belgrade Government is borne out by the tenour of the Greek Government Press. Note is taken of the restrained tenour of French comment on the subject of the Pact, but a warning is sounded in regard to the French contention that substantiation of the claim that the Italo-Greek Treaty is not directed against any third party will be provided by the conclusion of an agreement between Greece and Yugoslavia. It is pointed out, in effect, that it takes two to make an agreement, and Yugoslavia is informed that Greece has already fixed the furthest limit of the concessions that she can make. From these limits there can be no withdrawal on the part of the Greek Government,

and Yugoslavia is warned that, if the Greek offer is not accepted, the negotiations will be broken off.

Possibly, M. Venizelos will be more tactful and conciliatory than his Press.

It is unfortunate for the Greek Prime Minister that he had to make his declaration about the Dodecanese, for it can hardly fail to disappoint some of his supporters. The Monarchist Press, which, at first, was inclined to stress the value of an understanding with Italy, now sees an opportunity of making party capital out of the Treaty and waxes very sarcastic. Thus *Kathimerini*:—

"Signor Mussolini has received the Dodecanese, which until yesterday was still Hellenic. And M. Venizelos, what has he received? To our mind—we are not and will not be his friends—it is impossible that M. Venizelos should have received only the twenty-eight Articles that have been published. In vain we try to discover in them anything whatsoever that is worth even the smallest concession. In vain we try to find a word worth even the smallest fraction of the concessions officially made. Must we then admit, as between the two 'High Contracting Parties,' that the one has been intelligent and the other stupid, or that the one has wished to serve his country and the other to harm his? We should like to think that M. Venizelos does not act stupidly and does not lend himself to any act directed against the interests of Greece. But the Articles? The Dodecanese? Why this exchange? Why so much territory and so large a Greek population in exchange for so many smiles and so many words?"

"M. Venizelos has published the twenty-eight inoffensive Articles of our Pact with the Italians and has concealed those in exchange for which he gave the unfortunate Dodecanese. Surely it must be so. But if it is not? If it is not so, then he and we and Greece and the Greeks deserve—we should say the gallows, if the word did not belong to the condemned past."

Yugoslavia cannot be expected to wax enthusiastic over the Italo-Greek Pact, and it follows that a certain bitterness characterises the Press comments. The *Morgenblatt* of Zagreb writes as follows:—

"The effect of the new Greco-Italian friendship on Greece's attitude remains to be seen. Perhaps it will now strengthen her desire to meet us half-way. Mussolini is carrying out a long-sighted policy. It is not easy to bring Greece and Turkey under one hat. . . . Italy's intentions in the Balkans are tolerably clear to everyone concerned, and all these friendship and non-aggression pacts are merely the fashion of the day for old-style diplomacy. It is a case neither of heart-to-heart friendship nor of non-aggression, but of political alliances which serve no purpose."

The *Morgenblatt* considers that M. Venizelos is not going to prove any more amenable to the Yugoslav point of view than M. Michalakopoulos, and that the Salonika question has reached its dead-point and will remain there. It adds:—

"It is the irony of history that all these friendship and non-aggression pacts serve neither the general friendship of the nations nor the avoidance of attacks. They are rightly regarded as a cloak for something quite different, and reach their full effect in moments of unrest. . . . To pit regional policy against this regional policy is merely a half-beginning. Against this system of unrest, for which Italy's numerous single-friendships stand can be set in the main only the great international policy of universal peace embracing all peoples."

To commemorate the formal recognition of the new Arab State by H.M. Government, the full series of contemporary postage stamps of Trans-Jordan has, according to *The Times*, been overprinted in Cairo with the Arabic word *Dastour*, signifying "Constitution," in which form it was placed in circulation for a period of one month only, from September 1. No more than 5,600 complete sets have been thus treated, and the issue is already obsolete.

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THE WEEK AT HOME

London, Tuesday Morning.

The Labour Conference.

The Labour Conference at Birmingham last week followed fairly closely the line of political expediency at which I had hinted. The "extremists," as those Socialists are called who want peaceful reforms to be put through at the rate of a revolution, were relegated to the corner; no quarter whatever was given to the Communists; even the Soviet scheme for total disarmament was pooh-poohed; in short, the whole conference was a triumph for the "Moderates."

But even from these Moderates there proceeded an amount of stimulation, or at least of subject for reflexion, which seldom is manifested at the Conferences of the rival Parties. Mr. Ramsay MacDonald, for instance, said bluntly that the remedy for preventing British industries from being undermined by sweated products from abroad was, not safeguarding, but prohibition. This is a profoundly important declaration, which may be found to have considerable influence on the future of the Labour Party.

Mr. Philip Snowden, again, sketched in such a vivid way as we have not had before the coming of Socialism through public corporations. This he believes will be brought about by inducing the best business brains to run the corporation, although, of course, that corporation would be owned by the public. He could point, moreover, to the B.B.C., which, while not under the control of Whitehall, is owned by the State. Here, apparently, is a perfect example of nationalisation without the curse of bureaucracy which the opponents of Socialism always assert that nationalisation involves. This speech of Mr. Snowden upon Labour finance was a remarkable one, and deserves to be most carefully studied by all observers of contemporary English politics.

Unquestionably there was shown a degree of sincerity at this Labour Conference, and, in consequence, a degree of enthusiasm engendered, which may prove to be lacking in the camps of the older parties. But still I see no chance of a Labour victory at the election next year.

For if the Conservative and Liberal parties are divided within themselves—as they certainly are divided—the Labour Party seems to be even more so. Take, for instance, this declaration of Mr. MacDonald on the prohibition of imports. It is, as we know, dead against the convictions of Mr. Snowden, who is a fanatical (or, as those who are dead against all protective tariffs would say, a staunch) Free Trader. This declaration has delighted the Tories, who profess joy at this assertion of "economic frightfulness"; and it has dismayed the Liberals, who pretend that war with other countries would be the inevitable result of such prohibition. It is thought—but no one knows—that the mass of the Labour Party are with Mr. MacDonald rather than with Mr. Snowden over this question: which may account for the tolerance with which open-air meetings of Conservatives advocating Protection are now listened to. In any case, there is to be more excitement, more diversity of opinion than would have been thought to be possible a few months ago.

The Church Congress.

The bleatings at the Church Congress at Cheltenham which ended last week were unusually numerous: but we wonder how much wool has been gathered. Certainly no heretics were burned at the stake; the authorities, indeed, stood resolutely at the side of those who were called heretics, supporting them on the principles of the tolerance of the Anglican Church and the fallibility of human understanding. It must be admitted that seldom in the history of the Church of England can there have been permitted such a variety of opinion, such a statement of the individual's right to peculiar interpretation. If tolerance were the distinguishing mark of the highest form of organised Christianity, the Church of England would assuredly rank first.

Without question this generous attitude towards other members of the Anglican Church who think differently makes it easier for the Church to gain recruits from among the intellectuals—in fact, the difficulty of persuading the educated son and daughter of the char-woman to accept the old presentation of Christian doctrine was expressly mentioned at this Congress; without question also, there is, as Dr. Major himself said, an obvious "danger" from the intellectuals' standpoint, in "contingentalising" the Anglican Church instead of keeping it purely English. But what is the price of this lack of discipline? Is it—one is only asking the question—is it the emptying of the "Latitudinarian" churches in England? The individual observer himself, who studies the congregations of, say, the Roman Catholic Churches, the High Churches, and then the Broad Churches, must make answer. For myself, I do not disguise the belief that in this very generosity, this "width of view," as the broad (and occasionally empty) minded like to call it, there lies the menace of Christianity's degenerating into an emasculated Unitarianism. Such a prospect, I know, is by no means deplored in all quarters; but those quarters should, in my very humble opinion, be in connexion with the Anglican Church absolutely extra-mural.

The Decay of England.

That, however, is mere personal judgment. But the decay of England is proceeding is a much more visible way. I refer, of course, to the erosion and the flooding of various parts of the coast. This erosion is going on all the time, although it is to some extent counteracted by reclamations.

Last week there were recorded serious losses of land in Norfolk, in the neighbourhoods of Hunstanton and of Trimmingham. Protection against the North Sea is an impossibility, unless the country as a whole takes the matter in hand. Localities do what they can. A big effort is made to build a sea-wall, and it suffices for a time; but back again comes that "old debbil, Sea," and homes are once more in danger. A roar of falling boulder-clay, and sections of graveyards, mangold wurzel fields, and so on, become parts of the ocean-bed. The old fisherman now catches fish where fifty years ago he was wont to play on dry land with other boys.

In Essex, too, thousands of acres of agricultural land are to be left to the whims of the sea. Last January a tidal wave swept up by Clacton, Maldon, Lower Crouch, and so on, breaking sea-walls and sluice gates. Owners of the invaded lands cannot afford to rebuild defences; the Ministry of Agriculture can give no help; in fact, 8,000 acres are potentially under the sea.

Stimulating Art.

For many reasons, I imagine, there will be many visitors to the exhibition of water-colours and oils which Mr. C. R. W. Nevinson has just opened at the Leicester Galleries, Leicester Square, although the one that—purely artistic reasons apart—may most appeal to readers of this journal is the fact that he is the son of H. W. Nevinson, a finely combatant journalist, who has been at some time or another in most parts of the Near East.

In this present show there is any amount of vigour, skill, and versatility. Mr. Nevinson does not specialise, but personally I think his river scenes—whether on the Thames, the Seine, or less important thoroughfares—are as satisfying as anything. There is a distinct edge to his interpretative ability, and possibly for that reason his better medium appears to be oils. Direct irony is not lacking, but for the most part his outlook on life is fresh without being romantic, and penetrating without being *blasé*. Altogether it is a highly engaging exhibition.

In another room at the same Galleries, by the way, is a small collection of sculptures by a young Russian, Mlle. Dora Gordine, which is quite remarkably expressive. Some of the Oriental heads depicted show a faithful ability which makes the introduction of her to London by Mr. G. Eumorfopoulos the obvious course to have been taken.

ALTER EGO.

PERSONAL AND GENERAL

TO-DAY

October 11, 1928 (New Style).

September 28, 1928 (Old Style).

Rabia II, 1347 A.H. of the Muslim Calendar.

Tishri, 27, 5689, of the Jewish Calendar.

Lord and Lady Meston have returned to 38, Parkside, S.W., from abroad.

Sir Ronald and Lady Storrs left London on October 6 for Salonika, where they embarked in H.M.S. Bryony for Cyprus.

General Sir Philip and Lady Chetwode leave London to-day (Thursday) for India to take up his duties as Chief of the Staff.

His Highness the Sultan of Muscat and Oman returned to London this week after touring through England, Scotland, and Ireland.

Field-Marshal Lord Plumer and Lady Plumer have returned to their permanent residence, 22, Ennismore Gardens, S.W.

Sir Manubhai Mehta, Prime Minister of Bikanir, and Lady Mehta, who arrived last week in London, are staying at the Carlton Hotel.

The Amir Zaid, the youngest brother of King Faisal of Iraq, left London on October 3 to rejoin his father, ex-King Husain of the Hijaz, in Cyprus.

Mr. Abdullah ibn Yusuf Ali will read a paper, entitled "Education in India: The New Outlook," to the Royal Asiatic Society on October 23. The meeting, which will take place at 74, Grosvenor Street, will begin at 4.30 p.m.

Sir John Campbell, who retired from the Indian Civil Service in 1922, has been appointed Financial Adviser to the Government of Iraq, in succession to Mr. R. V. Vernon.

The Nawab and the Begum of Bhopal, who arrived in England on October 6 from Bombay, have leased Coombe Springs, Coombe Lane, Kingston Hill, during their stay in England.

General the Right Hon. Sir John Maxwell and Lady Maxwell have returned from Paris to 4, Queen's Gate Place. For the present this will be their permanent address.

In celebration of the accession of King Fuad, the Egyptian Chargé d'Affaires, Sesostri Sidarouss Bey, received members and friends of the Egyptian colony yesterday (Wednesday) afternoon at the Egyptian Legation, 75, South Audley Street, Mayfair.

At a dinner given at the Legation by the Greek Minister on October 1, in honour of M. Venizelos, the following guests were present:—Princess Antoine Bibesco, Sir Arthur and Lady Crosfield, Sir Lucas and Lady Ralli, M. Lambros, Mlle. Rodocanachi, Mme. Rose, and M. and Mme. Romanos, M. Collas, Mme. Benachi, and Mr. Wickham Steed.

Papers will be read to the East India Association on October 15, November 12, and December 10, upon "Aboriginal Uplift in Chota Nagpur," "Indian Education," and "Village Uplift in India, by Rev. Father T. Van der Schveren, J. A. Richey, and F. L. Brayne, respectively. These three meetings, which will be presided over successively by the Earl of Lytton, the Earl of Winterton, and the Marquess of Linlithgow, will all begin at 4.30 p.m., and will be held at the Caxton Hall, Westminster, S.W.1.

Mr. E. M. Drower, Judicial Adviser to the Government of Iraq, and Mrs. Drower left London this week on their return to Baghdad via Beyrout.

The Maharaja of Nawanagar has returned to London from Ballinahinch Castle, County Galway, where he has been entertaining parties for the past six weeks.

Admiral the Hon. Sir Stanley Colville embarked on October 6 at Marseilles on the P. and O. liner Rajputana for Port Said. Passengers proceeding to India included the Nawab Sahib of Palanpur, the Raja and Rani of Nanpara, Sir Dhunjibhoy and Lady Bomanji, Sir Dinshaw and Lady Petit, and Sir Jehangir Kothari.

H.E. Monsieur Caclamanos, Greek Minister in London, gave a luncheon at the Greek Legation on October 2, in honour of M. Venizelos. Among those present were the French Ambassador, the Italian Ambassador, the Hon. Sir Ronald Lindsay, Field-Marshal Sir George Milne, Mr. T. P. O'Connor, M.P., Admiral Sir Richard Webb, Mr. Vansittart, Mr. Oliphant, Sir Otto Niemeyer, Sir Henry Strakosch, Mr. Howard-Smith, Mr. Bland, Mr. Harvey, M. Collas, M. Romanos and M. Lambros.

Sesostri Sidarouss Bey, C.V.O., Counsellor of Legation and Egyptian Chargé d'Affaires, has been appointed Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of H.M. the King of Egypt to Greece. In the absence of a Minister, Sidarouss Bey has long been responsible for Egyptian interests in Great Britain, and his popularity both in the Diplomatic Corps and among a very large circle of friends his departure from London will cause him to be widely missed. He will not be leaving for Athens until the vacant post of Egyptian Minister to London has been filled.

The Colonial Office announces that the King has approved the appointment of Brigadier-General Sir Gilbert Falkingham Clayton, K.C.M.G., K.B.E., C.B., to be High Commissioner for Iraq in succession to Sir Henry Dobbs, K.C.S.I., K.C.M.G., K.C.I.E., who will vacate that office early in the new year. The son of Lieut.-Col. W. L. Clayton, of Sandown, Brigadier-General Sir Gilbert Clayton, who is 53, entered the Army in 1895 from the Royal Military Academy. He was with the Nile Expedition in 1898; was Director of Intelligence in Egypt, 1914-17; Chief Political Officer, Egyptian Expeditionary Force, 1917-19; Adviser to Ministry of Interior, Egypt, 1920-2; Chief Secretary to Government of Palestine, 1923-5; Special Commissioned to Najd and the Yaman, 1925-6; and to King Ibn Saoud, 1927.

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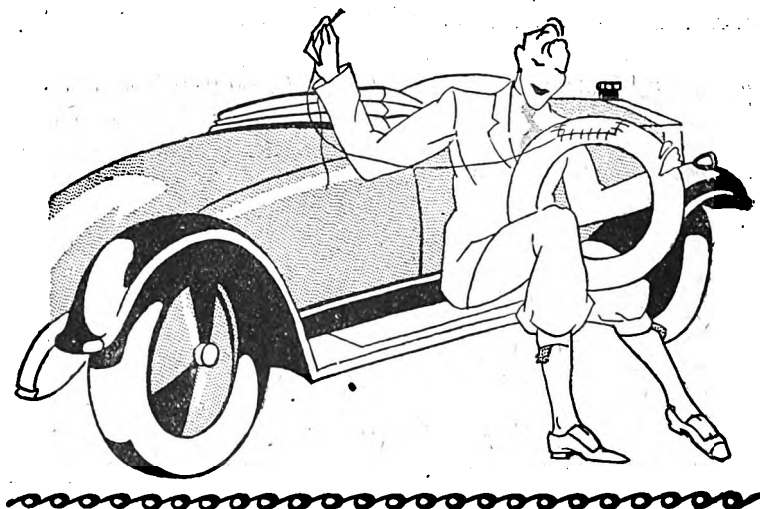
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NOTES AND NEWS

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Land Reclamation in Greece.

While the objects of the visits to Paris and London of M. Venizelos were primarily political, I was able to indicate last week that he would possibly take advantage of his presence in London to have conversations with financiers, and it so happens that the first visible results of the tour are economic in character. For something like a year negotiations had been in progress between the Greek authorities and Messrs. Henry Boot and Sons, the public works contractors, of London and Sheffield, in regard to a large scheme of land reclamation, and during his visit M. Venizelos saw Mr. Charles Boot and intimated that the Greek Government had decided to entrust the work to the English firm. The lands which it is desired to have reclaimed are situated in Thessaly, in Epirus, and in other parts of Greece, and it is proposed to settle on them refugees from Asia Minor who are at present a drag on the country, but who, it is hoped, will become, as has been the case with the other refugees who have been settled on the land, an important factor in the economic life of Greece. The preliminary survey of the area, a task which, it is estimated, will last two years, is to be begun immediately, and is to be carried out on behalf of Messrs. Henry Boot and Sons by Sir Murdoch MacDonald, M.P., of MacDonald and Partners, Consulting Engineers, of London. It is understood that the works involved will ultimately cost at least £10,000,000, which will be spread over a number of years.

A Big Undertaking.

It is impossible to give a definite statement as to the area of the reclamation scheme as the undertaking embraces a number of schemes. The lands now to be surveyed comprise some of the most promising tracts in the country, but their utility is spoilt by the fact that they are always liable to flooding. Various watercourses intersect these lands, and by bringing down silt from the hill country build up their own beds, so that they are sometimes higher than the surrounding country. Then when the rains come the inevitable happens and the regions are flooded. It is proposed to deal with these channels, and also to regulate the flow of water. The scheme provides for the storing of water where possible, so that the reclaimed land may have adequate irrigation through means similar to those which have been employed with such success in other countries, such as Egypt and the Sudan. It is anticipated that the result of the reclamation scheme will be that Greece instead of, as now, having to import wheat will have a surplus of this grain for export. Wheat, however, will be only one of a number of crops that will be grown, others being tobacco and probably cotton, if the land is considered suitable for that crop.

Aden Harbour Improvement.

Messrs. K. L. Kalis, Sons and Co., of London, have just received an important contract for the improvement of the entrance channel at Aden and the extension of the inner harbour. The improvement scheme, which is expected to take from three to three and a half years, is needed because of the existing congestion at the port, as there is not sufficient deep water for ships and the entrance channel has been shoaling up in the last fourteen years. The successful tenderers, it may be mentioned, have a large dredging contract at present in the Thames in connexion with the Tilbury Docks extension scheme.

The Bulgarian Stabilisation Loan.

The next Near Eastern issue to make its appearance will be the Bulgarian stabilisation loan which is being floated under the auspices of the League of Nations. It is understood that the loan, which will be for an amount of £5,000,000, will be issued before the end of October. This loan is required for a variety of purposes. In the first place £1,500,000 is to be used to repay to the National Bank a considerable part of advances it has made, thus strengthening its position. Then amounts of £500,000 and £150,000 respectively are earmarked for the Agricultural Bank and the Central Co-operative Bank with a view to restoring these institutions to a sufficient state of liquidity. Further, a sum of £1,100,000 is allocated for Budget arrears, while £1,250,000 is to be used for the development of communications, the balance of £500,000 being for expenditure entailed in connexion with the disastrous earthquake. The loan, it may be added, is secured by a first charge on the Customs Duties, the yield of which is at present considerably over £1,500,000, this arrangement having been reached by an agreement with the Reparation authorities. It is provided that if the yield of these duties should fall below 150 per cent. of the annual service of the loan other revenue will be assigned to the service to bring the total yield to that percentage.

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Manchester and the Sudan.

The example Lancashire is setting to the rest of England in keeping in close touch with those regions with which she is most intimately concerned has been a most praiseworthy and significant development in the last few years. Cotton is all in all to the northern county, and in welcoming the first Egyptian Minister to London and then King Fuad, and last week the Governor-General of the Sudan and a number of eminent officials of that region, Manchester, through the medium of the British Cotton Growing Association, has shown in the most practical manner the deep interest taken in the cotton county in cotton growing developments overseas. What the cotton growing countries such as Egypt and the Sudan want, is to know the special requirements of the consuming regions, and this personal contact which these meetings in Manchester is establishing is calculated to be of the best possible value to both producers and consumers.

Sudan Cotton Growing.

In welcoming Sir John Maffey, Manchester was paying tribute to the representative of one of the youngest of the cotton growing countries and one which has every claim to be regarded as potentially one of the more important. It is not many years since the Sudan Plantations Syndicate embarked on their enterprise, and the development within a brief space has been little short of marvellous. Already the Sudan is a factor in the world's markets for Sakellaridis, which is only another way of saying that it counts in Lancashire. Last season, as Sir John Maffey pointed out in his speech on this occasion, a summary of which will be found on another page, the production of the Sudan suffered a slight set back, this being due to the fact that the yield per feddan was only $3\frac{1}{4}$ kantars as compared with $4\frac{3}{4}$ kantars. The latter figure was, however, exceptional, just as the former is lower than might reasonably be expected, and with the steady increase in the region under cotton (the area will amount in 1930 to 170,000 feddans as compared with 105,000 last season and 131,000 this season) the Sudan promises to loom larger and larger among the world's cotton producers as time passes. But this is only as regards Sakellaridis, and Manchester is looking to the Sudan also for American cotton and that in large quantities. Here, too, the future is full of hope, for the rapid development of the communications of the Southern Sudan and the provision of other necessary facilities is bringing about a situation in which the cultivation of American cotton on a considerable scale will be a possibility. Without the assistance of the motor such an outcome could not be visualised, and Manchester in the coming years may have every reason to bless the motor age.

An Important Oil Deal.

It had been obvious for some time that developments of importance were on foot in the oil market, but all the same last week's announcement by the Burmah Oil Company that it had arranged to acquire a large block of Ordinary shares of the Shell Transport and Trading Company with a view to promoting closer co-operation between the British and the Royal Dutch Shell group, came in the nature of a surprise. The number of shares acquired is 833,333, the price paid being 5 1-16, but as these shares carry the right of taking up one new share at par for every five, that means that the Burmah Oil Company's holding in the Shell Company will ultimately amount to a million shares. The shares now acquired are to be paid for by an issue of £4,000,000 $5\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. Debenture stock which will be offered to the Company's

Preference and Ordinary shareholders at par. The new stock, which is repayable at par on November 1, 1953, but all or part of which may be redeemed by the Company on or after January 1, 1934, carries a conversion option of considerable importance. The Burmah Oil Company, as is well known, has an extensive holding of Anglo-Persian Oil Company Ordinary shares; actually its holding totals 3,561,990 shares. Of these 700,000 are to be made into a voting trust which will bear the title of the B.O.C. Anglo-Persian Share Trust Limited. Holders of the Debenture stock will have the right up to November 1, 1933, to exchange their stock for shares in this trust on the basis of £6 of Debenture stock for one share. Shareholders in the Burmah Oil Company who take advantage of the Debenture stock offer will therefore be in a position to acquire Anglo-Persian shares minus their voting rights at £6 per share. The option is one which in view of probable further developments, is likely to prove most valuable.

Greece's Internal Loan Policy.

It is not always the case that distance lends enchantment to the view, and it seems that M. Venizelos's visit to Europe has induced new reflections as to the advisability of the proposed action with regard to the reduction of the interest on the internal loan. At any rate, in an interview he gave he stated that the Greek Government has not yet absolutely committed itself to this course. No doubt the possible consequences to Greece's credit were brought to his notice and he was made to realise that while it is only an internal loan that is in question there must, if this policy be carried out, be doubt in the future on the part of overseas lenders whether there may not at some time or other be a development of this easy method of reducing State obligations. The result of the existence of an idea of this kind would be that Greece would find it a matter of some difficulty henceforward to obtain accommodation on the foreign money market.

Athens' Loan for Sanitary Works.

The recent epidemic of dengue fever in Greece has had the natural result of drawing attention to the question of sanitation, and I understand that the Municipal Council of Athens is to float a loan of forty million drachmæ to finance the execution of certain projects for the improvement of sanitary conditions in that city. Certain water-courses there are at present little better than open drains, and it is proposed that these should be built in with concrete. The cost of this work is estimated at thirty-seven million drachmæ, and the balance of the loan will be devoted to the establishment of a permanent sanitary service. It is stated that the amount of the loan will be advanced to the Municipality by the State for one year, free of interest, provided that the works are approved by the competent Government authorities.

Lake Copais Company.

A great improvement in results was recorded by the Lake Copais Company for the past year, the net profits being £32,367 as compared with £13,216 for 1926. The conditions were not favourable during the year, the area under cultivation being restricted on account of drought and other circumstances, and the satisfactory results are due to the quality of the crops. It may be noted that the net profits would have been considerably greater but for the expenditure of £7,319 on repairs to the roof of the Karditza Tunnel consequent upon the fall which took place in June, 1927. The balance of profit carried to the credit of the "A" and "B" Debenture stockholders' interest account is £23,359. A year ago only the "A" stockholders received interest, but this time the payment is also proposed of $4\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. on the "B" debenture stock, the interest in both cases being payable in "A" Debenture stock.

COMMENTATOR.

RECORD TRAFFIC OF MADRAS.

The appointment for the first time of a former railway official specially versed in traffic problems as Chairman of the Madras Port Trust in succession to Sir Bradford Leslie invests with more than usual interest the latest administration report of that body. In regard to total tonnage handled of both exports and imports the twelve months ended March last again constituted a record. Of the aggregate of 1,444,000 tons, which represented an increase over the year of 27.4 per cent., importations accounted for 1,047,000 tons and exports for 397,000 tons, the improvement in the latter case being one of no less than 37 per cent. The outstanding feature was the large quantity of groundnuts which passed over the Port Commissioner's premises, the advance of over 63 per cent. being attributed to the improved demand from Europe, a large crop and better transport facilities on the Continent.

Of incoming traffic the main increases reported were in railway plant, coal, kerosene oil and rice, while tanning materials were also brought in from South Africa in considerably greater quantities than usual. The trade improvement was naturally reflected in the Trust's own financial position. Although the actual result of the year's working was a deficit of just over Rs.4½ lakhs, against the previous period's surplus of Rs.4,32,700, the deficiency was merely on paper, due to the transfer of Rs.16½ lakhs as a contribution to capital account. The rise in ordinary expenditure was inconsiderable and receipts at Rs.45 lakhs constituted another record, exceeding the highest previous total—in 1926-27—by 20.5 per cent.

TENDERS INVITED.

Tenders are invited for the following contracts, and must be made by the dates mentioned.

(Particulars of tenders marked D.O.T. are to be obtained from the Department of Overseas Trade, 55, Old Queen Street, S.W.1). EGYPT.

Microscopes and Accessories.—The Department of Public Health, Egypt, invites tenders for the supply and delivery of microscopes and accessories. November 15. (D.O.T.)

Electric Lighting Installation.—The Minister of the Interior invites tenders for the supply and erection of a complete electric lighting installation for Sohag. November 24. (D.O.T.)

Internal Combustion Marine Units.—The Director-General, Mechanical Department, P.W.M., Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of one 30-B.H.P. internal combustion marine unit required for the Government Workshops, Bulaq, Cairo, November 1; one 45-B.H.P. internal combustion marine unit required for the Government Workshops, Bulaq, Cairo, November 1; and the supply and erection of one 100-B.H.P. internal combustion unit required for stone crushing plant at Ghamra, Cairo. November 10.

Lighthouse Tower, Etc.—The Director-General, Ports and Lights Administration, Arsenal, Alexandria, invites tenders for the construction of a lighthouse tower and annexes on Daedalus Reef in the Red Sea. November 12.

Portland Cement, Etc.—The General Management, Egyptian State Railways, Telegraphs and Telephones (Cairo Station), invites tenders for the supply of 6,000 metrical tons artificial Portland cement,

October 30; and for the supply of materials and works connected with the replacement of the superstructures of 4 fixed bridges of the Sherbin-Kallin line and the adaptation of the abutments to the new superstructures. This project includes, among others, the supply and laying of the following materials: Reinforced concrete, about 3 c.m. and rolled, cast, etc., steel, about 38 tons. November 10.

Bridges.—The Egyptian Government invites tenders for the construction of two bridges. October 20 and 22. (D.O.T.)

Steel Boiler Stay Taps.—The Egyptian State Railways, Telegraphs and Telephones, invites tenders for 128 best high speed steel boiler stay taps and 112 reamers, 47 sets best cast steel boiler patch taps and 3 sets best high speed steel taps and 5 best cast steel taps for bushes.

Lock Gates, Etc.—The Resident Engineer, Delta Barrage Directorate, at Delta Barrage, invites tenders for (1) construction of eight lock gates for Damietta and Rosetta locks, both at Delta Barrage, and their delivery at site and erection in position; (2) construction of twenty regulator gates and their delivery at sites. November 1.

Marble Gauges.—The Inspector of Irrigation, Assiut Barrage Circle, Assiut, invites tenders for the supply of marble gauges. November 10.

INDIA.

Radial Gates.—The Indian Stores Department invites tenders for the supply of radial gates for the head and cross regulators for main canals and branches. November 6. (D.O.T.)

PERSIA.

Canning Factory.—A proposal is on foot to erect a canning factory at Hamadan. The individuals concerned desire to receive quotations for a canning machine and a machine for making tins. (D.O.T.)

TURKEY.

Enamelled Number Plate Blanks.—A Constantinople firm are desirous of receiving quotations for the supply of white and red plain enamelled iron plates to be used for automobile numbers, house plates, etc. (D.O.T.)

Points and Crossings, Etc.—The Direction Generale des Fabriques Militaires at Angora invites tenders for the supply of points, crossings, rails and fishplates. October 25. (D.O.T.)

Tape.—The Direction des Achats du Bureau des Postes and Telegraphs at Constantinople invites tenders for the supply of 10,000 rolls of tape. October 17. (D.O.T.)

FORTHCOMING SAILINGS.

The following are the sailings for the Near East and India, the ports of departure and closing dates for cargo being given in parentheses:—

Anchor Line.—S.s. California for Bombay (Birkenhead, October 23). (For passenger sailings and dates see advertisement.)

Anchor Brocklebank Line.—S.s. Mathura for Calcutta (Birkenhead, October 18); s.s. Maihar for Calcutta (Birkenhead, October 30).

Bibby Line.—S.s. Yorkshire for Port Said, Port Sudan, Colombo, and Rangoon (Birkenhead, October 17).

British India Line.—S.s. Mantola for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, October 20); s.s. Domala for Bombay and Karachi (London, October 20).

Cunard Line.—S.s. Brescia for Casablanca, Gibraltar, Genoa, Leghorn, Naples, Palermo, Messina, Catania, Corfu, Bari, Venice, Trieste, and Fiume, also at Gruz if inducement (Liverpool October 20, and Swansea October 23); s.s. Bosnia for Patras, Piræus, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, and Constantza (Liverpool, Glasgow, and Swansea, November 10).

Johnston Line.—S.s. Quernmore for Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, October 13); s.s. Dromore for Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, November 3). (This steamer will be the last sailing of the season to the Danube ports.)

P. and O. Line.—S.s. Ranchi for Bombay (London, October 12); s.s. Burdwan for Calcutta (London, October 13); s.s. Ranpura for Bombay (London, October 26); s.s. Nankin for Calcutta (London, October 27).

Prince Line.—S.s. Indian Prince for Tunis, Malta, Alexandria, Jaffa, Haifa, Beyrout, Tripoli, Alexandretta, Mersina, and Cyprus (London, October 13); s.s. Lancastrian Prince for Tunis, Malta, Alexandria, Jaffa, Haifa, Beyrout, Tripoli, Alexandretta, Mersina, and Cyprus (London, November 3).

Ellerman and Papayanni Lines.—S.s. Mardinian for Patras, Piræus, Volo*, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, and Constantza (Liverpool, October 17); s.s. Andalusian for Malta, Alexandria, Jaffa*, and Haifa* (Liverpool, October 20); s.s. Roumelian for Philippeville, Algiers, Piræus, Volo*, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, and Constantza (Liverpool October 27, Swansea October 27); s.s. Destro for Gibraltar, Malta, Alexandria, Jaffa*, and Haifa* (Liverpool, October 27); s.s. Manchurian for Genoa, Leghorn, Naples, Palermo, Messina, Catania, Bari, Gruz*, Ancona*, Venice, Trieste, and Fiume. *Subject to sufficient inducement. Cargo taken on through Bill of Lading to:—Algerian ports via Algiers; Moroccan ports via Gibraltar; Tripoli (Barbary) via Malta; Syria and Cyprus via Alexandria; Greek outports via Piræus or other convenient port.

ANCHOR LINE

LIVERPOOL TO BOMBAY.

KARACHI via Bombay, calling at Gibraltar and Egypt.

LARGE STEAMSHIPS. UPPER DECK CABINS.

MODERATE FARES.

RECOGNISED BY INDIAN GOVERNMENT.

Indian Government Vouchers accepted.

Passenger sailing dates:—

CALIFORNIA ... Oct. 24	*†CASTALIA ... Nov. 27
*†ELYSIA ... Nov. 9	*†CIRCASSIA ... Dec. 11

*First class passengers only. †Specially low fares. ‡Calls Port Sudan.

SPECIAL NOTICE.

NEW T.S.S. CALIFORNIA, 17,000 TONS, carrying 1st, 2nd and 3rd class passengers, sails from LIVERPOOL, October 24; MARSEILLES, October 30. All 1st and 2nd class state rooms are fitted with Punka Louvers and with Fans.

This vessel has exceptionally fine 3rd class accommodation.

ANCHOR LINE,

48, FENCHURCH STREET, LONDON, E.C.3.

THE WEEK'S FINANCE.

(By Our Financial Expert.)

London, October 9.

The week has witnessed considerable activity in the Stock Markets, the miscellaneous industrial share market again being the chief centre of interest. Prices tended to be somewhat irregular, but on balance there have been few heavy falls. During the past week or two the gilt-edged market has been distinctly firm, despite an unfavourable monetary position. It is not surprising, therefore, that there have been rumours of an impending Government loan to provide for the £100,000,000 National War Bonds and £73,000,000 of Treasury Bonds which fall due for redemption on February 1 next; £31,000,000 of Treasury Bonds mature on April 1 next. It has been rumoured that there will be an offer of £200,000,000 3 per cent. Treasury Bonds at 92 or 93 per cent., redeemable at par in 1933. The terms would represent a departure in Treasury policy, and it has been suggested that the bonus of £8 per cent. obtainable on redemption, not being subject to income-tax, is designed to give the bonds an attraction for the ordinary investor rather than the professional investor. There have been further substantial exports of gold from the Bank of England, but the Bank is in an exceptionally strong position to meet demands. Home rails have continued to improve. We make reference to gramophone shares and to important developments in the oil industry in subsequent paragraphs. Tin shares have been rather less favoured owing to an increase in stocks.

The Oil Industry : Important Developments.

A week or two ago we referred to rumours that an agreement aiming at closer co-operation between the leading oil groups had been effected. An announcement of great importance to the oil industry, made this week, largely confirms these rumours. As a step towards this co-operation, the Burmah Oil Company has arranged to acquire a large block of ordinary shares of the Shell Transport and Trading Company, and to provide the greater part of the purchase money by an issue of £4,000,000 of debenture stock. The number of Shell shares purchased is 833,333 (with the right to take up other shares) and the price paid is 5 1-16 each. The new

£4,000,000 debenture stock of the Burmah Company will bear interest at 5½ per cent., and be offered to the company's preference and ordinary shareholders at par. The new stock is repayable at par on November 1, 1953, but the company reserves the right to redeem all or part at 102 per cent. on or after January 1, 1934. The new debenture stock carries an important option. Of the Burmah's holding of 3,561,990 ordinary shares of £1 each of the Anglo-Persian Oil Company, 700,000 are to be put into a voting trust, entitled the B.O.C. Anglo-Persian Share Trust, Ltd. Holders of the debenture stock will have the right at any time up to and including November 1, 1933, to exchange their stock for shares of the new trust on the basis of one share for each £6 of debenture stock. That is to say, they will have a five years' option upon what are really Anglo-Persian ordinary shares minus their voting rights at £6 per share, as compared with their present price of about £4 12s. Apparently the directors regard this as a valuable option. This preliminary step towards agreement will no doubt be widely approved and further developments will be awaited with interest.

Booming Gramophone Shares.

During the past week or two, and especially during the last few days, the activity in gramophone shares has once more been one of the outstanding features of the Stock Exchange. As on previous occasions, there has been considerable interest in the shares of the old companies; but a remarkable development during the past few weeks has been the growth of conspicuous speculation in the shares of the new companies. There are now signs, however, that a halt has been called in the latter group—for the present at least. This is not surprising and not unwelcome. In the past month a number of shares have practically doubled in value. The shares of the Metropole Company, for instance, have risen by no less than 300 per cent. in a month, the present price being 22s. To a large extent these advances are doubtless the reflection of a desire for a gamble facilitated by the shilling share, the majority of the new companies having issued their junior securities in this denomination. There can be little doubt that current share prices bear small relation to investment values. The chairmen of the new companies are, naturally enough, speaking with the utmost confidence regarding the future. But a day of reckoning is unescapable. Sooner or later—perhaps in the not very distant future—stocks will begin to accumulate and there will follow talk of price reductions and other alarming symptoms of over-production. There are few booms which are not wrecked by the impression that they will continue indefinitely, thus encouraging the participation of all and sundry.

The Shipping Outlook.

Sir Frederick Lewis is a recognised authority on shipping, and his views, expressed at the meeting of Manchester Liners held this week, therefore merit attention. Sir Frederick has not been a reckless optimist and his latest pronouncement shows that he has not changed his viewpoint. "I regret," he said, "that I cannot speak as optimistically as I would like to do, as shipping in general is still suffering from a plethora of tonnage." The shipping industry has a long road to travel before it reaches a state of general prosperity. This is evident from the fact that the average level of "whole-cargo charter" freights to-day, as measured by the index of the *Economist*, is 7 per cent. lower than a year ago and remains below the average for 1913, although operating expenses are, of course, appreciably higher. But so far as certain companies are concerned there are mitigating circumstances. This particularly applies to two companies—namely, the Cunard Company and the Furness Withy Company. The profits of the Cunard Company have tended to remain at a remunerative level. Last year the company showed a considerable expansion in profits, and during the present year the company is again enjoying

INDIAN AFRICAN SERVICE

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TO BEIRA, DELAGOA BAY, DURBAN, EAST LONDON
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Excellent Passenger Accommodation.

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Information for Freight and Passage may be obtained
from the following:—

RANGOON—J. & F. Graham & Co.
CALCUTTA—Andrew Weir & Co.
COLOMBO—Skrine & Co.
BEIRA—Beira Shipping Agency.
DELAGOA BAY—John T.
Rennie & Sons.
DURBAN—Andrew Weir & Co.
EAST LONDON—Messrs. Dunn
& Co.
PT. ELIZABETH—Mackie, Dunn
& Co.

MOSSEL BAY—Messrs. E.
Searle & Co.
CAPE TOWN—Thomson,
Watson & Co.
HONG KONG—The Bank Line,
Ltd.
BANGKOK—Siam Forest Co.,
Ltd.
SINGAPORE—Hattenbach Bros
& Co.
MAURITIUS—Adam & Co.

LONDON—ANDREW WEIR & CO., 21, Bury Street, E.C.8

the benefit of cheap fuel. There will be a saving, it has been estimated, of some £700,000 as compared with a year ago, and it would not be surprising if part of this saving were passed on to shareholders at the end of the current financial year. At present the shares return approximately £4 6s. per cent. The Furness Withy Company is primarily a shipping undertaking, but has its interests highly diversified. It is expected that sooner or later the profits from subsidiary sources will, owing to the strength of the balance-sheet, be reflected in the dividend declaration. The current yield on the shares is approximately £5 per cent.

The gross production of crude oil of the Phoenix Oil and Transport group of companies for September was 28,896 tons.

The production of Hamilton's Oil Concessions (Roumania) for September was 4,090 tons (28,630 barrels).

The India Store Department have given a contract for bridge-work for Adamwahan Bridge to P. and W. MacLellan, Glasgow.

The Brightside Foundry and Engineering Co., Sheffield, have received a contract from the Tata Iron Company, Bengal, for a rolling mill.

The Stock Exchange Committee have ordered the undermentioned security to be quoted in the Official List:—Roumanian Government.—£387,862 Four-and-a-Half per Cent. Loan, 1913 (London Issue). Bonds payable in accordance with the Second Schedule of the Agreement of July 4, 1928, Part 1.

New extensions of the Dunlop cotton mills at Rochdale in Lancashire now make these the largest in the world under one roof. They have 35 acres of floor space, 286,400 spinning spindles, 100,000 double spindles, 3,000 workers (at least), 14,500 h.p. of electricity. Every week 1,100 bales of cotton are turned into half-a-million lb. of yarn, which is doubled and made into cord for Dunlop products, chiefly tyres.

OVERSEAS AGENTS FOR THE SALE OF "THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA."

EGYPT.

Alexandria: M. Nacamulli and Co., 12, Rue Sesostris.

Cairo: M. Avatis, 1, Faggala.

Express Book and Stationery Store, P.O. Box 1113.

Port Said: English Agency, P.O. Box 240.

SUDAN.

Port Sudan: The Egyptian Library, Post Office Box No. 44.

PALESTINE.

Haifa: Newspapers Agency Steimatzky, Jaffa Street.

Jerusalem: B. Y. and W. A. Said, 23-24, Jaffa Road.

Newspapers Agency Steimatzky, Jaffa Road

SYRIA.

Beyrout: Sarrafian Bros.

IRAQ AND PERSIAN GULF.

Basrah: Jashammal, Bridge Street, Ashar.

Bahrein: Kamalieh Bookshop.

BULGARIA.

Sofia: Librairie Francaise et Etrangere, 6, Bvd, Tsar Ostvoboditel.

CYPRUS.

Nicosia: Dick Soultanian, P.O. Box 6.

GREECE.

Athens: Messageries de Journaux et Publications Etrangers, 24, Rue du Stade.

ROUMANIA.

Bucharest: Mr. L. Hamilton, 21, Strada Regala.

TURKEY.

Constantinople: The Anglo-American Book and Newsagency, 18, Rue des Petits Champs, Pera.

YUGOSLAVIA.

Belgrade: Librairie Francaise, 19 and 22, Rue Prince Michel.

ALBANIA.

Tirana: Librairie Lumo Skende.

AMERICA.

New York: Brenzano's, Fifth Avenue and 27th Street.
Boston (Mass): Smith and McCance, Ashburton Place.

COTTON GROWING IN THE SUDAN.

Sir John Loader Maffey, Governor-General of the Sudan, with Mr. A. J. C. Hudleston, Financial Secretary to the Sudan Government, Mr. H. P. Hewins, Director of the Central Economic Board of the Sudan, and Mr. R. Hewison, formerly of the Sudan Government Service, was entertained at luncheon by the British Cotton Association in Manchester on October 1, and gave an account of developments in the Sudan with special reference to cotton growing.

Sir John Maffey said there had been a falling off in the production of Sakellaridis cotton. Last season 570,000 kantars were produced, and this season the crop was down to 470,000 kantars, this being because of a diminution in yield of from $4\frac{3}{4}$ to $3\frac{1}{4}$ kantars per feddan. But this was a comparison between abnormal seasons, the former figure being too good and the latter unusually low. In the coming season 131,000 feddans would be under cotton, as compared with 105,000 this year. Good reports were to hand already from Tokar and Kassala. Looking still farther ahead, in 1930 there would be 500,000 feddans under cultivation, of which 170,000 would be under cotton. The Gezira had a prosperous and contented population, and presented the prospect of a community of many races for whom something had been made out of nothing.

Dealing with American cotton in the Sudan, he said that irrigated cotton was not of very great importance at the moment, and he knew Lancashire was looking in the direction of the rain-grown crop. There had been an increase from 34,000 to 41,000 kantars in the yield under irrigation, but the rain-grown crop had remained stationary at 20,000 kantars. They hoped to do better, for there were great tracts of land on which cotton could be grown and which were not growing cotton. In 1926 they promised to produce 50,000 kantars of rain-grown cotton. They had failed to do that owing to two years' drought. The people had had to grow food instead of cotton, and much of the cotton seed went to feed pigs and cattle. A more normal stage was now being approached and hopes were entertained that the area of rain-grown cotton would steadily increase.

His only fear of the progress of the Sudan itself was that it might be too quick. They had built 100 miles of railway a year for the past five years. Nearly £300,000 had been spent on improvements in the quay of Port Sudan. About 3,500,000 tons of shipping was handled every year in Port Sudan, and the Sudan Light and Power Company at Khartoum had spent £700,000 on electric trams and other developments. The north lent itself naturally to motoring. In the south they had to make roads, and were spending about £40,000 a year on motors. There were now 2,000 in the country. The country's external trade was £11,500,000 a year. He added that his last word must be a testimony to the persistent influence of the personality and name of Gordon throughout the Sudan. The country was not a big one or a wealthy community, but it was built up on a British tradition that contemplated something more than the mere material prosperity of the people, and with that tradition the name and work of Gordon were still inseparably connected.

Steaua Romana (British), Ltd., are advised that the production of the Steaua Romana Company, Bucharest, for September was 60,370 tons (as compared with 44,603 tons for the corresponding period last year). This is an increase of 2,100 tons over the August production, which was the highest monthly production obtained by the company.

The Automatic Telephone Manufacturing Company, Liverpool, have received a contract for the erection of an automatic telephone exchange at Mansura, Egypt. The contract for the main equipment for an automatic exchange at Cairo has been awarded to Standard Telephones and Cables, Ltd., London, and the contract for subscribers' instruments to the value of about £16,000 for the same exchange has been awarded to the Automatic Telephone Manufacturing Company.

Engineering Topics.

By G. B. B.

Road Engineering.

Probably the largest development of highways in this country within the next decade will be, apart from the construction of more arterial roads, the improving and widening of the secondary and feeder roads, and many who are congratulating themselves on the preservation of our country lanes will see them widened and "improved" so that almost all, if not all, of their present charm will disappear. Road engineers, however, recognise that in this it may be as well to hasten slowly. The mistake should not be made, in dealing with roads of this character, of creating a type in excess of requirements. Much more can be done by teaching motorists to drive, not in the centre of the roadway, but to the side, a lesson which should be given to owner-drivers of small-powered cars. It is the habit of hugging the centre of the road, and so compelling overtaking vehicles to edge over to their wrong side and so obstructing those coming from the opposite direction, which causes the greater part of the road congestion of which we hear so much. From the technical point of view, any road that may be expected within a year or so to carry 200 vehicles per day should have a better foundation and a better surface than have most of our present rural highways. In this, the question of maintenance costs has to be considered; whether it is better to make a higher capital expenditure and so construct roads that will cost comparatively little for upkeep, but will have a heavy overhead charge in the shape of interest, etc., or to expend as little capital as possible at the risk, if not the certainty, of having to pay more for maintenance. It has been said that the tendency in the design of modern motor cars is to develop speed, and the development of speed must have, as an inevitable result, the construction of roads that will permit of such speeds being attained as are within the capacity of the vehicles. The proposal has been made, and may be shortly carried into effect, that toll roads should be constructed to provide special service to motorists. A toll road of the kind intended may be defined as a roadway all elements of which are designed for high speed operation; a road designed for the use of all types of high-speed vehicles. "Time is money" may now be altered to "speed is money" when it is applied to motor transport, and speed is dependent upon speed facilities and an absence of elements that cause congestion or slowing down. The cost of accelerating a car, stopping it, and the wear and tear on tyres and brakes, together with other operating costs incidental to traffic congestion, is far more than most imagine, and it would be poor policy to economise in road costs if the economy resulted in an increased cost of motor traffic. The whole question is one that bristles with difficulties and which needs very careful handling.

Road Surfaces.

With regard to this question of roads numerous instances might be given of the resurfacing of old gravel and macadam streets and roads with asphalt. An association interested points out that when a roof becomes defective we do not consider it necessary to replace the entire building; we merely repair or, if necessary, replace the roof. When a fire destroys a building but leaves sound foundations, we do not dig these up but utilise them for the new building. When our macadam roads become worn we are apt to overlook the fact that thousands of tons of stone and gravel have been hammered and pressed, by hoofs and tyres, into a formation which merely needs a sound, dustless, and durable surface carpet, a carpet that can be provided by asphaltic or bituminous preparations at a low cost. It is an economic crime to tear up a macadam road merely because the surface has become badly worn. To emphasise this point it may be worth

while to consider that a mile of road 18 feet wide, built of water-bound macadam and of an average depth of 12 inches, contains about 2,240 cubic yards, or nearly 60 car loads of broken stone. At present prices for material and labour, the reconstruction of such a road would cost about £2,500 per mile. It could be resurfaced with one or other of the many advertised preparations and gritted with good chippings for a fraction of that sum.

An Unchokeable Pump.

Particulars are to hand of an unchokeable pump which can be used for unscreened sewage, heavy sewage sludge, wet gravel and sand containing large stones, crushed rock, clay, mud, oils, pulps of all kinds, sugar beet, liquid cement, dye works sludge, fish refuse, grains, and practically all kinds of chemicals. It is a special form of centrifugal pump of simple design and is claimed to be the practical solution of endless pumping difficulties, as it will do work that no pump merely designed for dealing with water could carry out. It will deal with any fluids carrying any solids in suspension; whatever may be their character, whether soft, hard, small, large, heavy, light, spongy, stringy, stiff, or flexible, this pump will pass them without choking. It is further claimed that its use entirely obviates the expense and labour involved in screening, cutting, and clearing liquids or sludge. All details connected with the pump, such as the special impeller, casing, shafts, bearings, etc., are of robust construction, and it may be mentioned that the casing is fitted with a renewable cut water block and the impeller has renewable blades, both of which parts are easily and cheaply replaced.

Colouring for Cement.

Cement, which has come to the fore so much of late years for construction work, has the disadvantage of possessing a rather dismal grey colour, and many processes have been devised to overcome this, either by dyeing the cement, mixing colour with the raw material, or painting the finished constructional work. An Edinburgh chemist, says the *Stone Trades Journal*, has brought forward a new process for which certain advantages are claimed. In a demonstration recently a surface of 2,000 sq. ft. of grey cement was treated. The method consists of applying a spray of water to the cement or stone face, followed by a stream of dry cement-like coloured powder. The powder adheres to the film of water, with which it combines and ultimately becomes hard, and so colours, waterproofs, and preserves the cement face. One of the outstanding features of the process is that it leaves all ornamentation, etc., standing out as sharply and distinctly as in the original cement wall. It is understood that other forms of building material, as brick, metal, stone, and wood, may be treated in this manner.

The draft of the new Roumanian Customs tariff is being submitted to the chambers of commerce and other interested bodies for consideration.

As from October 5 the supplementary letter mails dispatched on Fridays by air to Marseilles to overtake the mails for Egypt, India, Australia, etc., dispatched on the previous evening have been discontinued.

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Motors and Motoring

Another Ariel Success.

A further triumph of the Ariel motor cycle was recorded in Mr. James Taylor's climb to the summit of Ben Nevis on his 497 two-port O.H.V. Ariel and sidecar on September 29 in 4 hours 49 minutes. A report on this feat states:—"Whilst it cannot be said that the machine did the 5 mile climb unassisted, assistance being required at places was not due to lack of power or inability of the driver to handle it, but solely to the fact that wheel grip could not be obtained at some points where the shingle was so loose and deep, and also through lack of ground clearance. The work done on the hill to enable the Ford to climb it recently was not of any great advantage to a sidecar machine except at some of the hairpins where naturally the widening of the bends did help. The chains fitted to the driving wheel did not seem to help greatly, and were ultimately taken off. Progress then became quicker, and the Dunlop tyres stood the gruelling work admirably. The machine required no attention whatever during the whole climb or descent, and was as sound at the finish as at the start. Trouble might have been expected from overheating considering the very slow speed made at times compared with the engine speed, but the good lubricating arrangements combined with the oil used, and no signs of trouble were apparent at any time.

"The clutch and gear box behaved perfectly, as did the brakes which held the whole outfit easily at every point where they were required to do so, both ascending and descending. It was really a remarkably wonderful performance for the same standard machine which had already been through two Scottish six days trials, various other trials, and moreover made a record climb of Ben Lomond last year. If Mr. Taylor's time is beaten it will only be by having more and fresh helpers distributed up the hill at the most difficult points where assistance is absolutely necessary for a two track machine using the ordinary type of driving wheel or wheels, as a great deal of time can be lost, as it was on Saturday, by Mr. Taylor having to wait till the helpers made up on him after he had made a considerable amount of progress where the road conditions permitted."

DAIRY FARMING IN CYPRUS.

Mr. M. T. Dawe, Director of Agriculture in Cyprus, describes in an article in a recent issue of the Cyprus Gazette the position of dairy farming in the Island. He points out that the records of the Athalassa stock farm show that the Government has done much to import and establish in the Island good breeds of cows. Cyprus is an importer of milk on a large scale, the value of the imports of milk in 1927 being £6,282, which compares with an average for the five years up to that year of £5,351. Then in 1927 the Island's imports of butter totalled 959 cwt. of the value of £8,679, these figures comparing with an average for five years of 1,067 cwt. and £9,112. Cheese has been imported on an increasing scale, the figures for 1927 being 997 cwt. of the value of £5,351 as against an average for five years of 408 cwt. of the value of £2,398. For the past five years the average imports of dairy produce aggregated a total value of £16,861. Mr. Dawe emphasises the point that there is room for the better development of dairy farming in the Island and particularly for the production of cheese, but he remarks that dairy farming can never develop on big lines in Cyprus because of the long, dry season and the absence of suitable pastures and the high cost of raising exotic pastures by irrigation. He is convinced that much can be done in a small way by individual farmers and co-operative societies in supplying the large towns with milk and in the production of butter and cheese. Goat and sheep farming are also of considerable importance to

the Cypriot farmer at the present time, and the export of cheese made principally from sheep and goats' milk constitutes a substantial item in the trade list. In 1927 the export of this cheese amounted to 5,349 cwt. of the value of £22,717, and the average for the five years was 5,012 cwt. of the value of £21,185. It is interesting to note that Egypt is the Island's best customer for this commodity, Syria coming next, while the cheese is also exported to Greece, Turkey, Palestine, France, the Sudan, the Dodecanese, the United Kingdom, America, West Africa, Australia, and even China. Incidentally the average value of the export of this cheese for the five years exceeds that of the imports of dairy produce by £4,324, and Mr. Dawe suggests that while the keeping of cows and dairying should be encouraged the main efforts should be directed to the improvement of the goats and sheep.

ROUMANIA'S AGRICULTURAL POSITION.

A report of the Roumanian Ministry of Agriculture covering the period down to September 10 gives some interesting figures with regard to the principal crops. The area under wheat this year was 3,206,368 hectares (1 hectare equals 2,4711 acres) as compared with 3,101,153 hectares for 1927 and the average for the previous five years of 3,118,394 hectares. The yield showed a great improvement, the estimate being 35,515,906 kg. (1 kg. equals 2.204 lb.) as compared with 26,327,073 kg. in 1927 and the five years' average of 26,393,785. The figures for rye have also increased. The area rose from 284,255 hectares for 1927 to 295,704 hectares, which compares most favourably with the five years' average of 277,853, while the yield is estimated at 3,005,786 kg., which compares with 2,368,136 kg. for 1927 and an average of 2,242,042. As regards barley, the area declined slightly, but there was a great increase in production. The area was 1,759,010 hectares, as compared with 1,764,260 hectares and an average of 1,749,802 hectares, while the production is put at 16,465,751 kg. as against 12,616,202 kg. in 1927 and an average of 11,921,975 kg. The position with regard to oats also shows an improvement. The area was 1,116,161 hectares, as against 1,084,408 hectares and an average of 1,185,931 hectares, while the production is estimated at 9,327,676 kg. as against 8,681,434 kg. for 1927 and an average of 8,575,304 kg. As regards maize, which is a very important crop in Roumania, the lack of rain has had a serious effect. At the time of the report the position was good in the north of Transylvania, the Bukovina, Moldavia, and the Carpathian region, but there was a shortage in Oltenia, Bessarabia, and the departments of Tulcea, Arges, Jalomitza, Buzau, Tutova, and Maramuresh. It is anticipated that the total production will be much below that of the previous year.

ROUMANIA'S INCREASING OIL PRODUCTION.

The figures for the production of oil in Roumania for the first six months of this year show a further substantial improvement, the output being 2,005,000 tons as compared with 1,758,000 tons for the corresponding period of 1927. The average monthly production has risen to 334,000 tons, while the daily output for the period averaged 11,135 tons as compared with 9,760 tons in 1927. The production is divided as follows between the different oil areas:—Prahova, 1,378,200 tons, or 69 per cent.; Dambovitza, 537,000 tons, or 26.5 per cent.; Buzau, 56,500 tons, or 2.5 per cent.; and Bacau, 32,000 tons, or 2 per cent. As regards the production of the departments, Moreni leads with 773,500 tons, or 38.6 per cent., Gura-Ocnitzei being second with 306,200 tons, while Ochiuri and Runcu-Scuteni are equal third with 231,000 tons.

Near East Markets

THE YUGOSLAV MARKET FOR SHOES.

Price is the most important factor in determining the possibility of importing shoes into Yugoslavia, because the majority of purchasers prefer to buy a cheap shoe rather than an expensive one, regardless of quality (says an American Consular report). Strong, rough shoes are purchased by the rural class, which represents about 5 per cent. of the people. But there is a noticeable trend in larger cities toward buying the more expensive and better goods.

The domestic footwear industry is fairly well developed, most of the factories being located in the territory of the former Austro-Hungarian Provinces of Slovenia and Croatia-Slovenia. The only really important shoe factory in Serbia is the factory "Boston" of Belgrade. Besides larger factories, a number of small shops are scattered throughout the Kingdom. These shops produce shoes of low grade and also the footwear locally called "opanka," which is a kind of large sandal or low moccasin, which consists of a thin sole and roughly made upper part, tied to the feet by thin strips or leather strings. Such moccasins are usually worn by the peasants over thick knitted socks. Almost the entire population of villages and small centres having a semi-rural character wears "opankas." The better grades of domestic shoes are entirely consumed in the country and never exported abroad, as their price and quality do not allow local manufacturers to compete in foreign markets.

The materials used in the manufacture of shoes are purchased partly in the country itself and imported partly from Austria, Germany, and France. Fine leather is imported from these countries and also from the United States, as well as patent leather and silvered, gilded, bronzed, and designed leathers for making ladies' fancy shoes.

THE EGYPTIAN MARKET.

Speaking at a livery dinner of the Glovers' Company at Clothmakers' Hall, on October 5, Lord Lloyd said the relations between Egypt and this country had every prospect of becoming more and more friendly. It would be a great help to those whose work lay in Egypt, he added, if merchants and manufacturers in this country would be a little more alive to the growing power of Egypt as a market.

THE SMYRNA FRUIT MARKET.

Messrs. C. J. Giraud and Co., of Smyrna, report as follows for the week ended September 29:—

Sultanas.

The estimated sales to date total 17,550 tons, against 20,600 for the corresponding period of the previous year.

Closing prices Smyrna, per cwt., c.i.f. London, for types 12 to 18 and 1, 3, and 5 are:—30s. 6d.; 32s. 6d.; 34s. 6d.; 37s. 6d.; 42s.; 49s. 6d.; 57s.; 65s.; 35s. 6d.; 33s. 6d.

Market Conditions.—Prices continued losing ground throughout the week, closing at 2s. to 3s. (Fl. 2 to 3) decline on last Saturday's level. The present level of values is creating some speculative interest, and although shippers generally discount a further decline and quote forward positions at below current rates, there exists amongst the native dealers an element that is disposed to purchase in the interior and stock in the hope of better prices later in the year. There are some reports current of the Government's intention to intervene in an active manner in support of the farmers, but it is difficult to say how much truth exists in these reports or whether the same must be attributed to the presence here of the Minister of Finance. It is possible that prices may further slide, but our personal view is that the consumer with requirements to fill would be acting wisely in covering them at round about the present level of prices. The finest grade is becoming daily scarcer, and may, before long, run out altogether.

Figs.

The estimated arrivals in the Smyrna market since the opening of the season are 17,884 tons, against 17,815 tons for the corresponding period of the previous year; the estimated sales to date are put at 17,453 tons, against 17,289 tons.

Market Conditions.—Prices throughout the week have been firmly maintained at the higher level established last week. Although end of September engagements have been now practically all covered in, the undertone of the market remains strong and indications point to continued firmness over the near future. The demand from the main markets such as the States and the U.K. shows no increase on preceding seasons, to judge by the extent of shipments, but there is a noticeable increase in exports to other European centres where the Smyrna fig appears to be annually gaining in favour.

CONTINUED INCREASE IN CYPRUS IMPORTS.

The Cyprus trade report for August states that the value of imports is again above the average, the total £157,268 being £4,500 more than for August, 1927, and £28,800 more than the quinquennial average. The most noticeable increases are in flour, machinery, motor cars and oils (edible and non-edible).

The total value of exports for the month is £109,801, which is £22,700 more than the quinquennial average, though below the total for August, 1927. The decrease in exports is due to the holding up of barley, normally shipped at this time, in anticipation of a rise in prices in the foreign markets.

The Northumberland Shipbuilding Company has received an order to build, on behalf of Greek owners, a shelter deck type steamer, of about 7,300 tons dead-weight. She will be constructed on the Isherwood combination system.

A new express train, known as the Ovid Express, accomplishes the journey from Bucharest to Contanza, on the Black Sea, in 4 hours 16 minutes. As it connects with the Orient Express at Bucharest, it shortens the journey from Paris to Constantinople via Bucharest and Constantza by twelve hours.

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FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

Country.	Method of Quoting.	Parity of Exchange.	Latest Quotation.
Alexandria.....	Piastre to £	97½	97½
Amsterdam ...	Florins to £	12.107	12.09½
Athens	Drachmæ to £ ...	25.22½	375
Belgrade.....	Dinars to £	25.22½	276
Berlin	Marks to £	20.43	20.38
Berne	Francs to £	25.22½	25.19½
Bombay	Sterling to Rupee	18d.	18 1/32—1/16
Brussels	Belga to £	35	34 89½
Bucharest	Lei to £	25.22½	802½
Budapest	Pen to £	27.82	27.80
Caleutta	Sterling to Rupee	18d.	18 1/32—1/16
Constantinople	Piastres to £	110	938
New York	Dollars to £	4.86 2-3	4.84 15/16
Paris	Francs to £	25.22½	124.12
Prague	Kronen to £	24.02	163½
Rome	Lire to £	25.22½	92.57½
Sofia	Leva to £	25.22½	670
Teheran	Krans to £	48	48
Vienna	Sch to £	34.58	34.45
Warsaw	Zloty to £	25.22½	43 3/16—7/16

YUGOSLAVIA'S NEW PROBLEMS.

Dr. Milorad Nedeljkovich, writing in the *Belgrade Economic Review* on the new problems of Yugoslavia, points out that conditions in that country have undergone a sudden change. He says:—

In the first half of the year things could not have gone better. State finances were put in order and balanced up, both formally and materially. The currency, actually stabilised long ago, was to be legally settled on a permanent basis. We were on the eve of the conclusion of a large foreign loan for the construction of railways and other useful and productive capital investment, as well as for the stabilisation of the dinar. This capital expenditure was to give work both to trade and to home industries, and to employ home labour, of which in these last bad years there has been a good deal unemployed even among the agricultural population. In the political world it was considered that in the course of the last few years all the fundamental problems of State organisation had been settled, that the State was consolidated beyond every possibility of doubt, and that political struggles could concern only the concrete application of the established principles of the constitution.

But instead of this, in a moment, as if by the blow of a magic wand, the whole outlook has changed. After long rains in May and June, there occurred suddenly a long, unbroken, scorching drought, which was not able indeed to touch the harvest of wheat, barley, rye, and oats, but which in many places seriously affected the maize, fruit, vineyards, and pastures. These (maize, fruit, and grapes) are all important branches of our agriculture, especially from the point of view of export, both directly and indirectly, through the production of fodder for cattle in the pastures, the fattening of stock for export, and the supply of milk products, which are exported in considerable quantities in normal years. This is also the third bad year for agriculture: 1926 had too much rain and flood; 1927 had a serious drought, like this year. For an agricultural country, where 85 per cent. of the people live on the cultivation of the soil, and where there are no large estates but only medium and small holdings, particularly the latter, three consecutive bad years must be felt in the balance of the national well-being, and in the yield of State finances. Therefore this year's drought, which came so unexpectedly after the most smiling prospects for an excellent harvest, have brought about a feeling of depression in many classes.

Together with the drought there came the postponement of the foreign loan for capital expenditure, whose conclusion was practically imminent in London. It is not worth while to inquire whether it was conditions on the international money market, international European relations, or our own political events which were decisive in bringing about this postponement. To the public as a whole the reasons are not known and only guess-work is possible. The fact remains, however, that the loan is put off, and that this occurred just as unexpectedly and in the face of every probability as this year's drought. Its effect also has been just the same as that of the drought. Many transactions and enterprises, based on the expectation of more brisk economic life as the result of an inflow of foreign capital, withered up before they could show flower or fruit. Many hopes proved unfounded, many calculations were upset. If nothing had been said of the loan, and if its realisation had not been proclaimed as indisputably imminent, there would have been no disillusionment. But after the raising of hopes and dreams, the return to concrete reality could not take place without causing some depression. In the first place, naturally, the building of the railways and other public works with their beneficial effect on economic life had to be foregone, likewise also the legal stabilisation of the dinar, which technically must be carried out in close connexion with the realisation of the foreign loan.

Dealing with the new position, he draws satisfactory conclusions from the character of the country's resources. He continues:—

With many kinds of resources our losses on one side are compensated by a better harvest of greater productivity on another, so that in the final balance of national economy an average standard of life is maintained. We may, therefore, be at peace as regards the prospects for our national revenue and well-being in the coming year until the next harvest. Possibly the revenue will not be very great, and will not therefore give a great impetus to industry, trade, or art, but it will make life possible, if with stricter limitation of expenditure.

From the same point of view also we may consider the postponement of the foreign loans. Had they been realised, the activity in economic life would undoubtedly have been more intense, and this would have been very welcome this year. But even if this capital expenditure is delayed for a time, it is no "catastrophe." No deficit has occurred in economic life, but the desired prosperity and progress has been put off until with either our own or borrowed means, we are able to make that advance. In the meantime it may bring us to greater clear-headedness and a critical attitude in estimating our economic initiative.

For the present we are thrown on our own resources, and greater attention is being concentrated on the advancement of the chief branch of national activity, namely, agriculture. The peasant must be given greater profit from his work, so that he can live better, without falling into debt, and be able to pay the State and local taxes which the present social, political, and cultural order demand of him.

Efforts in this direction are mainly tending to make agricultural production, at least in so far as it is intended for export, turn to those crops which have good prices and good prospects for sale on foreign markets. Special thought is being given to more intensive stockraising, the preparation of milk products poultry raising and the cultivation of industrial plants, vegetables and fruit. Simultaneously with a partial abandonment of extensive methods of agriculture and the change in the above direction, efforts are being made towards the standardisation of production, especially in fruit culture. (This is especially necessary for apples and walnuts, of which we have now numerous kinds, so that it is difficult to collect large consignments of the same varieties). Besides standardisation of production there is felt a great need of systematic organisation of sale through agricultural co-operatives, and by changing the present primitive method of bringing small quantities to market, which means that goods pass through many hands of the small and large dealers before they come to the export warehouses and foreign markets. To reduce this unnecessary scattering of the value of products on transport and middlemen's costs, will mean to retain for the peasant greater gain from his crops. Very much has to be done in this direction so as to increase by the shortest and quickest way the net gain of the peasant smallholders who predominate in this country.

The traffic receipts of the South Indian Railway Company for the week ended September 8 amounted to Rs.12,26,769, making the total from April 1 Rs.2,70,23,112. The figures for the corresponding periods of the previous year were Rs.12,07,950 and Rs.2,68,30,959.

The imports of ready-made shirts into Palestine have been decreasing during the last few years (says an American Consular report). Several small shirt factories, run by American-trained labour, have been established in the towns of Tel-Aviv and Jaffa. Among imported shirts, the open-front shirt with detachable collar is the most popular. The pull-over styles on the market are British-made. The favourite materials for shirts are silk, rayon, and lighter weights of white twills and chambrays, and percales. In this climate, which makes frequent changes of clothing so necessary, soft and semi-soft collars are not only more comfortable but are more economical. Linen and so-called linen collars and cuffs are used principally for evening wear. Local merchants believe that durable work shirts made from dark materials would sell in this market.

Cotton and Cotton Goods.

THE LIVERPOOL COTTON MARKET.

Messrs. Reynolds and Gibson report as follows for the week ended October 3:—

Egyptian Futures.—Sakel Contract.—We have experienced a series of steady markets during the past week, and with what might be termed only normal fluctuations occurring from day to day, little alteration in the price level has to be recorded from the date of our last report. The operations that have taken place show a fairly evenly balanced state of opinion and also reveal a tendency on the part of both speculative and trade interests to adopt a decidedly cautious attitude; the result is that the outstanding market account is small and trading light for this period of the season. In the ordinary course of events the publication on the 1st inst. of the first Government crop estimate, indicating a yield of only 2,357,686 kantars, might conceivably have formed the basis of a strong forward movement; however, under present trade conditions and with an undercurrent of feeling that at its ruling difference with other varieties Sakel cotton is not an economic proposition, the above-mentioned report evinced no response from the market.

Trade reports continue to show a moderate increase in activities; the improvement in this quarter, however, appears only just sufficient to stabilise values; the sentimental effect of the relative firmness in the American market may, however, help the initial weight of the crop to be absorbed into trade channels without causing appreciable effect on the ruling level. One factor that those who have distinct leanings to the "short" side have to bear in mind is the ability of holders in Egypt to wait for their market; ample evidence of this has been furnished in previous seasons, and with a Government scheme of advances to growers now in operation the movement of the present crop should proceed on a very gradual scale. The Alexandria market has fluctuated round the 34 dollars mark for the greater part of the week; periodical easing at the other side has been taken advantage of to undo old straddle commitments and the larger part of the holding accumulated during the summer months, i.e., purchases here at round 40 points discount with the overseas contract, has been reversed at parity. We still consider that prices will fluctuate in the neighbourhood of 17d., with down-scale purchases advisable should any developments materialise causing an appreciable set-back below this figure.

Upper Contract.—Some heavy trading has again been witnessed in this option, a liberal supply of contracts furnished by spot houses against imports, being well absorbed by straddlers. Fluctuations throughout the week have been confined within narrow limits, and prices show little change since our last report. Owing to the easiness of the basis in Egypt our contract at one period narrowed-in to 200 points over the American option (January/January positions); at this difference heavy support was encountered, and this, coupled with a since firmer tendency at the other side, has caused a widening to 220 points. Considerable trade activity has been in evidence throughout the week, and a good business has been transacted on the "spot," also more particularly for shipment cotton. The weight of the crop movement will probably exercise a restraining influence on values for some little time; however, for those prepared to take a long view we consider that purchases round present levels may later show reasonable profits.

Egyptian Spot.—The series of steady markets recently experienced have given a certain amount of confidence to spinners, and some good buying has taken place from time to time. The actual spot sales of Egyptian cotton have fallen below last week's total, but this has been more than compensated for by an improvement in the offtake for Sudan growth. The demand has broadened out in a very satisfactory manner, and it has probably been due, in some measure, to the difficulty experienced in meeting the somewhat varied requirements of the trade that the sales have not been larger than they are. We are, of course, at the "back end" of the season, and the selection in certain qualities, for example F.G.F. to Good Sakel, is a poor one. The offtake for Sakel cotton has continued to show some slight improvement, but we still maintain our view that before the trade can be really tempted back again to this growth a further contraction of the basis which Sakel holds over other growths of cotton will have to be seen. High-priced cottons of any growth are very much out of favour at the moment.

Uppers have continued to occupy a great deal of attention in most quarters, and we are of the opinion that a large business has been done this week in Upper and Zagora cotton for shipment. There has been no change to record in the quality of the demand, which has continued to be almost entirely for cotton within 90 points either side of the futures contract. Merchant buying has been in evidence and, provided the present parity is maintained (i.e., in the neighbourhood of 200 points over American) will probably increase owing to the participation of merchants who usually confine their attention to American cotton. Low cotton at from 11d. to 15d. has been in good request, and Pillion continues to attract fresh business. Unfortunately, the actual stock of Pillion available here is a very poor one. Specialities, such as Nahda, Maarad, White, etc., have been comparatively neglected this week.

The tone of recent Manchester reports has been much better and there is no doubt that a good c.i.f. business has been taking place. Prior to next Monday's Bureau Report we are inclined to look for the customary slackening off, but provided no unpleasant surprise is sprung on the trade we shall expect an early return to the present

hopeful conditions. Forwardings last week were returned as 4,955 bales Egyptian and 718 bales Sudan. Estimated spot sales for the week, 2,300 bales Egyptian and 1,900 bales Sudan. Quotations of Sakel show an advance of 15 points on the week; those of Upper have been raised 5 to 35 points. Pillion exceptionally has been reduced 20 points on the week, thus bringing the official quotations more in line with actual business. F.G.F. Sakel to-day, 17.70d. F.G.F. Upper to-day, 12.10d. F.G.F. Pillion to-day, 13.00d. nominal.

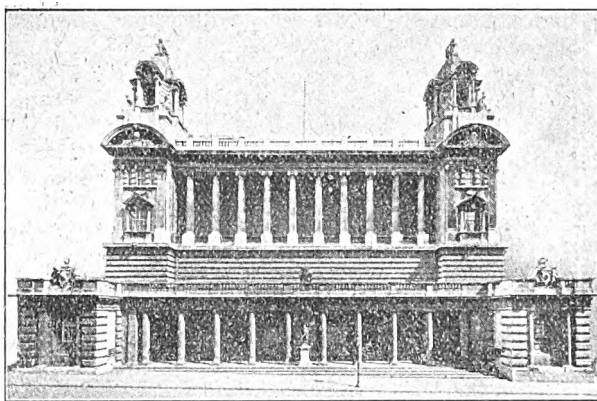
THE EGYPTIAN MARKET.

The Alexandria Commercial Company, in their report for the week ended September 27, state:—

Since our last report the market has been fairly active; prices have been irregular but closed well up on the week. The week's summary of price movements is as follows:—Sakellaridis: November, 34.35 dollars, 0.72 dollars up; January, 34.78 dollars, 0.78 dollars up; March, 35.28 dollars, 0.88 dollars up. Ashmouni: October, 21.33 dollars, 0.93 dollars up; December, 21.98 dollars, 1.01 dollars up; February, 22.53 dollars, 1.08 dollars up; April, 23.07 dollars, 1.27 dollars up.

Sakel.—The market during the early session of the week was poor, but the continued rise of American prices has since been reflected here. The commercial houses have been buying and there has been considerable speculative short covering. The feeling in the market is not bullish; prices are not by any means stable and the advance may easily be lost in the event of any reaction in American. The real cause of the absence of enthusiasm is the unsatisfactory position in the industrial centres and the poor prospects for Sakel consumption this season. Very little is doing in the yarn market and there are no indications of an improvement in the near future; the public will not pay present prices of Sakel yarns, considering them much too high in comparison with yarns spun from other cottons. The Sakel/Ashmouni straddle stands at 1,302 points against 1,323 points last week and 943 points a year ago.

Uppers.—This market has been very active and prices are advanced, corresponding more or less to the rise in New York. Considerable sales to spinners have been concluded recently, and but for the fact of the hedge-selling against the heavy arrivals, prices would probably have shown a much bigger advance. The October discount has widened out to 65 points over December, due to the transferring



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The directors of the South Indian Railway Company, Ltd., have decided to recommend that a final dividend for the year 1928 of 2½ per cent., less income tax, be paid from surplus profits on January 1 next, making, with the guaranteed interest of 1½ per cent. payable on the same date, a total payment of 4¼ per cent. for the half-year ending December 31, 1928, and, together with the payment that was made on July 1, 1928, a total payment of 8 per cent. for the year, being the same as the dividend paid for the previous year.

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City of Lahore	6,983	Oct. 27	Bombay & Colombo
City of Hong Kong	9,678	Oct. 27	Bombay & Karachi
City of Canterbury	8,421	Nov. 2	Bombay & Karachi
City of Benares	6,984	Nov. 3	Colombo & Calcutta
City of Trafford Hall	5,321	Nov. 24	Bombay & Karachi
City of Calcutta	7,679	Nov. 26	Bombay & Calcutta

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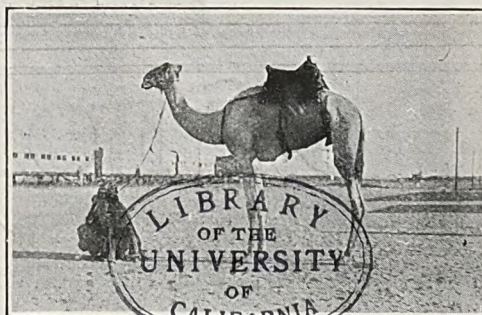
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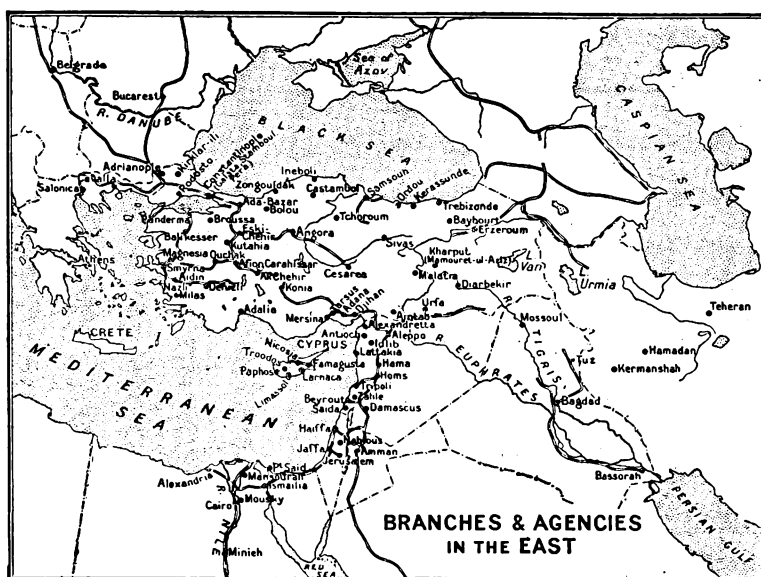
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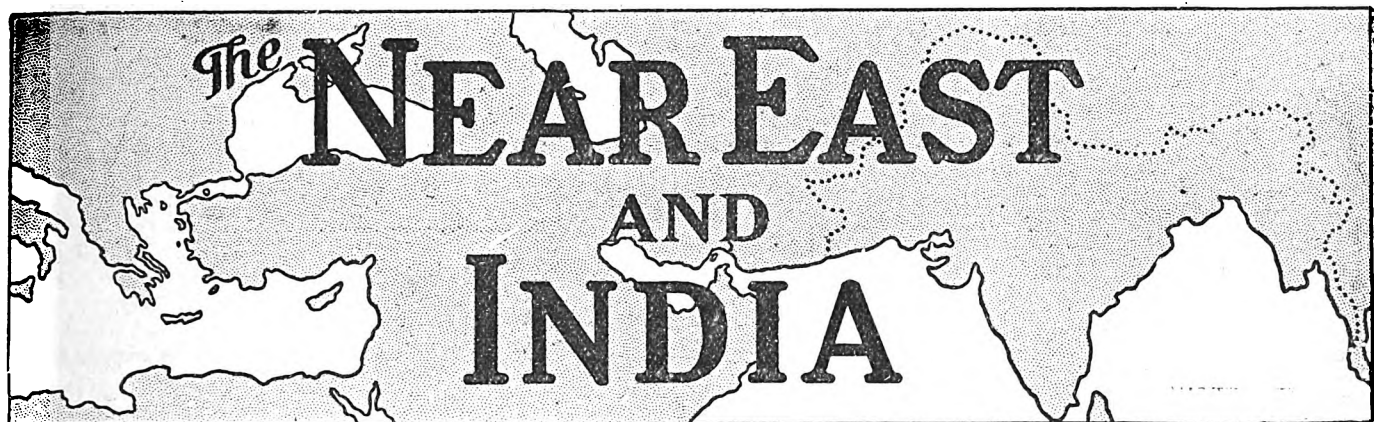
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No. 909.—VOL. XXXIV.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 18, 1928.

Editorial Offices : "THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA," 170, Strand, London, W.C.2.

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Notes of the Week.

M. Venizelos in Belgrade.

If M. Venizelos has occasion to sum up his visit to Yugoslavia for the benefit of his friend, Signor Mussolini, he cannot do better than telegraph "*Veni, vidi, vici.*" His two days in Belgrade sufficed to bring the Yugoslav Government wholly round to the Greek point of view that Yugoslavia was entitled to negotiate on the basis of the 1923 Agreement, under which a free zone at Salonika was leased to her, with a view to technical modifications or the conditions then laid down, but that she could not make any use of the 1926 Agreement with General Pangalos's Government, which had encroached upon the sovereign rights of Greece and for that reason had been rejected by the Greek Chamber. Yugoslavia, accordingly, has undertaken to abandon the attempt, in the event of her being engaged in war, to impose a lien on the Free Zone and the Greek railway to Ghevgeli so as to assure the free import of munitions to Serbia. M. Venizelos and M. Shumenkovitch, Yugoslavia's Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs, are understood to have agreed upon the general lines on which a new Free Zone Agreement will be drawn up by experts, to be followed by a formal Pact of Friendship and Arbitration between the two Governments. Unless, therefore, unforeseen difficulties assert themselves in the course of the technical negotiations, Greco-Yugoslav relations, which have contained elements of trouble more or less continually since the War, should before long be restored to a basis of good will and friendship.

Macedonia.

The blood-feud between the two rival sections of the Macedonian Revolutionary Organization has claimed some more victims, and once again in a Sofia street. As before, the assassins, who are supposed to belong to the Mikhailoff section, now in the ascendant, made good their escape. Ivan Mikhailoff would seem to have established such a reign of terror in the Petritch district that the inhabitants have felt constrained to appeal to the Bul-

garian Government for protection. Now that a definite request for action against the Macedonian Organization has come from within Bulgaria the Government may consider itself better able to deal with the situation. It must not be forgotten, however, that the problem before the Government is wider and more complicated than the mere tackling of a terrorist stronghold. The great majority of the Bulgarian people may remain indifferent to the feuds of the Macedonian Organization; for them the Macedonian question is a sacred cause, and it would be political, if not physical, suicide for any Cabinet in Sofia to run the risk of appearing to be an enemy of the "cause," while hunting down those of its leaders who have placed themselves outside the pale of the law. To have the country behind it in any action against Mikhailoff, the Bulgarian Government must be able to show that simultaneously it has secured an amelioration of the conditions under which Macedonians are now living. That amelioration can be provided only by Yugoslavia, and until the Yugoslav Government faces this fact, the Macedonian question will remain. Just as the Bulgarian Government hesitates to mobilize troops against Mikhailoff, after having proclaimed the inadequacy of the present volunteer army to cope with the trouble, so the Yugoslav Government is trying to improve conditions in South Serbia by stealth, for fear of being convicted out of its own mouth in regard to its repeated assurances that there was no Macedonian question and that all was well in South Serbia. It would be better for Yugoslavia, for Bulgaria and for the Balkan Peninsula, if the Governments of Belgrade and Sofia could rise above all petty-mindedness and take counsel together for the settlement of the Macedonian problem. If M. Liaptcheff's Cabinet could announce that the Macedonians of South Serbia were to obtain all that they were entitled to under the Minorities Conventions, it would be a matter of days or weeks before Mikhailoff had ceased to trouble the Balkans.

Serbs and Croats.

The "bloodstained" Skupshtina is in session once more, with the Peasant-Democrat Group absent. Neither Serbs nor Croats have taken any practical steps towards bringing about a reconciliation, although the Central Committee of the Serbian Radical Club has passed a resolution regretting the murders in the Skupshtina and recording that it is the Club's duty to consider ways and means for improving the difficult position, in order that, "while offering the hand of friendship to our Croat brothers, with whom as with our Slovene brothers, we must bear joy or sorrow in this our common State, we may carry out with united strength the great work of creating good and consolidated conditions in our lands for the greatest happiness of our people." The Croats, however, are still looking for deeds rather than long-winded resolutions, and their first stipulation is that the Parliament associated with the murder of their deputies should be dissolved. The Government has decided that certain necessary business must be performed by the present Skupshtina, but would seem to have accepted the view that, after the Finance Bill has been passed, there must be a dissolution, with a view to new elections in the spring. In the meantime King Alexander has arranged to pay a long visit to Zagreb in December, and it is hoped that this action of the Sovereign will contribute towards the placating of the Croats. In this domestic quarrel obstinacy is not confined to one side, and it would not be in the interests of the Kingdom that the Serbs should cling to the belief that they have only to hold their ground in order to break up the Peasant-Democrat coalition in Croatia.

Albania and Her Neighbours.

To a representative of the *Daily Telegraph* the new King of the Albanians has spoken very candidly about the position of his country in the Balkans. When he declared that the Albanians would never allow themselves to be ruled by Italy, that they would never submit to Italian domination, King Zogu was speaking, without doubt, in all sincerity, and his statement is confirmed by those who are in close touch with the trend of events in the country. Probably the worst that can happen is that, given the backwardness of Albania, to which the King referred, and the tendency of an active and enlightened ruler to force the pace of reform, expenditure will outstrip the resources of a not very productive land, with a small population, and bankruptcy result. Even so, and if Italy should step in to establish financial stability and to take over the work of reform, the Italian hold on the country would still be far from enabling Albania to be used as a base for military operations against Yugoslavia, unless, indeed, the latter converts the Albanians into permanent enemies. King Zogu makes it clear that he considers that Albania's interests are linked up with the Balkans. He had perforce to approach Italy, because no other Power—not even Yugoslavia—would help him; but he envisages a day when Albania will gradually be able to conduct her own administration without outside help. For the peace of the Balkans it is to be hoped that this day will not be too long in coming. In the meantime it will be the fault of Albania's neighbours, if she is forced to act as though her future were not linked up entirely with that of the Balkan Peninsula.

The Wafd in England.

The General Secretary of the Egyptian Wafd, who is on a visit to England, has unburdened himself to the official organ of the Labour Party on the present situation in Egypt. It is not clear at first sight why the representative of the Wafd, which made the non-interference of Great Britain in Egyptian affairs the first and only plank in its political programme, should invite British interference in the political affairs of Egypt. Great Britain's attitude towards Egypt since 1922 has been that she is anxious to divest herself of all occasion for intervention in Egyptian affairs, and that this stage will be reached

as soon as four matters of external significance have been settled between the two countries. Now the Wafd has consistently blocked any such settlement by maintaining that Great Britain has not the right to decide whether or not her interests are involved in any matter pertaining to Egypt. For the General Secretary of the Wafd, therefore, to consider it necessary to involve the British public in a purely domestic matter not only exposes the hollowness of the contention that the Wafd has put forward with such vociferous insistency all these years, but also reveals the inexperience and woeful lack of judgment by which the Wafd is handicapped. No self-respecting organization in any country ever thinks of airing its domestic troubles abroad, and the Wafd does not enhance its reputation in England by asking English people to take sides in Egyptian politics.

The Improprieties of Propaganda.

"People in England," says the General Secretary of the Wafd, "do not seem to recognize the gravity of the situation in Egypt." If that situation does not immediately affect British imperial communications, the position or security of foreigners in Egypt, or lastly the Sudan, there is no special reason why they should. Attempts, he adds, are being made to cover up the violation of the Constitution by representing "the present illegal Government" as devoting itself to a big programme of social reforms. As the Constitution in question owes its existence to the British Declaration of Egyptian Independence—which Declaration the Wafd has refused to accept or recognize—it would seem illogical to ask the British public to wax indignant over the alleged violation of the Constitution. It is interesting to learn that "Egypt has never known a more flourishing period, both materially and morally, than under its parliamentary government," but not so satisfactory, if the implication is intended that there is no need for any further improvement or programme of social reforms—an unwise attitude for any country or party to adopt. It was the parliamentary régime, we are told, which carried out big irrigation works. The General Secretary of the Wafd did not indicate what big irrigation works have been carried out during the last four years, but possibly he counted on the ignorance of this interlocutor to help him through this and other similar statements. When, however, he adds the information that "for all this (i.e., crimes against constitutional liberty) the Egyptian people believe that a large share of the responsibility lies with Great Britain," and indicates his own solicitude for the honour of this country by explaining that "the destruction of Egypt's constitutional régime would be highly detrimental to Britain's reputation in the East," it is evident that such a staunch friend of Great Britain should be at this particular moment in Egypt convincing the Egyptian people that Great Britain maintains a scrupulously correct neutrality in the domestic affairs of Egypt. She cannot divest herself of interest in those affairs, and anyone who studies closely the course of events in Egypt will be able to form his own opinion whether the success which Egypt has made of her parliamentary régime precludes all possibility of improving upon the record of the last four years, with three general elections and six Prime Ministers. Fortunately for Egypt the General Secretary of the Wafd was able to close on a brighter note. "The present policy in Egypt is doomed to utter failure." So, after all, "the gravity of the situation in Egypt" would seem to have passed while Professor Makram Obeid was talking, and people in England have no occasion to be drawn into Egyptian party politics.

The Sultan of Muscat.

One is so accustomed nowadays to the sight of Eastern potentates doing their utmost to ape the West that it was unusually refreshing to find the Sultan of Muscat and Oman, the distinguished ruler who has just concluded his stay as guest of the nation, returning to his native

land with a conviction that Western civilization is not the last word in the conduct of life, and that, although it may be suitable enough for some countries, there are parts of the East, at any rate, where its partial adoption only can fitly be attempted. There is no question of the Sultan's not enjoying his stay in Great Britain or of his admiration for the people and the achievements of this country, but no impartial observer of the Islamic East will doubt the wisdom of his belief that it should take from the West only that which is good for it, and not follow blindly the alluring path of mechanical progress, of physical comfort, and, one is bound to add, too often of religious indifference. In this respect the Sultan's attitude is similar to that of King Ibn Saoud, whose régime is certainly suited to the tribes whom he governs. That Sultan Taimur bin Faisal will have learned much from his sojourn in England is true, but the lines of his future governance of Muscat and Oman will, one imagines, be rather those of adaptation than of adoption of Western methods. Finally, we are glad to know that the health of His Highness has been completely restored in this country, and may be permitted to echo his own expressed wish—long life in his country, so that he may bring about the reforms that are near to the heart of himself and of his very able British Wazir.

The Curse of Newspapers.

Happy is the country that has no newspapers, although it be we ourselves who say it; and of Arabia in particular is that part to be called *felix* which has resisted the tendency of our modern age of progress to make of journalists kings. The more "advanced" sections of Arabia are, of course, full of news-sheets, often enough scurrilous sheets; and even the Hijaz and the Yaman now have their official organs, *Umm al Qora* and the *Iman*. Perhaps Muscat and Oman, whose Sultan has just concluded his visit to this country, alone of all the independent States in Arabia, still lacks a newspaper. In any case, it is unquestionably the activities of unbalanced journalists which are responsible for many of the troubles agitating the historic lands of the Arabic-speaking peoples. Take, for instance, the recent delicate situation existing between Iraq and the Najd. For every absurd Roland set about by Basrah and Baghdad, Mecca seemed to produce an Oliver; and so we had tales of numberless hordes of *Akhwan* ready to die, if necessary, in violating Iraq, or of a railway to be built in British Imperial interests from Aqaba to Basrah! Nor should stones be thrown too hard at newspapers in Arabic, for in Great Britain itself, where journalism is supposed, apparently with decreasing justification, to be a responsible duty, echoes of these particular absurdities were avidly seized and then "re-laid." The truth is that the liberty of the Press, an essentially Western, if not British conception, can rightly be invoked only by those who can distinguish between liberty and licence, or between information and rumour. The folly of general permission to publish has at last been perceived in Egypt, and one would hardly be surprised if the example of Mahmoud Pasha were increasingly followed in countries farther East.

A Row in Damascus.

These particular reflexions are prompted by a consideration of the recent trouble in Damascus. On October 1, a somewhat serious situation arose in the capital of the Syrian State. Towards the end of the previous month a new paper, *Al Nizam*, appeared, whose policy is stated to have been one of supporting the French Mandatory Power and of attacking the Nationalists. Now the Nationalists have recently been growing suspicious of Shaikh Taj al Din al Hassani, Prime Minister of the Provisional Syrian Government, and they at once jumped to the conclusion that Shaikh Taj al Din was subsidising *Al Nizam*. It is reported that the tone of this new paper was very low, attacks being alleged to have been made on opponents of the Administration and all sorts of intimate domestic

details have been raked up. Incensed by this defamatory method of dealing with the Nationalists, certain young men fell on the Editor, Fauzi Amin, and beat him. He soon obtained revenge by assaulting Fakhry Beg Baroudi, leader of the young Damascenes. This provocation apparently put the populace in an uproar. Many collisions with the police are said to have taken place, and at one time a general riot was feared. The police, however, finally secured order. The Nationalist leaders thereupon protested to the High Commissioner against the attack on Fakhry Beg, and stated that Shaikh Taj al Din's Administration had lost all respect and was a menace to the prospect of collaboration between the Nationalists and the Mandatory Power. Led by Hashim Bey al Atassi, President of the Constituent Assembly, a Nationalist delegation called on M. Veber, Assistant of the High Commissioner in Damascus; with the result that *Al Nizam*, like the Constituent Assembly itself, was suspended—but only for one month. Of course, this incident is not important itself, but it does illustrate the necessity of inducing a sense of responsibility and a regard for the decencies into the journals of the East. Cannot these ardent scribblers see that continuance of permission to them to dredge the gutter can only make more justified the frequent cry that the countries to which they belong are not ripe for self-government? It is not that the East lacks models in Arabic; there are a few newspapers in the Arabic-speaking world which can justly be looked upon with pride. And until approach is made, by less significant sheets, to their tone and standards, suspensions and suppressions must be expected to continue.

Trouble in the Hijaz.

Cases of disorder in the Hijaz have become so much less frequent since the conquest of the country by the Wahhabis that it is particularly interesting to note any instance of unwillingness to obey the commands of King Ibn Saoud's Administration. One thing about the régime in the Hijaz must, moreover, always be remembered; that if any trouble does occur, it will be magnified and distorted a hundred fold outside the Holy Land of Islam, where opponents of the Wahhabi conqueror still abound. And already misleading impressions of this last trouble with the Harb tribe have been set about. What actually happened appears to be this. About the beginning of September, certain visitors with one of the Shaikhs of the Bani Malik, a sub-section of the Harb, were murdered while staying at a place some 200 miles south of Taif, the "dream city" of the Hijaz. Such an act was, of course,

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a flagrant violation of all tribal custom, and as soon as news of it reached Mecca, a punitive expedition was dispatched. This force actually set out on September 10, and the guilty Shaikh immediately asked for pardon. But pardon to the guilty one, with whatever blandishments the guilty one may ask it, is not contained in King Ibn Saoud's book of conduct; and the expedition went on to capture the murderers. The Shaikh of the Bani Malik, however, is said himself to have escaped; and according to Shaikh Hafidh Wahba, King Ibn Saoud's representative in Cairo, relatives of the cowardly Shaikh, disgusted with his conduct, will bring him to book. Obviously, therefore, it is wise to examine very closely such stories as from time to time emanate from the Hijaz, or are manufactured outside it, of insurrection against Wahhabi rule; for the plain truth is that the Holy Land is administered with such efficiency—and it may well be that efficiency in the Hijaz, as almost everywhere else in the world, is not always the most popular goal—as it has not enjoyed for centuries. Wahhabi rule may or may not be permanent therein, but false rumour will certainly not undermine it.

INDIAN NOTES.

The Commission's Return.

Consistency has never been a virtue beloved of the politicians in any country, and India is certainly no exception to the rule. However much therefore we may deplore the circumstances in which it is exercised, we cannot but admire the pertinacity with which the leaders of the dwindling body of boycotters stick to their guns. With a candour worthy of a better cause Sir Purshotamdas Thakurdas, addressing a meeting at Bombay on the eve of the Commission's return, is reported to have said that it was one of the tragedies of India that they must listen to communal cries and could not sink their paltry differences when they saw at the door the common enemy. Those who were co-operating with the Commission, he declared, would without doubt before many days live to regret their action. Meanwhile the Commission has arrived and proceeded without untoward incident to Poona, where the first joint session, attended by all the members of the Committees of the Central and Bombay Legislatures, took place on Saturday. Whether the glorious uncertainty which always surrounds the precise time of arrival of the incoming mail steamer proved too much for the organisers of the local boycott movement, or the police precautions

were too complete, the fact remains that the widely advertised threat of a big demonstration at the Ballard Pier failed to materialise. In Poona apparently their efforts were even more unsuccessful. Representatives of all classes from different parts of India took part in the welcome extended at the railway station to Sir John Simon and his colleagues, and the scene, according to one observer, was comparable only to the *tamasha* which marks the occasion of the first visit from a new Viceroy. As was to be expected, the address of welcome stressed the importance of local administration in any system of representative self-government. And in his reply Sir John Simon struck the right note when he said that the Commission had come "with the single desire to contribute what we can, as friends helping India and her peoples along a difficult path." We are glad that, after the preliminary meeting, it was decided to admit accredited representatives of the Press and the public to the formal sittings which began this week with the oral evidence of the Bombay Government.

Indian States and the Crown.

On Monday the Indian States Inquiry Committee resumed its formal sittings with Sir Harcourt Butler presiding. Since the adjournment at the end of July there have been important developments in the plans of the Princes, whose joint case is being presented by Sir Leslie Scott. Ultimately, we understand, it was decided at a final Conference held in London in Sunday, not to submit to the Committee a detailed scheme for the adjustment of relationships between the States and the Paramount Power. As THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA has already indicated, considerable misunderstanding has arisen both in India and in this country regarding the Indian States' constructive proposals on account of the premature and entirely unauthorised publication of a document which was no more than a draft outline of certain tentative suggestions which were forwarded to the rulers of various States for discussion, criticism and comment with a view to discover "an agreed groundwork upon which a practical scheme might be worked out" by the members of the Special Organisation in England, in consultation with their legal advisers and Ministers of certain States. The decision not to proceed further in that particular direction is, we think, a wise one, for more than one reason. Counsel's opinion on the legal and constitutional aspects of the problem, communicated to the Committee by Sir Leslie Scott in July, leads to the conclusion that removal of existing difficulties by means of new machinery must be a matter of direct negotiation between the parties concerned—the Paramount Power and the States. The latter's Counsel, therefore, seeks now merely to show, that the existing arrangements are unsatisfactory and lead to considerable interference with, if not actual infractions of, treaty and other sovereign rights, and proposes to cite some 250 individual instances of such infringements. Sir Leslie Scott will, in particular, challenge the equity and efficacy of the existing arrangements on two main grounds (1) that they give the States no share in the determination of policy affecting either their relations with the Paramount Power or in matters of mutual concern to them and to British India and, secondly, the absence of any impartial method of arriving at decisions which affect the interests of the State or conflict with their interpretation of treaties or differences arising between them and the British Government.

H. M. Representative at Sofia reports that the Bulgarian Government has imposed quarantine restrictions on arrivals from the Piræus.

Marshal Franchet d'Esperey, who was at the head of the French delegation which attended the celebrations in connexion with the tenth anniversary of the breaking up of the Salonika front at Belgrade, arrived at Salonika at the end of last week.

An order has been issued by the Muslim religious authorities of the Haram ash Sharif, or Temple Area, in Jerusalem prohibiting the entry of Muslim women who are unveiled or show their arms or legs, and of Muslim men who wear European headgear.

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THURSDAY, OCTOBER 18, 1928.

YUGOSLAVIA AND GREECE.

The agreement reached by M. Venizelos with the Yugoslav Government during his short stay in Belgrade is eminently creditable to both parties. Outstanding questions between the two countries are to be settled on the basis of the Agreement of May 10, 1923, by which Greece ceded to Yugoslavia for a period of fifty years an area in the port of Salonika to be placed under the Yugoslav Customs Administration. The zone was to remain an integral part of Greek territory and under Greek sovereignty, but was to be administered by Yugoslav Customs authorities, the chief Yugoslav executive officer remaining under the control of the Greek captain of the port of Salonika. Yugoslav expectations of the Free Zone were not immediately realised, and claims were put forward for an increase of the area, as well as for more complete control within the Zone. In particular Yugoslavia was anxious to obtain either full possession of the railway from Salonika to Ghevgeli on the Greco-Yugoslav frontier or partial control of its management and administration. A subsequent agreement between the two countries was signed on August 17, 1926, by the Pangalist Government, a few days before the fall of the Greek Dictator, which went a long way towards giving Yugoslavia all that she wanted. This agreement was not ratified by Greece, and this year ratification was formally rejected by the Greek Chamber. The attitude of successive Greek Governments since the elimination of General Pangalos has naturally been a disappointment to Yugoslavia; but with the advent to power of M. Venizelos, and faced by the Italo-Greek Pact of Friendship, the Belgrade Government has wisely decided that it is no longer politic to allow the Free Zone at Salonika to remain an obstacle to the resumption of better relations with Greece. From a strictly commercial point of view, it may be doubted whether a separate Yugoslav Free Zone at Salonika is worth the trouble and expense entailed, now that a Greek Free Zone has been established and Greek management both at the port and on the Salonika-Ghevgeli railway has been materially improved. The Yugoslav Government, however, has had in view the contingency of war, and has hoped to be able in that event to use both the Zone and the railway for the import of munitions, on the strength of Greece's benevolent neutrality.

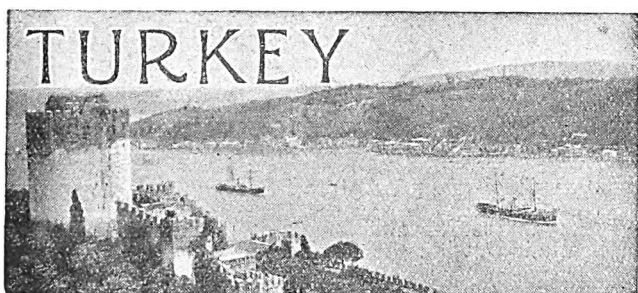
By her treaty with Italy Greece has prevented the possibility of any such arrangement with Yugoslavia. The latter country, therefore, is thrown back on the necessity of making the best terms that it can for the commercial exploitation of its Free Zone, and of neutralising, as far as possible, by a treaty of friendship with Greece any ill effects that it may have feared from the Italo-Greek Pact. It is to be hoped that the agreement signed on October 11 by the Yugoslav Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs with

M. Venizelos is prompted by something better than Yugoslavia's unwilling acquiescence in *force majeure* as implied in the Greek Prime Minister's diplomatic successes. Inspired at first by real anxiety for the furtherance of Yugoslavia's economic interests, the Free Zone at Salonika has been used, since the establishment of a Greek Free Zone at the same port, as a factor in the mistaken foreign policy that Yugoslav Governments have felt constrained to adopt. More recently there have been signs that it has at last been realised in Belgrade that Yugoslav claims on the hegemony of the Balkans led only to the isolation of Yugoslavia and her consequent exposure to complications outside the Peninsula. It would have been better if full appreciation of the real interest of the country had come before M. Venizelos found himself obliged to make a bid for Italian support in bringing Yugoslavia to a sense of her Balkan responsibilities. A pact of friendship and arbitration between Yugoslavia and Greece will have the appearance of consolidating peace in the Balkans. In reality, however, there is no danger of that peace's being disturbed in the near future, and what is required much more than paper pacts promising good behaviour is the practical co-operation of the different States in an attempt to translate their geographical unity and identity of interests into terms of material progress by the pooling of those interests and their joint resources.

At the present time no one is more clearly indicated as the artificer of a Balkan federation than M. Venizelos; and it may be that the separate pacts which he has set himself to conclude, with Yugoslavia and with Bulgaria, are a useful preliminary to such a federation. M. Venizelos, however, has shown that he finds himself cramped within the Balkan Peninsula and that he regards Europe as a whole as a fitter stage for his special abilities. One result of this attitude is that his commitments outside the Balkans may prevent the co-operation within that should be the goal of every Balkan statesman. Just as the Italo-Greek Pact—whether by design or not—must restrict any agreement between Greece and Yugoslavia, so there is a danger of a "regional pact" within the Balkans proving an obstacle to full co-operation between all the States of the Peninsula. Thus Greece, having been compelled to grant a Free Zone at Salonika to Yugoslavia, has to announce that she cannot do the same for Bulgaria, and discrimination, unimportant, perhaps, in itself, has already been introduced in the relations of States which should ultimately come together in co-operation on equal terms. Federation, to serve the practical purpose of advancing the interests, political, economic and social, of all the component States, will entail careful elaboration of details, and it would be unfortunate if M. Venizelos, finding this aspect of the task uncongenial, were to decide to postpone it beyond his time. The peace of the Balkans rests far more securely on the general attitude towards war to-day and on the existence of the League of Nations than on a pact between any two of the States. It is, therefore, a comparatively easy matter to draw up a pact of friendship and arbitration which it would be invidious on the part of a Government to refuse to sign. The statesman who will really deserve well of his country and of Europe is the one who can lead the Balkan States to that measure of practical co-operation which will enable them, conscious of their combined strength and, in consequence, indifferent to passing phases of European politics, to devote their attention to the material advancement of the Peninsula, which is in so many ways a century or more behind the rest of Europe.

*The Near and Middle East

From Our Own Correspondents.



Constantinople, October 10.

Bahatism in Turkey.

The existence of a secret society, called the *Behayie*, has been discovered within the last day or two by the police at Smyrna and, as a result of official investigations, five Turkish inhabitants of that town have been placed under arrest. As an outcome of this inquiry, it appeared that the Smyrna organisation is merely an off-shoot of a Central Committee established in Constantinople, the members of which consist of six Turkish Beys and an Armenian medical practitioner of some standing. The latter alone, curiously enough, has so far been interrogated by the Constantinople police, and the newspapers foreshadow the probability of further arrests. The Muslim members of the Society in Constantinople alone are reported to exceed one hundred.

From the tone of the Press, one is led to the conclusion

*Under this heading appear weekly or at regular intervals communications from correspondents in Egypt, the Sudan, Roumania, Yugoslavia, Greece, Bulgaria, Albania, Turkey, Cyprus, Palestine, Iraq, and Persia.

that, so far, at all events, the Turkish authorities, have looked upon the *Behayie* as a secret political organisation deserving of the severest disciplinary measures. To-day, however, a prominent Turkish lawyer has declared to a Press reporter that "Bahatism" has nothing whatever to do with political creeds or programmes, but the "Bahai" sect, although of Persian origin, has many adherents in European countries, mainly in England and also in America, and that the aims of this society are principally philanthropic, like those of the freemasons, its primary objects, according to the Turkish lawyer, being to inculcate among the lower classes a love for education, the emancipation of women, and the placing of the latter on a footing of equality with men. As the principal objects of the Society happen to coincide with certain aims which the Turkish Government themselves have very much at heart at the present moment, it would look as if the Turkish police, whose efficiency no one disputes, have on this occasion been placed in a very awkward quandary.

An official *communiqué* issued by the Chief of the Constantinople police to-day states that no arrests will be effected in the ex-capital until the inquiry in Smyrna has been completed. This probably means that no more will be heard of the matter, as it must be as patent to Turkish official circles as it has been for many months past to foreign observers that many Turkish recruits have flocked to the banner set up by Ahmed Bahai, who formerly belonged to either the Mevlevi or Bektashi divisions of the Dervish confraternities which were disbanded and disestablished by order of the Angora Government and to whom anything approaching mysticism, even in its most attenuated form, is as alluring to-day as it ever has been.

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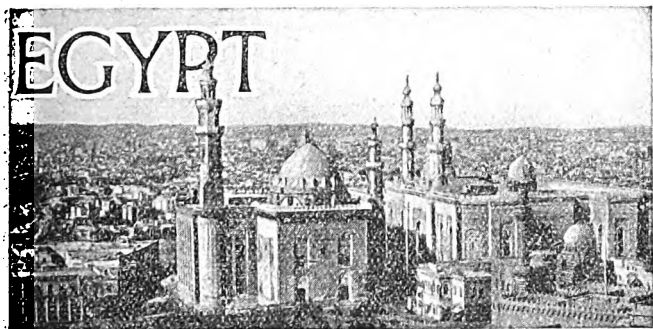
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Jaffa	4.070	3.240	4.560
Haifa	4.945	4.115	5.435

R. B. W. Holmes,
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The Ionian Bank.

It is regrettable that the only British financial institution which had considered it worth while to keep its doors open in Turkey should have at last deemed it expedient, after struggling against innumerable local adversities, to wind up its affairs in this country.

That the Ionian Bank has been encountering every possible hindrance to legitimate banking business, not only through bad faith on the part of certain of its local native customers, but also through official idiosyncracies and unfair competition following upon Government measures restricting the bulk of Treasury and currency business exclusively to recently created Turkish financial establishments, had been known for some time past to financial circles in this city. But that the situation had become serious enough to warrant so drastic a measure as the definite withdrawal from the Turkish money market of the latest British financial institution established in this country, must be recorded as constituting a very regrettable incident.



Cairo, October 6.

Sarwat Pasha's Funeral.

The funeral of Sarwat Pasha was an imposing affair, in every respect a fitting tribute to the statesman to whose patriotism and ability the country owes so much. One would, however, have liked to have seen more British residents in attendance; particularly in Alexandria was the absence of the British element noticeable.

The acting High Commissioner was prevented by doctor's orders from attending, having been confined to his bed for the three previous days. But he was represented by the senior member of his staff now in Egypt, Mr. Patrick Scrivener, Acting First Secretary, and by Mr. Graffety Smith, the Acting Oriental Secretary. Contrary to custom the King's representative, Tewfik Nessim Pasha, followed the coffin right up to the graveside, a gratifying mark of distinction of which the public was not slow to take note.

By contrast with what happened on the occasion of the funeral of Saad Zaghloul Pasha a little over a year ago no disorderly scenes marked the passage of the cortege through the streets of the Citadel. In fact the general public who thronged the route maintained wonderful order. This was probably partly due to the fact that the present powers that be, not regarding the intervention of the mob as an essential concomitant of public occasions, no longer distribute largesse to the leaders of these demonstrations. On the other hand, no effort was made to ensure any order of precedence in regard to those who followed the gun-carriage. Beyond the family, the King's representative and the Premier, who managed to retain their places immediately behind the bier there was no standing on the order of going and the official representatives of some of the more important Powers found themselves once again mixed up with the very much lesser fry in a manner which, even though they bore it good humouredly and showed no resentment, should not be allowed to become a feature of these official ceremonies.

Persians in Egypt.

The return of Hassan Pasha Nashaat to Egypt preparatory to taking up his new duties as Minister in Berlin has been delayed owing to the Treaty of Amity with Afghanistan, which has been negotiated as the result of the recent visit of King Amanullah. It is proposed that Nashaat Pasha shall proceed to Kabul to present the treaty to the King for signature and then return via Bombay. It had been hoped that before the time came for him to leave Teheran a conclusion would have been reached in the discussion that has been going on with Persia in regard to the position of Persians in this country. Hitherto under an agreement made with Turkey many years ago Persians in Egypt were amenable to the native jurisdiction in criminal matters, it being necessary, however, that a representative of the Persian Government should always be present when any of its nationals came before the native courts. In civil and commercial matters Persians, being foreigners, came before the Mixed Tribunals, while in matters of personal status their Consulates alone have been competent. The abrogation of the Capitulations in Persia and the imminent promulgation of a new Nationality Law in Egypt caused the question of the position of Persians in this country to be raised, and the difficulty has so far been that the Egyptian Government has wanted to make Persians amenable like other non-Capitulatory foreigners to the native Courts in civil and criminal matters and to the Mahkhameh Sharia in matters of personal status. The Persian Government, on the other hand, has insisted that special consideration be given to its nationals, and to this Egypt has not unnaturally and quite rightly objected. It is possible that the question will be settled very shortly, but not in time for Nashaat Pasha to sign the agreement before he leaves for Kabul and Egypt.

Meanwhile the new Egyptian Nationality Law is about to be promulgated. It has just been finally examined by the *Contentieux de l'Etat* and amended in regard to certain provisions which Parliament very stupidly inserted. The most important of these was the proviso that anyone who is allowed to assume Egyptian nationality must wait ten years before he or she can enjoy any of the political rights attaching thereto. The Government quite reasonably regards this as too exacting and quite illogical, for, if anyone is considered good enough to be allowed to become an Egyptian national, it follows that he must be good enough to exercise the political rights attaching to that nationality. Except for that alteration the law will be promulgated in the form already explained in this correspondence and its signature by the King will not be long delayed now, for the Government wants to get this important question regulated as soon as possible.

The "Egyptian Gazette."

The *Egyptian Gazette* is warmly to be congratulated on its decision to appoint Mr. A. Stanley Parker as its



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Editor in Chief and Manager. A keen and able journalist with an attractive personality and pleasing style, Mr. Parker has for many years acted with conspicuous success as the paper's representative in Cairo, deputising on occasion for the Editor in Alexandria during his absence from Egypt. He has made a large circle of friends, who rejoice at his well-merited preferment and will one and all be ready to render him all the assistance they can in making the *Egyptian Gazette* what it has never been but should be, an organ doing credit to the great community which it represents. Already its pages have manifested changes for the better—which serves as an earnest of what it is hoped and confidently expected Mr. Parker will achieve in the near future.

The New State Audit.

The question of the *Cour des Comptes*, State Audit, is once again to the front, and the name of Ismail Sidky Pasha is freely mentioned as the only serious candidate for this post. The *Cour des Comptes* was proposed during the lifetime of the last Parliament and a Bill creating it was passed by the Chamber. The duties of the new Department will be to audit the expenditure and receipts of the Government. It is true that there already exists a State Audit, but its functions are very different. For one thing it is dependent from the Ministry of Finance, whereas the new Department, while it will be in close touch with that Ministry, will be entirely independent, and its head, having himself the rank of Minister, will have power to call the attention of individual Ministers to what he considers irregularities and insist on immediate rectification of the irregularity. The original Bill made the head of the *Cour des Comptes* responsible only to Parliament, but since the latter has been suspended for three years the measure has had to be referred to the *Contentieux* for the necessary amendment making the Department answerable only to the Premier. It is expected that before long the amended measure will come before the Council of Ministers and receive its approval.

No better candidate for the post could be found than Ismail Sidky Pasha. He has had wide experience, not only of the general administration of the country but also of its financial and economic activities, and he is recognised by all parties as possibly one of the ablest administrators and certainly the greatest financial and economic expert Egypt possesses to-day. He enjoys universal respect in this connexion amongst the European communities, and his appointment to the Supreme Audit would certainly be a further guarantee that the finances of the country would be conducted on sound lines. The difficulty in regard to his appointment seems to be the directorships which he at present holds. It would, of course, be wholly incompatible with the responsibility and the right of access to any document in the possession of the Government which he would enjoy, for him at the same time to be on the boards of public companies, any of which might at any moment have important questions having a financial or economic bearing to discuss with the Government. But it should not be impossible to arrange that the emoluments and allowances attaching to the Directorship of the *Cour des Comptes* should compensate him for what he may lose by abandoning his present

financial and commercial interests. If, as every one agrees, Sidky Pasha is the one man for this important post, then the question of regulations in the matter of pay and allowances should not be allowed to stand in the way of the country's securing his services. Already once before Egypt suffered very severely owing to shortsightedness in a similar respect, and it is to be hoped that the Government will show that it has profited by that costly experience.

ROUMANIA.

Bucharest, October 10.

The Political and Economic Situation.

The Press and the business public are still mainly pre-occupied with the loan question. All appear to be agreed as to the importance of a speedy conclusion of the negotiations, and all are convinced that a foreign loan is the only possible means of relieving the present economic situation, which is daily becoming more critical. Many large business houses and important industries are finding themselves in financial difficulties, and no money is to be had anywhere. The failure of the maize crop has not only created poverty and want among the peasants in a number of provinces, but has also deprived the country of important revenues in export taxes. The general poverty which follows upon a poor harvest in this country immediately reacts upon trade generally, by reducing the purchasing power of the community. Some of the industries have consequently been obliged to reduce their output by 30 per cent., with the result that less labour is employed and many industrial workmen are left without a means of livelihood; nor can they, as in a year of abundance, turn to the land to find work, for there the situation is no better and hundreds of peasants are seeking casual work in the towns. The long drought has so hardened the ground in many districts (in the southern part of Oltenia it has not rained for five months) that it is impossible to proceed normally with the autumn sowings; fortunately, however, conditions are not equally bad all over the country and sufficient rain has fallen recently in Transylvania and in northern Moldavia.

The principal commercial paper of Roumania, *Argus*, in pointing out how indispensable a foreign loan is, states that the Budget deficit up to date amounts to nearly 8 milliard lei (including the Railway deficit), and adds that State Departments, especially the Railways, are having the greatest difficulty in meeting ordinary payments and all have reduced their orders for materials this year in comparison with previous years.

In fact, *Argus* paints a very black picture of the situation, as it will be, unless the loan is secured before economic conditions have become so unstable as to render the legal stabilisation of the leu imprudent. It is, however, no use going to meet trouble. The Government appears at present to be doing all in its power to obtain the loan, and, if it succeeds, the serious crisis may yet be evaded. If it fails, then perhaps the Opposition will have a long-looked-for opportunity of proving the superiority of its policy and administration. As regards administration, there is plenty of room for improvement.

Roumano-German Negotiations.

The latest news appears to indicate that the negotiations with Germany for the settlement of claims arising out of the War are drawing to a successful conclusion. Roumania is reported to have agreed to resume the service of pre-War loans issued in Germany, and in return Germany has agreed to pay a certain compensation for the issue of lei notes made by the Banca Generala during the German occupation of Roumania. The anxiety of the Roumanian authorities to conciliate Germany in every possible way is made evident by their change of attitude towards German trade and German subjects generally. Since the War all German property has been regarded as

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fair spoil, and it was most difficult for Germans in this country to establish any rights or to obtain redress for any wrongs, while a large section of the public refused to speak German and boycotted all Roumanians who remained in Bucharest during the German occupation. Every effort was made by the authorities to favour French and British trade and to place German imports at a disadvantage. Now, however, the tide has turned, thanks largely to German astuteness and perseverance and to the careful way in which they have played their cards, making judicious sacrifices to gain an ultimate advantage. Now the Roumanian authorities openly state in the Press that the principal trade of Roumania in the future will be with Germany, as the Germans understand their market and know how to cater for it; all claims of German subjects are expeditiously dealt with and the sequesters on "ex-enemy property" raised, while German goods are pouring into this market and several factories have recently been established in Roumania with German capital.

Union of Austria with Germany.

As regards the proposed *Anschluss*, however, the Roumanian Press still maintains a suspicious attitude and is inclined to cry out for adherence to the Peace Treaties, as the ultimate result of the union is held to entail the placing of Roumania as a small wedge between Germany and the Russian Empire.

Marshal Pilsudsky in Roumania.

Marshal Pilsudsky has been having a "rest cure" in Roumania for the last six weeks or so. He has been visiting a friend, Dr. Skupieviski, at his summer villa in Targovishte, but about ten days ago he came to Bucharest and has been fêted on all sides. Marshal Pilsudsky has been in touch with the leaders of all the principal parties in this country with a view to sounding public opinion generally on its attitude towards a friendly alliance with Poland. He has everywhere been received with assurances of friendship and with warm enthusiasm. A reception was held in his honour at the Polish Legation in Bucharest, which was attended by Roumanian officials and the Diplomatic Corps.

Aeroplane Trials.

The Roumanian Ministry of War is considering the purchase of several aeroplanes, and several machines have been sent over from France, Great Britain, Czechoslovakia and Sweden, which are now daily being put through their trials. A Vickers aeroplane with a Napier-Lyon engine, for bombing and general service, was brought out by Captain Scholefield, who left Croydon aeroplane one morning at 5.35 a.m. and arrived in Bucharest at 7 p.m. the same day, thus making the most rapid direct flight from London to Bucharest yet on record. An Avro-Napier single-seater fighter is also being demonstrated, and a small two-seater piloted by Lt. Summers. Among the competitive machines are a Swedish "Junker," a Dutch "Fokker," a French "Bourdon" and others.

CORRESPONDENCE.

The columns of THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA are open for the discussion of subjects of general interest to its readers. The publication of such letters must not be taken, however, as indicating that the views expressed by the writers are those of THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA.

CYPRUS PROBLEMS.

To the Editor of THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA.

Sir,—The Colony of Cyprus has made great progress during the last year. This progress has been to a large extent the result of the Governor's enterprise and his keen desire to push every effort for the Island's benefit. Though much has been achieved, something remains to be done.

Under Turkish law all land belongs to Government. A man who holds property and who has no children must leave all to Government—if he has a nephew or a niece, he cannot leave it to them.

Mulk property can be obtained from Government, but it is only for a small property, a house and garden: this, of course, is freehold and can under certain conditions be left by will. The Colony of Cyprus wishes to go ahead. Land can be leased only for nine years. What inducement is there for a man to invest thousands in an estate which, unless he has a family, is bound to go to Government? What is wanted is a law cancelling the Turkish Law and making the land absolutely free from all obstruction.

The Head of the Forest Department has written a book on goats. He advocates bringing the goats down from the hills and introducing them in greatly reduced numbers to the plains. Goats, however, supply a portion of the meat consumed in the Island, and any diminution of this must be made up in some way. Sheep must enter in. And sheep can be got in Asia Minor, as in the old days 40 years ago. They could be brought in free or be placed in quarantine. These are two of the main points to be considered, and, if any settlement were made, it would bring peace and joy to the Island.—I am, etc.,

GEORGE L. HOUSTOUN.

Kyrenia, Cyprus, September 20.

M. Venizelos lunched with King Alexander on October 11 and left Belgrade for Athens the same day.

Sir Philip Sassoon, Under-Secretary for Air, who returned to Cairo from Khartoum on October 9, flew to Baghdad the following day on his way to India. He left Basrah for Karachi on October 13.

Mr. Bouwer, the young South African who, with his wife, tried to complete the journey by car from Cairo to Capetown in 40 days, arrived there at 1.30 p.m. on October 10, having completed the journey from Cairo in 40 days and 30 minutes.

The King of Afghanistan recently announced that, although he hoped to introduce the Cabinet system, he would have, for the present, to be his own Prime Minister, as Sher Ahmed Khan, whom he had invited to form a Cabinet, had been unable to do so. His Majesty also announced that he had appointed Ghulam Sadiq Khan as his Minister for Foreign Affairs, and Mohamed Wali Khan as permanent Regent in the case of his absence from his capital.

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CALCUTTA LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Calcutta, September 27.

The Statutory Commission.

The Committee of the Central Legislature has been formed. It consists of three persons elected by the Council of State; namely, Sir C. Sankaran Nair, Sir Arthur Froom, and Raja Nawab Ali Khan, and four others invited by the Viceroy to serve—Sardar Shivadev Singh Uberoi, Nawab Zulfikar Ali Khan, Sir Hari Singh Gour, Dr. A. Suhrawardy, Mr. Kikabhai Premchand, and Rai Bahadur M. C. Rajah. The very dissimilarity of those six Indian names to such names as John Simon and the English names of Sir John's colleagues is eloquent of the depth of the difference between the Indian constitutional question and those constitutional questions that during the centuries since Magna Carta have perplexed England and her statesmen. The task of the Statutory Commission will be none the easier for the lack of interest in India that prevails in Great Britain.

My private mail from England often brings me word of the deadening effect of the lack of interest—I may consult well-informed writers in England as to the chances of some book on India, only to be told, with varying degrees of emphasis, that no book about India has any chance whatever in England; that if of the forty-odd millions three or four hundred persons buy each a copy, it is as much as the author of the most illuminating book has a right to expect. Unfortunately, that is true. And two days ago a young Indian, just returned to India after four years spent in studying engineering in the south of England, called on me, seeking my aid in an attempt to infuse some knowledge of, and interest in, India into the English masses. I replied, with a sad smile, that hardly would a man of great genius succeed in that, and the young man went sorrowfully away.

The Bengal Provincial Committee of the European Association has presented its own memorandum to the Simon Commission. While the local Committee endorses the principles and general policy of the General Council of the Association, it has its own proposals to make. These, as summarised in the *Statesman*, are:—

The abolition of the Executive Council.

That there should be a Ministry responsible to the Legislature.

That there should be a Second Chamber.

The abolition of the practice of nominating officials to the Council.

The maintenance of a strong cadre of Europeans in the Civil Service and the Police.

Vocational education.

The Legislative Assembly.

The Simla Session of the Assembly is over. It is believed to be the first session to begin and end without the passing of a single Bill of importance. The Public Safety (Removal from India) Bill, described by the *Statesman* as "the whale to catch a sprat" (you will remember, perhaps, what one has reported of the apostolic activities of a young man whose name the phrase "catch a sprat" brings to mind), was lost by the casting vote of the President. The Trade Disputes Bill only got so far as to be circulated. The Press Bill never got beyond the introduction stage. The Coastal Trade Bill got no farther than a Select Committee, and so on. The fact is, apart from the Public Safety Bill, and the discussion of it, the session was taken up by questions such as the separation of the Assembly Secretariat from the Legislative Department and the insinuations in certain quarters impugning the conduct of the Chair. Those are questions of burning interest in Simla itself, but of much less heat in Calcutta,

and how cold they may be expected to leave London. So I do not propose to trouble you further with them. If the Assembly has not passed much legislation, the members have done what the logic of the times made more important work for them; they have cleared their minds about the Nehru Report and such like things. Those have a far deeper importance than the immediate question of whales and sprats or coastal trade or the age of consent.

Bengal Irrigation.

The question of irrigation in Bengal presents itself to me as infinitely more important than any constitutional question. I have once or oftener called attention to the work that Sir William Willcocks did in Bengal last cold weather. The last time I drew attention to a speech of the Member in Charge, pooh-poohing his arguments. They deserved something better. Sir William has taken them more seriously, in a letter to *Indian Engineering*. He writes: "Engineers, like me, who have spent the best part of their lives, not contemplating, but working on rivers, do not need to sit on the bank of a river for 365 days to know all about it. Give me the river Ganges for many years [*sic*]; give me an ideally complete map of the behaviour of the river on a length of 35 miles for a score of years; give me velocity and section observations for a dozen years; all of which the Hardinge Bridge engineers kindly gave me; give me as companions a Superintending Engineer and an Executive Engineer with local knowledge and keen on the job; give me a good launch with permission to stop where we liked and as long as we liked, as those in authority kindly gave me; and I back myself to know that river in flood or out of it very much better than if I had built myself a cabin on its bank and had stared at it for a twelve-month." In another passage: "When I saw the abandoned canals of Babylonia I thought I had seen the last stage of abandonment; but Central Bengal can show an abandonment more complete and absolute."

Dr. Friedrich Freiherr von Villani, Hungarian Minister at Bucharest, is to be transferred to Paris, where he will shortly take up his duties.

Raja Bahadur of Nashipur has been appointed Minister in the Bengal Government in place of Sir Provas Mitter, who is now an Executive Councillor.

Raja Kushalpal Singh, an important Agra Zemindar, has been appointed to the Ministership of the United Provinces, which was rendered vacant by the resignation of Raja Jagannath Baksh Singh, following the Legislative Council's motion of no confidence.

The *London Gazette* announces that the King has ordered the appointment of Sir Geoffrey Fitzhervey de Montmorency, K.C.I.E., K.C.V.O., C.B.E., Governor of the Punjab, as a Knight Commander of the Most Exalted Order of the Star of India.

According to a Bombay message Mr. Eric Dunstan, general manager of the Indian Broadcasting Company, and a number of other European members of the staff have resigned owing to disagreement with the board of directors on questions of policy.

As all its members have accepted the invitation to serve, the Egyptian Government last week confirmed the composition of the International Commission to report on the heightening of the Assouan Dam, as follows:—Mr. Binnie, nominated by the president of the Institution of Civil Engineers; Mr. Cooper, an American, who before the War investigated the possibilities of obtaining hydro-electric power from the dam; and Herr Grüner, a Swiss (the last two are nominated by their respective Governments). The Commission will elect its own chairman and start work in Egypt on November 8.

An Alexandria message states that the British Air Survey has sent two aeroplanes to Port Said to make an experimental air survey in Egypt similar to that which the British Aircraft Company successfully undertook in September. These experiments are being made, according to *The Times*, in view of the probability that the Egyptian Government will call for tenders in connexion with the general survey of Egypt, which will be necessary as the Government intends to enforce the system of land registration which has hitherto not been generally adopted. A credit of £3,000,000 was recently opened to cover the cost of a survey and of the introduction of the registration system.

THE MASSES OF INDIA.*

BY THE HON. SIR PHIROZE SETHNA, O.B.E.

(Concluded.)

But the economic aspect is only one aspect of the problem. Man cannot live by bread alone, is as true of the masses as of the classes. Their mental development must also be looked after. A system of primary and vocational education suited to their needs must be established on a compulsory basis and they must be brought increasingly under its operation, so that within the next decade illiteracy will be banished, the intellectual moral and civic awakening that comes in the wake of education will take place and they will attain, in due course, a standard of existence, not only material but also moral and civic, not inferior to that attained by the masses in the advanced nations of the West. The educational problem in its relation to the masses is sadly neglected. Compulsory Education Acts have been placed on the Statute Book, but little progress has been made in the actual introduction and spread of compulsory education. The state of things in this respect is highly scandalous. The supreme duty of every Provincial Government, if they are really earnest in their desire to elevate the masses, is to lay down a programme of compulsory primary education and to adopt every measure, financial or otherwise, for carrying it out completely within a decade. The responsibility for introducing compulsory education must be taken away from local bodies and assumed by Government themselves. The financial measures that may be necessary for the purpose must be adopted without fear.

There is one important aspect of the problem of improving the general level of life of the masses which is apt to be forgotten and therefore deserves to be stressed. An important feature of the Montagu-Chelmsford Reforms, with all their defects and limitations, is that they have recognised this aspect. In a striking passage, the report on the Reforms says:—

"We believe profoundly that the time has now come when the sheltered existence which we have given India cannot be prolonged without damage to her national life, that we have a richer gift for her people than any we have yet bestowed on them, that nationhood within the Empire represents something better than anything India has hitherto attained, that the placid pathetic contentment of the masses is not the soil on which such Indian nationhood will grow, and that in deliberately disturbing it we are working for her highest good."

There can be no doubt that the masses have been disturbed, and that they are no longer leading a life of placid, pathetic contentment. It is also true that Indian nationhood cannot grow on such contentment. It is a thoroughly sound policy to awaken and disturb the masses, even though the first fruits of such disturbance and awakening may not be quite satisfactory. If India is to have democratic self-government and if that democratic self-government is to be a reality, the placid life of the masses must be deeply stirred and they must be educated in the rights, duties and responsibilities of self-government. They will make mistakes while the process of training goes on, but such mistakes ought not to deter us from the chosen path, and do not constitute a justification whatever for going back. Certain unhappy features of our present political life, such as the abuse of the franchise in some cases, the stress on communalism which marks the policy of some parties have made some people doubtful about the wisdom of establishing

a system of direct election or placing the franchise on the fairly broad and liberal basis which exists at the present moment. And suggestions are being made that we should revert to the system of indirect election or raise the franchise instead of lowering it still further or even maintaining it as it is. Such suggestions are short-sighted, they are born of impatience and make no allowance for the slow growth among the masses of a right democratic spirit and principles. The use of liberty in its first or early stages is bound to be marked by mistakes or failures but that is no reason for withholding or curtailing it. Our faith in the masses, which is, in fact, the basis of democratic self-government must not be shaken or weakened by any mistakes or failures on the part of the people. Those mistakes and failures afford no ground for denying or restricting liberty, they simply mean that leaders, instead of distrusting the masses, ought to do their best to educate the masses. The right policy is not to resort to indirect election or to withdraw the franchise from any of those who enjoy it, but to spare no efforts to educate the masses in the duties and responsibilities of citizenship.

It is not possible within the limits of an article like this to attempt an exhaustive treatment of the subject. But I have indicated some of the basic considerations which must enter into a real and permanent solution of the problem. There is one more consideration to which I shall refer before I conclude. The elevation of masses will be greatly promoted by frequent free and sympathetic contact between them and the intelligentsia. Village life must be enriched by the wholesome influence of wealthy educated men. The wealthy intelligentsia of Bombay should purchase lands in villages, take interest in agriculture and agriculturists, spend at least some of their holidays there, instead of always going to hill stations and aim at exercising a wholesome and progressive influence upon village life. Our Hindu and Muhammadan friends particularly should freely mix with the village folk of their communities, take a personal interest in their concerns and pursuits, initiate and encourage self-improving activities among them and above all impress upon them the great necessity of cultivating friendly relationship, no matter what be the religions they follow, and thus become fountains of life and light, elevating and enriching village life in all its aspects, and thereby contribute to the general progress and welfare of the Motherland. The great Italian statesman, Cavour, whenever he was out of office and free from parliamentary work, used to go to his villa in the village of Leri and take an active and sympathetic interest in all the concerns of the villagers. While his stay and work in the village restored his own freshness and vigour of mind, it also infused new life into the village people and raised and enriched their general tone and spirit. Our wealthy educated men must in the same way make it a point to stay in the villages at least during the holidays and identify themselves with the interests, the welfare and the progress of the village people. There can be no doubt that in this way the general condition of the masses cannot but show steady improvement, and the movement for rural reconstruction and elevation receive great accession of strength. The yawning gulf that at present divides the life of the city and that of the village will be bridged and the levels of both will gradually approximate to each other as much as possible, making allowance, of course, for inevitable differences and limitations. The potential qualities and virtues of the Indian masses are of such a high order that when their economic condition is sensibly improved, when the barrier of illiteracy that at present stands in the way of their intellectual development is removed and education spreads among them to the same extent as in Great Britain, France, America or Japan, and when they attain a fair measure of training in the duties and responsibilities of self-government, they will not fail to play their proper part in the national life of India and become powerful instruments for promoting the ends of national and human progress.

* The first part of Sir Phiroze Sethna's article appeared in the issue of THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA of October 11.

Book Reviews

THE EAST A GENERATION AGO.

"A DIPLOMATIST IN THE EAST." By Sir Arthur Hardinge (London: Jonathan Cape. 16s.)

This book in the nature of things must be one consisting mainly of anecdotes. But an anecdote well told and in a good setting becomes history, and without any question there is in these very readable memoirs of Sir Arthur Hardinge abundant and very welcome material for the historian of certain places in the East at about the turn of the century. The style of the book may fall a little short of distinction, but the matter is good, emphatically good.

Sir Arthur Hardinge left Russia in 1889 for Constantinople, where he was under Sir William White, who was that not unique type—a man possessed of brilliant gifts in certain directions, notably Slav, but unfamiliar with Islam. Much of the work of the Embassy in Constantinople was concerned with the Capitulations, which had, in Sir Arthur's words, "protected, ever since the sixteenth century—but have now, to the discredit of the Great Powers of Europe, ceased to do so—the rights of foreign subjects against oppression at the hands of the Ottoman authorities and tribunals." But Sir Arthur also had time to travel and live among the Turks; he learned the language, and altogether gained an insight into and sympathy with Islam which he preserved to the end of his diplomatic career.

Of Egypt and Palestine Sir Arthur has many tales, to tell, some of them quite new to us. There were certainly giants in those days—the last years of Tewfik Pasha's reign. It is interesting to note the good words which the *Chargé d'Affaires* at this time here sets down in favour of Arabi and of Al Azhar.

But it is his years in Zanzibar and in Persia which really form the core of Sir Arthur Hardinge's book. The pages on Zanzibar, however, intensely interesting although they are, fall rather outside the scope of *THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA*. Suffice it to say, therefore, that Sir Arthur's time in Zanzibar (which was once, of course, ruled jointly with Muscat, whose Sultan the British people has just been entertaining) was spent largely in tackling the problem of suppressing the slave trade. As Political Agent and Consul General in Zanzibar (to which he was appointed in 1894) Sir Arthur took up what appears to have been a very sensible line between the sentimental and the practical points of view. He saw clearly that predial slavery was doomed, and rightly doomed; but that its abolition must for economic reasons be slow. His charge at Zanzibar brought him, of course, into touch with such personalities as Sayyid Hamid bin Thwain, Sir John Kirk, and, perhaps above all, Sir Lloyd Matthews, the Sultan's Prime Minister, all of whose characters he sketches with delightful cleverness and skill. These chapters on Africa are, indeed, first-class historical material for a period which is too often neglected—too often, because many of the problems then to be found still remain in other parts of the world than East Africa.

To be appointed British Minister to Persia was, one imagines, almost the crowning joy of Sir Arthur Hardinge's life. He was genuinely in love with Islam, in the first place; and in the second place few countries could have so afforded him the opportunity for the exercise of his patriotic instincts. At this time—he went to Persia in 1900—Russian influence in Persia was strong and very persistently anti-British. But before describing that Sir Arthur sketches briefly the history of Persia and of British relations with this land of the Shah. We like particularly his recalling of the fact that Nasreddin Shah visited London in 1873: he remembered it well, for—"I was, at that time, an Eton boy, and my form master and tutor, Mr. Marindin, made us write a Latin poem on the subject, telling us that we might call the Shah Achæmenides, a delightful suggestion, as 'Clarus' or 'Magnus'

Achæmenides made up the whole half of a pentameter."! Two other stories of Nasreddin Shah (told to the author by his father) we cannot forbear to quote:—

On visiting Trentham, he noted the numbers and the size, efficiency and arms of the local Yeomanry and Volunteers, who paraded before him and before the Prince of Wales under the command of the then Duke of Sutherland. "Are you not afraid," the Shah was said to have asked the Prince, "to permit one of your own future subjects to command so large and so well-equipped an army? You know your own business, of course, a good deal better than I can; but, speaking personally, if I were you"—and here he stopped, pointed to the Duke with his right hand, whilst significantly passing his left across his own throat and then said, in an audible whisper—"that, I think, might perhaps prove to be, in the long run, your wisest and safest course."

Nasreddin Shah was a good deal interested in our methods of capital punishment and was, it was said, very desirous of seeing a criminal hanged. It was alleged, in fact, that on learning, when at Newgate, that no victim was available for the purpose, he turned to a member of his staff and uttered a few words in Persian. No sooner had he spoken than two of his courtiers were seen dragging forward a pale and protesting third, whom the Shah wished handed over to the hangman in order that he might himself obtain an opportunity of judging of the precise effect of the drop, and it was only with great difficulty that he could be persuaded to release the man.

From which it will be seen that Sir Arthur lacks little of the skill of the Persian in embroidering a fanciful tale.

The Diplomatic Corps at Teheran, from the Turkish Ambassador and the Russian Minister downwards are described in most interesting detail. Of the Russians' extraordinary reticence and of their attempts to belittle Great Britain, and of the British endeavours to enlarge the prestige of the Empire and to support the activities of Britons connected with Persia, this chapter provides an admirably frank record. Particularly is it interesting to read how the Russians were worsted in the granting of the d'Arcy concession for oil. One more quotation we will allow ourselves, for it gives a key to Sir Arthur Hardinge's opinion on the Persia of to-day. He has been speaking of the secret joy of the Persians at the defeat of Russia by Japan, and continues:—

The destruction of the Russian fleet by an Asiatic Power was one of the main indirect causes of that national, if ill-managed, revolutionary attempt to overthrow the ancient polity of Persia, which broke out in the following year, and the ultimate effects of which, in our own day, it is still far from easy to predict. The methods and ideals of the revolutionary leaders were foolish and, in the long run, more disastrous than the old corrupt despotism itself; their ultimate effects are still difficult to gauge, nor is there any hopeful sign of a new leader who can bring back a really stable order and such securities for internal peace as were provided by the earlier Kajar Kings. But Persian patriots may, perhaps, derive some consolation from the fact that their great Russian neighbour is even now in a more melancholy condition than their own, and that, as old commonplace has it, the darkest hour still precedes the dawn.

The author of this book has his prejudices, as, indeed, any man who had spent so considerable a part of his life in the East must have, but, whether justifiable or not, they certainly add spice to a book which, as we have indicated, should be read not only for the sake of the tales which it contains, but also, in a more serious sense, for the real light which it throws upon the events and personalities of a generation ago which are not sufficiently dusty to have been uncovered and yet are, so to speak, already on the shelf.

CURZON IN INDIA.

"THE LIFE OF LORD CURZON." Vol. II. By the Earl of Ronaldshay (Ernest Benn Ltd. 21s. net.)

It was Lord Curzon's desire that the story of his Indian Viceroyalty should be treated fully and by itself, and Lord Ronaldshay, in this "authorised biography," has fully carried out this wish. But the very nature of the task undertaken by him has imposed on him the duty of giving a picture of Lord Curzon as Viceroy, which is a very different thing from writing a history of Lord Curzon's

Viceroyalty. We have to look on everything through Lord Curzon's eyes. Now, there were and are many other possible points of view and all are necessary if we are to see things historically. No doubt there are, just at present, too many inhibitions which cannot decently be disregarded and it will be necessary to wait some years before the period can be calmly worked on and presented in proper perspective, but it is right to point out that this defect exists and not to conceal that the value of the book necessarily suffers from it. With this limitation we have nothing but praise for the way in which Lord Ronaldshay has carried out the immense task he took on himself in loyal service to his friend. As we expected, we find throughout intimate understanding of and sympathy with India. And, as we also expected from so accomplished an author, we find a book well written and well arranged. We cannot sufficiently admire the ease with which he, with his very different temperament, has succeeded in, as it were, putting himself inside the skin of his subject.

Artistically, the method of keeping Lord Curzon throughout in the lime-light has the effect of making this volume take on to us the guise of Greek tragedy. The Gods gave the hero many great gifts. He was a man of bluest blood and highest ideals. He had carried all before him in his own land and was felt by all to be a leader of men. He was gifted with an immense power of industry and an iron will; he was a lover of righteousness and a hater of all mean things; he had long and carefully prepared himself for the task which he yearned for; he had not only conceived great ideas but had given them reality, largely through his own personal work; he was at all times ready and willing to give all that was in him to the service of the country whose ruler he was and with which he had at least one quality in common, in his reverence for the past and his love for beauty. He came to India full of enthusiasm and hope, cheered by the feeling that his friends at home shared these feelings while the inhabitants of India welcomed him as an ideal governor.

But these were unfortunately not his only gifts bestowed on him by the Gods. He had always been a sick man and was never without pain, and this fact, which was perhaps not sufficiently realised while he was alive, necessarily intensified his intellectual defects. For he was abnormally self-centred and self-sufficient. He was seldom able to use his colleagues as such and his temperament made it difficult for him to see the good points in others or in their ideas. He was never able to put himself in imagination in another man's place and too often wounded and trampled on men whom he could have used. He was ever impatient of control and even of criticism.

And the whole story is that of the inevitable victory of the dark against the shining qualities. It is a fine, splendid, proud story of great deeds greatly carried through by a great man, but it is an intensely tragic one.

The fact is that, while Curzon was in most ways an ideal man for his post and while he fully justified the King's choice by his magnificent achievements, the very isolation of an Indian Viceroy and the opportunities (so tempting to him) of exaggerating that isolation by the possibilities offered by Oriental conceptions of state fed his intellectual defects, while his constant, ungrudging and self-forgetting devotion to the enormous tasks imposed by him on himself seriously intensified his bodily sufferings and so brought to the surface qualities which, had he been blessed with a robust constitution, he might well have been able to keep under subjection.

As it was, it is hard to imagine a more tragic ending to a Viceroyalty begun with such abundant promise and carried out with such brilliance than his departure from the scene of his triumphs. The British Government had preferred to accept his resignation rather than confirm his decision (which was clearly right) on a matter of administration on which he differed from his Commander-in-Chief. He felt that Lord Kitchener had not fought fairly and that he had been deserted by his friends at home and misunderstood. He was sore at heart, ill

and weary himself and his wife, his tender love for whom was the most winning of his qualities, was already suffering seriously from the physical effects of devotion to her husband and to India which were soon to cost him her life. Nor was the irony of Greek tragedy wanting. For this typical English Tory aristocrat, ruling India with benevolent but almost absolute autocracy, did more than any man of his time, or before or after it, to bring about the great revolutionary changes which we are now looking on at and which, whatever they may finally result in, have at least made anything like a repetition of Lord Curzon's wonderful six years in India an impossibility.

C.S-W.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

- "With the Foreign Legion in Syria." By John Harvey. (London: Hutchinson and Co. 12s. 6d. net.)
 "Bahadur Khan, Warrior." By "Afghan." (London: Herbert Jenkins. 7s. 6d. net.)
 "Paganism in Roumanian Folk-Lore." By Marcu Beza. (London: J. M. Dent and Sons, Ltd. 7s. 6d. net.)
 "The Rainbow of Saba." By Major George Bruce. (London: Thos. Nelson and Sons, Ltd. 7s. 6d. net.)
 "Daughters of India." By Margaret Wilson. (London: Jonathan Cope. 7s. 6d. net.)
 "The Victorian Age in Politics, War and Diplomacy." By Harold Temperley. (Cambridge University Press. 2s. 6d. net.)
 "African Jungle Life." By Major A. Radclyffe Dugmore, F.R.G.S. (London: Messrs. Macmillan and Co. 15s. net.)
 "Armenia and the Near East." By Dr. Fridtjof Nansen. (London: Allen and Unwin. 15s. net.)
 "Genghis Khan: Emperor of all Men." By Harold Lamb. (London: Messrs. Thornton Butterworth, Ltd. 10s. 6d. net.)
 "Village Uplift in India." By F. L. Brayne. With a Foreword by H.E. Sir Malcolm Bailey, K.C.S.I., C.I.E., I.C.S. (London: Pioneer Press of India, Ltd., and W. H. Smith and Son's bookstalls. 3s. 6d. net.)

Admiral of the Fleet Sir John Michael de Robeck, G.C.B., of Southwick Crescent, Hyde Park, W., who commanded the Allied Naval Forces in the Dardanelles and at Gallipoli, left £32,765.

Thirteen Counsellors of the Egyptian Court of Appeal, including its President, Talaat Pasha, were retired on October 12 and King Fuad signed the Decree appointing their successors, including Abdel Aziz Pasha Fahmy, a former Minister of Justice, as President of the Court. All kissed hands and took the oath on appointment and took their seats in the Court the following day.

Among recent acquisitions by the Library Department of the British Museum may be mentioned a beautifully written Arabic MS. volume, dated A.D. 1270, containing, among other philosophical works, a translation from the Greek of the allegory of Salaman and Absal. The Department of Egyptian and Assyrian Antiquities has been enriched, according to *The Times*, by a collection of Early Bronze Age objects from Persia (c. 3000-2000 B.C.); also by a bronze cat with original gold earrings of about 600 B.C. The Greek and Roman antiquities have been added to by the acquisition of a marble sarcophagus of the 3rd century A.D. sculptured with a spirited composition (not quite entire) of cupids racing in chariots in the circus, one horse in the act of falling. The Government of India present to the trustees a number of objects discovered during Sir Aurel Stein's last expedition to Chinese Turkestan, in recognition of the assistance afforded by them to Sir Aurel's work in England. These antiquities have been in the Museum since they were brought to this country. The National Art-Collections Fund has given a Persian pottery vase of Rakka ware (13th century A.D.), and other acquisitions for the Department of Ceramics and Ethnography include a painted plaster figure of a new type from Bahrain, four Chinese gourd cricket-cages, with carved ivory and jade covers, and a Böttger (Dresden) ware teapot of about 1712, with enamelled decorations, a ware so uncommon that only one other specimen of it is in an English public collection. It is announced that the exhibitions of the Ur collection will be closed on October 27, and those portions of it which are due to be returned to the Department of Antiquities at Baghdad and those to be sent to the University at Philadelphia will be represented at the British Museum by electrotypes.

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THE WEEK AT HOME

London, Tuesday Morning.

The Problem of the Liberals.

All the three political parties have now had their annual Conferences, and the mists are gradually clearing away to uncover the probable course of the General Election next year, on which, alone, of course—deny it how they will—the majority of politicians are casting their eyes. Idealists do exist who will not bend their theories to what they imagine will be popular approval, but each party has laid out its programme in the hope, intention, and belief that it may gain a major portion of the votes of the unintelligent populace.

For the last few days everybody has been discussing the problematical position of the Liberal Party, which is so rich in the possession of moneys and of brains, and so poor in men and personality. To judge by the reports, not even the galvanising superficiality of Mr. Lloyd George could get the Yarmouth Conference really going. The Congress, for all the world like Nero fiddling, preferred to squabble about trivial details.

It was, therefore, in the nature of a timely commentary upon this futility that the result of the Tavistock by-election was announced contemporaneously with the Conference. The Liberal candidate, it is true, was but narrowly defeated, but to the Party in its present state of puzzlement, a miss is something much more than a mile. Of what use is it to point out that the victorious Conservative member was elected on a minority vote? For no one is a more genuine or bitter critic of the Liberals than the strict Socialist.

One cannot see, then, that Mr. Lloyd George will find much response in the country to his declaration that there is a vast territory of fertile ground on which men of Progressive minds might unite. In denying the possibility of giving unconditional support to a Labour Government, he was, of course, tactically correct, in that he did help to explode the favourite Conservative thesis that the only alternative to Conservatism is Socialism. But sticklers for conviction will recall to mind that he who sups with the Devil must have a long spoon, and some will even be found to assert that, if the Liberals ever again consent to accompany the tiger, they will meritedly suffer the fate of the young lady of Riga.

Really the Liberals are in melancholy plight. If they could not win at Tavistock, it is difficult to talk of their

advertised "revival." They remind one of Carlyle's dead leaves, which must be alive—"else how could they rot?" Or of "As You Like it"—"hour by hour we rot and rot, and thereby hangs a tale." And that tale is largely one of internecine strife. To say that Mr. Lloyd George is now trusted by all men who still call themselves Liberals would be, like the report of Mark Twain's death, a gross exaggeration. One half of the Party profoundly mistrusts him. And so it is perhaps better for us, who admire the history and the services of a famous Party, to let the dead bury their dead.

Politicians and the Church.

The world has just been enriched by the spectacle of Lord Birkenhead and Sir William Joynson-Hicks taking diametrically opposed views upon the Bishops' recently expressed attitude towards the rejection by Parliament of the Revised Prayer Book. The Home Secretary has long, of course, been known as an uncompromising Evangelical, but the spiritual side of Lord Birkenhead's nature may possibly have been forgotten except by those who remember Chesterton's immortal verse: "But the souls of Christian people—chuck it, Smith!" Most unfortunately, Sir William has discovered reasons of country and party for not continuing this highly edifying discussion on the iniquity or correctness of the Bishops. Without a renewed lead from either of these experts, what shall the poor layman do?

Even worse, however, has befallen us, for according to the *Sunday Times*, which certainly ought to know, Lord Birkenhead is to relinquish the position which he has so long adorned, and for which it will be so difficult to find an adequate substitute (etc., etc., etc.), of servant of the State. The appeal of business has broken down even Lord Birkenhead's eminent attachment to the public demonstration of inflexible Tory principles; and he is now to go to an East that is nearer than the one which he was popularly supposed to have cherished, and to which only the highest command that his services should be retained in this great heart of the Empire inhibited his going.

If Sir William Joynson-Hicks knew of Lord Birkenhead's imminent departure from Whitehall, it is a thousand pities that the nice little quarrel should ever have been started. Politicians obviously cannot realise how we hang on their every word, especially when it pertains to matters of the spirit.

Troubles at Cambridge.

I have before mentioned the formation of the Cambridge Preservation Society, an excellent institution which followed the admirable lead of Oxford in saving the historic University town from the hand of the vandal. As it happens, the new Society at Cambridge is undergoing much travail of spirit because the Town Council is playing dangerously with the idea of pulling down the arches and bridges at the top of the Backs by Coe Fen (the King's Mill and the Bishop's Mill), of substituting a concrete bridge over a stepped cascade and of placing a tea garden on Crusoe's Island!

This would sound funny, were it not so near to reality. The only way to defeat the Philistine is by active opposition. Mere belief in the indestructibility of mediæval structure that has been sanctified by generations of scholars is of no avail whatever. For the utilitarian is not only ever with us, but is also, in this mechanical, money-grabbing age, increasingly so.

Within their own limits, of course, the Colleges of Cambridge are able to take action against the barbarians. It so happens that in another instance the barbarians are undergraduates themselves. Certain Colleges have just declared that it is unlawful to play any music that is not suitable to the piano or violin. This, of course, means the prohibition of the monstrous tribe of "jazz" instruments, which are wholly incompatible with either the dignity or the serenity of Cambridge.

In the better, olden days, gramophones and pianolas



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were a curse, but they could always be stopped by human intervention—either by request or by protest. College laws were unnecessary in that far-off time before the War.

The Countryside.

Everyone knows how England is being disfigured by the mass of hoardings, petrol pumps, jerry-built houses, and so on, which are erected with such distressing speed, but it is hardly realised, one thinks, that unless this vile process is controlled, England in, say, two generations, will virtually have disappeared. It is to make general such a realisation that the Conference on the Preservation of the Countryside met last week-end at Leicester.

So far the efforts of lovers of our countryside have been for the most part confined to the "saving" of this or that spot; a hill-side is, after much endeavour, preserved by the National Trust, or a private individual snatches from the avaricious jaws of America a row of Tudor cottages. But a collection of beauty spots is really no compensation at all for what was once the English countryside of our poets, our yeomen, our architects.

To see what may happen, unless the commercial spirit is checked, one need turn back only to the time just before industrialism invaded our fair land. A hundred and fifty years ago Staffordshire and Yorkshire and Lancashire were all over as beautiful as certain sections of these counties still are to-day. It is for the present generation to see that motor cars and motor roads do not produce such eyesores as the slums and smoke of the Black Country and of the industrial North. The movement of preservation must begin with local patriotism; there need be in it no reactionary attitude towards mechanical progress, but simply a determination to see that because a company produces very good cars or very good oil or very good concrete, the advertising of that fact does not offend all sense of taste and decency.

ALTER EGO.

NEWS IN BRIEF.

The Skupshtina re-assembled in Belgrade on October 12 after the summer recess, which has lasted two months instead of the usual one.

The Bulgarian Government is understood to have sent the text of the Turco-Bulgarian Treaty of Arbitration to Angora, and hopes that it will be signed at an early date.

The 10th Hussars, from Hounslow, under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel Greenwood, sailed from Southampton on October 9 for Egypt to relieve the 15/19th Hussars, who are going on to India.

The King-Regent of Abyssinia has presented gold medals in honour of the occasion of his coronation to the members of the Diplomatic Corps and the Colonial Governors. Over 40,000 troops and 200,000 people took part in the celebrations.

An earthquake which was felt in Angora on October 4 completely destroyed two villages in the region of Kaledjik, ruined seventy per cent. of the villages of Koulbit, Halat, Sassapez, and Inkati, and did much damage in thirteen others. No loss of life is reported.

The excavations on Mount Ophel, which Mr. J. W. Crowfoot, director of the British School of Archaeology, is conducting on behalf of the Palestine Exploration Fund, have resulted in the unearthing of the great Necropolis, which is probably the site of the tombs of the ancient Kings of Israel.

It is reported from Suaïda that the French Governor of the Jabal Druze has given commissions to Shaikh Hamza al Darwish, the Qaimaqam of Salkahd, formerly a prominent leader of insurgents, and two other local officials, and instructed them to raise troops of Druze horse.

Peter Traikoff, an adherent of the late General Protogueroff in the Macedonian Revolutionary Organisation, and two of his companions, were attacked on October 12 in the centre of Sofia by partisans of Ivan Mihailoff, the new leader of the M.R.O. When attacked, Traikoff fired several shots at his assailants, and in the affray five persons were badly wounded. The Turkish Military Attaché, Yahya Kerim Bey, who happened to be passing at the time, also received a slight wound. Traikoff was very seriously wounded; his two companions are dead.

PUBLIC WORKS IN EGYPT.

Not the least important part of the programme mapped out by the Egyptian Prime Minister on the occasion of his declaration of the new Government's policy was the decision to press on with big public works designed to extend the area of cultivable land in Egypt. Mohamed Mahmoud Pasha referred in particular to four projects: the further heightening of the Aswan Dam, the construction of the Gebel Aulia Dam, the piercing of a canal in the Sudd region and the construction of a reservoir at Lake Albert, and he added that all these projects had long been the subject of investigation and required only to be carried out. A start was to be made with the first two schemes.

The first step in connexion with a further increase in the height of the Aswan Dam has been the appointment of an International Commission of three experts—an Englishman, an American and a Swiss—who are to report on the project. As the Ministry of Public Works has already satisfied itself that the re-heightening of the Dam is a feasible engineering proposition, it is taken for granted that the Commission will confirm this view and will select the one which appears to it to be the best of the three or four detailed plans that have been prepared for carrying out the work. The Dam, it will be recalled, was begun in 1898 and finished in 1902. Its height then attained an average of 25 metres. In 1907 the work of adding a further five metres was begun and completed in 1910. The object now in view is to double the present capacity of the reservoir, which is about 2,400 million cubic metres, by adding seven metres to the height of the Dam. The estimated cost is £E3,500,000.

The Dam at Gebel Aulia on the White Nile above Khartoum has been the subject of no little controversy. The ability of the land that will be submerged to retain the water owing to the permeable nature of the soil has been challenged, and it has been feared that the compensation to be paid to the natives whose land will be flooded will render the cost of the undertaking prohibitive. It may be taken for granted that the character of the ground above Gebel Aulia will be duly tested before the scheme is carried out. With regard to the compensation to be paid to the inhabitants, the question is now being investigated whether it will be possible, after water has been stored, to open the sluices of the Dam at such a period as will allow for the growing of an annual crop over a wide area before it is covered again. If this is found to be the case, it will not be necessary to transfer so many inhabitants elsewhere, and less compensation will have to be paid.

Several schemes have been suggested for dealing with the Sudd area, but it is not yet known which is the most likely to be adopted. The problem is to provide the Nile waters as they enter the Sudan with a free course, so as to prevent their being held up in the Sudd area and being distributed over a wide region, where they not only suffer from evaporation, but also lose in volume from the amount absorbed by the papyrus and other Sudd growths.

If Egypt is to place under cultivation the maximum area that the configuration of the land will permit to be irrigated, she needs to have at her disposal twelve thousand million cubic metres of water. The heightened Aswan Dam and Gebel Aulia will provide up to the half of this amount; for the rest it is considered that the country must rely on training and drainage works in the Sudd area, together with the formation of a reservoir at Lake Albert.

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THE SULTAN OF MUSCAT AND OMAN.

His Highness Sir Saiyid Taimur bin Faisal bin Turki, who during his last week in London paid visits, among other places, to the Guildhall, where he was received by the Lord Mayor, the Port of London, Cambridge, the National Gallery, the Royal Courts of Justice, and Kempton Park Race Course, had the misfortune on October 11, at the Royal Air Force Display at Hendon, to witness the tragic accident to the two airmen. This sad event deeply affected the Sultan, and he chose after it not to appear in public at places of entertainment, although previously he had been visiting theatres, cinemas, and so on every evening.

The Sultan referred directly to the Air Force fatality at Hendon at the banquet given in his honour by the British Government at Claridge's Hotel on the same evening, October 11. Over this function Sir Robert Holland presided, and among those present at the dinner, in addition to Saiyid Theeyab, His Highness's A.D.C., Mr. Bertram Thomas, his Wazir, and Mr. E. E. Beare, of the Government Hospitality Committee, were:—

Major-General Sir Percy Cox, Field-Marshal Sir Claud Jacob, Brigadier-General Sir Gilbert Clayton, General Sir Havelock Hudson, Sir John Shuckburgh, Lord Monteleale, Sir Muhammad Rafique, Air Vice-Marshal Sir Sefton Brancker, Captain G. H. Lang, Lieutenant-Colonel A. P. Trevor, Sir Malcolm Seton, Group-Captain R. P. Ross, Lieutenant-Colonel S. B. A. Patterson, Mr. H. W. W. McAnally, Mr. D. T. Monteath, Captain R. St. P. Parry, R.N., M. L. D. Wakely, Mr. L. Oliphant, and Mr. J. G. Laithwaite.

In proposing the health of His Highness the Sultan, Sir Robert Holland said:—

"We are here this evening to welcome a guest whom His Majesty's Government delights to honour, the Sultan of Muscat and Oman. I should like to say at the outset that I know it is a matter of keen regret to the Secretary of State that he is unable to be present here in person this evening to welcome our distinguished guest. You are aware of the melancholy reason to which his absence is due. This gathering is the culmination of an entertainment which has extended over the past month, and which to any who glance at His Highness's itinerary since his arrival on September 15 appears to have been remarkably arduous and even at times adventurous. It is in itself a testimony to His Highness's physical energy, freshness of mind and receptivity. His Highness's experiences have also included, though by no means at the instigation, or even with the connivance of His Majesty's Government, an operation for appendicitis. We may regret the necessity for this, but now that the anxious moment is safely past, we may congratulate His Highness on his wise choice of a guide through the valley of danger and on the happy result, seeing that he is with us to-night in full health and vigour after his exacting tour.

"His Highness, by the time he returns to his remote capital, will have seen a good deal more of our country, and perhaps of the Empire, than we who live here are usually privileged to see in the course of our lives, and we hope that he will carry away with him a favourable impression and many pleasant memories.

"Those of us here this evening who have visited Oman know that it is a far cry from Claridge's to Muscat, and that His Highness's country and capital are of no mean importance in the East. I may mention, for the information of those who have not been there, that His Highness is an independent potentate who has commercial treaties with the Governments of France and of the United States, as well as with His Majesty's Government. He has 1,100 miles of coast line in the South East of Arabia, as well as the ancient and interesting town of Gwadar on the Persian side of the Gulf. Zanzibar, now a British Protectorate, was once attached to the Sultan of Oman, and a considerable subsidy is still paid under the Canning Award of 1861 to Oman in regard to Zanzibar.

"Muscat itself is a place which no one who has been there can recall without a throb of the blood. Were I to attempt to tell you its history, it would take hours; but this evening, in the few moments available, I may recall only the belief or legend that Muscat was the traditional home of the Phœnicians, and that its seas were, therefore, the cradle of the world's navigation, that it was the stronghold of the Portuguese when they tried to dominate the East, that it had witnessed and withstood many a wild attack and many a long-drawn siege, that Napoleon sought to establish relations with the great Sayid Sa'id who ruled Oman in the first half of the nineteenth century, and who presented a fine frigate to our Navy and received in exchange another, the 'Prince Regent,' that Muscat has been the safe and hospitable anchorage for our ships in many stormy and critical times, last and not least in the Great War, that it has been and is an entrepôt for our trade with the Gulf, and that it was from Muscat as a base that, with the help of His Highness's distinguished father and of His Highness himself, the arduous and successful operations were begun for the suppression of the arms traffic to the opposite coast which had created such a grave peril for the frontiers of India. Lastly, the name of Muscat must always be honourably connected with measures for putting down the slave trade. In their

long campaign against this evil, the British Government has always been able to rely on the Sultan's ready and whole-hearted support.

"England has therefore good cause to be grateful to Muscat, and the events of the past two centuries have welded our interests and sentiments in a bond of enduring friendship.

"I am sure that those present here to-night who have visited Muscat or served there would wish me, in welcoming His Highness amongst us as an old friend, to offer a tribute also to the memory of his father, the genial Saiyid Faisal Bin Turki. As a young and inexperienced political officer I owed personally much to his wisdom and consideration and sense of humour and his kindly hospitality, and I often recall his fine presence, his unfailing joviality, and his courage in the face of constant troubles which would have broken the spirit of a lesser man, and lastly his staunch friendship for the British. We who knew him intimately grieved at his going, and to his son Saiyid Taimur we say, 'upon him be the peace of Allah.'

"Saiyid Taimur has ruled his country since 1913, a period which has been full of eventful happenings for the State, and which has seen the introduction of many improvements and reforms in the administration under his Highness's guidance. The Customs Department, which provides so large a share of the revenues of the State, has been reorganised, roads have been improved, schools established, an extensive public works programme has been initiated, and the finances of the State have been placed on a sound footing with the assistance of a British Wazir, Mr. Thomas.

"His Highness, in his efforts to improve the condition of his State and his subjects, has unfortunately been handicapped in the past by ill-health, and in the Muscat climate health is a matter which has to be considered very carefully. The climate for the greater part of the year is probably more trying than anywhere else in the world. A Persian poet described it in the words, 'and here the panting sinner receives a foretaste of his future destiny.'

"Anyone whose fortune it has been to experience the deadly hot wind which blows sometimes for seven days at a time in Oman will know that this couplet is by no means an exaggeration. We may hope that His Highness will return to Muscat refreshed and reinvigorated by his voyage and by the medical treatment which he has received, and we wish him all success in dealing with his heavy responsibilities and the difficult problems which confront him.

"His Highness has invariably taken great interest in aviation developments, and recently took a flight over London from the Croydon Aerodrome. He afforded ready assistance recently to British officers both in Oman and Gwadar when investigations were being made by the Government of India with reference to the feasibility of an air route along the Arabian side of the Gulf. We trust that His Highness will long be spared to rule over Oman and to bring to fruition the schemes which he has inaugurated for the benefit of his people and the developments of the State."

His Highness said in reply:—

"It is a great privilege and a great honour for me to be here to-night to respond to the toast which you have given so cordially; and I am profoundly touched by the kind personal references made by my old and trusted friend, Sir Robert Holland, not only to me but also to my revered father. It is gratifying to know that old Muscat associations are remembered with kindly feelings, and I on my part rejoice to see another distinguished and loyal friend of my father's and of mine and of Muscat at this banquet to-night, namely, Sir Percy Cox.

"I welcome the opportunity that this occasion affords to pay a tribute to the qualities of this great nation. I had quite naturally, before setting out from my country, formed ideas of the wonders I would see. These were based on what I had read, and more chiefly on what I was told. But the realisation has far exceeded anything that I had imagined, and I feel I was not told the half. I have toured over 3,000 miles through the length and breadth of the land, and I am lost in admiration for its great civilisation and also for the charm of your lovely countryside. There are other experiences, too, which have filled me with admiration. The graciousness of the King Emperor when he received me, the delightful hospitality of your Government, and the warm welcome I have everywhere received at the hands of the people will always remain with me as cherished memories.

"Sir Robert Holland's references to my co-operation in the suppression of the arms and slave traffic are very kind; the policy is one that I inherited from my father.

"My port at Muscat, as Sir Robert has said, is often visited by British ships of war, and I am glad to think that it is popular with them. My country's friendship with the British Navy has always been a traditional policy, and I am delighted to see that the Royal Navy is represented here to-night by my friend and recent shipmate, Captain Parry, late Senior Naval Officer of the Persian Gulf.

"I thank Sir Robert for his appreciation of my support of the party of British officers who last year investigated the possibilities of an air route along the Arabian side of the Persian Gulf. My Wazir, Bertram Thomas, conducted this party across northern Oman. My interest in air developments I feel to have been quickened by the flight Sir Sefton Brancker took me for, and by the wonderful Royal Air Force manoeuvres I have witnessed to-day. But these, alas! were marred by a fatal accident which has filled me with grief, which I cannot find words to express. I was deeply impressed by the heroic manner in which the proceedings under Air Vice-Marshal Scarlett were carried on, and which I understand is in keeping with the tradition of your great Royal Air Force. It was indeed a wonderful spectacle of courage, and this mitigated the sadness in my heart for the gallant airmen.

"There is only one word to add. I must again say how much I have enjoyed my visit to this great and friendly country. I pray God that he will send my own country peace and prosperity, and that my health may improve so that I may have the strength to shoulder the duties to my country."

The Sultan, with his aide-de-camp, Saiyid Theeyab, left London for France on October 14, Mr. Bertram Thomas and Mr. E. E. Beare accompanying His Highness as far as Calais. The Sultan intends to remain in France, Switzerland, and possibly Italy for about three weeks, and will then go to Egypt to meet his second son. From Egypt he will leave for Oman by sea.

THE PRESS IN THE NEAR EAST.

Echoes of the Great War.

While her neighbours are celebrating the tenth anniversary of their victories on the Salonika Front, Bulgaria has had her memories of that occasion revived in a different manner. The heirs of the late General Lukoff brought an action against the ex-Minister, M. Dobri Petkoff, for having libelled the General's memory in a pamphlet entitled "The Guilty in Bulgaria's Catastrophe," and in the course of the trial both the present Bulgarian Prime Minister, M. Liaptcheff, and a former Prime Minister, M. Malinoff, were called as witnesses. The latter testified to the fact that he had stated at the time in a secret session of the Sobranie that he considered the break in the Bulgarian line at Dobro-Polye to have been brought about by an act of treachery. He had been led to this belief by what General Franchet d'Esperey had said to M. Liaptcheff at Salonika and by the fact that subversive influences had been at work along the front. The most interesting part of M. Malinoff's evidence was to the effect that M. Liaptcheff, who negotiated Bulgaria's surrender, had been offered a draft treaty much more advantageous to Bulgaria than that which was subsequently signed. "But a few hours later," he continued, "M. Venizelos arrived, and it was then that the project which was signed was submitted to him." M. Malinoff held that the Bulgarian troops had no desire to act treacherously or to revolt, but that "their psychological condition had been adversely exploited by Stamboulisky's people."

M. Liaptcheff, who headed the Bulgarian mission to the Allies' headquarters, his colleagues being General Lukoff and M. Simeon Radeff, confirmed M. Malinoff's statement. The mission insisted that it had come to Salonika to undertake negotiations in the spirit of President Wilson's Fourteen Points. "M. Liaptcheff not only refused to talk with M. Venizelos, but was also unwilling to meet him." The first armistice proposal, the outcome of negotiations between the Bulgarian mission and Generals Franchet d'Esperey and Charpy, "contained conditions relatively more favourable to us. After the arrival of M. Venizelos at Salonika, the situation underwent a change. The Bulgarian mission was confronted with the Armistice treaty that we know and was forced to sign it." M. Liaptcheff also testified in favour of General Lukoff, and said that, when General Franchet d'Esperey referred in conversation to his having "people of his own" in Sofia, he (M. Liaptcheff) never imagined that he referred to General Lukoff, but supposed that Stamboulisky and his prison entourage were indicated.

It was left to General Guekoff to bring the subject back to stern military facts. The break-through on the Bulgarian front, he declared, was a result of the operations in the Western theatre of the War. Moreover, the Allies had 550 guns and 5 well-equipped Divisions against Bulgaria's 150 guns and 2 Divisions.

The Court found M. Petkoff guilty of libel and sentenced him to one year and two weeks' imprisonment.

The Greek Offer to Bulgaria.

Although discussions for a Greco-Bulgarian pact have not yet been officially inaugurated, M. Venizelos has made it clear in various utterances that he hopes to negotiate a treaty of friendship and arbitration with Bulgaria on

the lines of the Greco-Yugoslav treaty-to-be. To this end Greece is prepared to grant Bulgaria every facility for her trade through the port of Salonika, short of giving her a separate free zone, and M. Venizelos has stated that he thinks that Bulgaria will find this arrangement of more value than a corridor leading to Dedeagatch, "which would involve much expenditure and would serve only the regions already served by the port of Bourgas." The Greek side of the question is put more clearly by a Salonika newspaper, *L'Indépendant*. Under the heading "Dedeagatch or Salonika," this paper writes:—

"As between Salonika and Dedeagatch there ought not to be any hesitation from any point of view. If Dedeagatch were decided upon, it would be necessary to start *de novo* there, to create a suitable port and a free zone. That would entail extremely heavy charges for the State Budget, already overweighted. Salonika, on the other hand, possesses an admirable port and a free zone, which has only to be enlarged and improved. But there is another consideration of much greater importance which ought to exert the greatest possible weight on the Government's decisions. Dedeagatch is a small town which suffices for itself. Its erection into an outlet for Bulgarian commerce would create needs and must attract from outside the forces and energy necessary to supply those needs. In other words, the creation of a free zone in this locality and the orientation by this route of Bulgarian traffic do not constitute for Dedeagatch a vital need.

"For us, for the town of Salonika, on the other hand, this constitutes an indispensable necessity. In the space of a few years our population has grown very considerably. The number of our merchants has increased to an alarming extent. We have much stoppage of industry, many hands without work. Our Free Zone needs to be enlarged and to assume numerous activities in order to help as much as it possibly can the campaign against malaria, which is rife in Salonika. The Government consequently ought to do all that is humanly possible to extricate our trade and our economic activity from the stagnation in which they are struggling. An opportunity presents itself. The Treaty of Neuilly provided for the grant of facilities to Bulgarian trade in regard to the Aegean. Greece is ready to execute this clause. Ought not advantage to be taken of it to ensure for Salonika, on whom the problem of her economic future sits like a nightmare, a new factor, if not of prosperity, at least of work? In connexion with the directing of Bulgarian trade through our town a special point must be made of the linking up of the Greek and Bulgarian railway systems. Fortunately, those who are responsible for guiding the destinies of the country do not dispute the utility of a junction of the railways of the two States. And that, not only from the point of view of Bulgarian traffic through our port, but also from the point of view of our supply of certain foodstuffs. Bulgaria has an abundance of poultry, cereals and milk products. These goods we are obliged to-day to obtain through Serbia, with the result that they are sold for much more than they would cost if they could be supplied direct (from Bulgaria). There would thus be a double advantage from the attraction of Bulgarian trade through Salonika."

In the face of this naïve admission on the part of the Salonika newspaper, M. Venizelos will not be able to lay stress on the friendliness towards Bulgaria that prompts his Salonika offer. The wonder is that Greece has not long ago pressed upon Bulgaria the need for the joint construction of the short stretch of railway line required to join the Bulgarian and Greek systems between Petritch and the Salonika-Seres-Dedeagatch Railway.

On the invitation of M. Peshitch, Yugoslav Minister in Sofia, the British and French Ministers in the Bulgarian capital started on a shooting tour in Southern Macedonia on October 12, when they left Sofia for Skoplye.

According to the latest reports from Yugoslavia, the Patriarch Dimitrije, whose condition recently gave rise to considerable anxiety, has made a complete recovery.

L'Indépendance Roumaine, the semi-official organ of the Roumanian Government, announces the return to Bucharest on October 6 of Prince Nicholas "from England, where he took part in the manoeuvres of the English Fleet."

Sir Arthur Salter arrived in Sofia on October 10 in connexion with the ratification of the Greco-Bulgarian agreement, which relates to payment for the property of Greek and Bulgarian refugees which was liquidated by the Mixed Commission. Sir Arthur left Sofia on October 11 via Salonika for Athens, in order to discuss the agreement with M. Venizelos.

Colonel Harry Cooper, C.M.G., whose death occurred suddenly in his 82nd year on October 8, took part in the Ashanti War, the Burmese Expedition, and the Dongola expedition. Among the various posts he held may be mentioned those of Vice-Consul in Bosnia and Asia Minor, A.D.C. to the Viceroy of India, and Chief Staff Officer of the army of occupation in Egypt.

A PECULIAR PEOPLE IN IRAQ—I.

BY E. S. STEVENS.

Since scholars have had in their hands the once secret books of that notable and curious remnant of a race known as the Mandaean, or Sabaeans, much has been revealed of their faith, which has little in common with either Islam or Christianity, but is a hybrid Gnosticism in which traces of Babylonian cosmogony and ancient Aryan faiths are found. But few, even among scholars, have come into actual contact with the Mandaean themselves and gathered their traditions from their own lips.

For centuries this curious people have lived their life according to their religious tenets among their Muslim neighbours in Iraq, keeping their blood unmixed and their traditions unviolated. Their language, reserved now almost entirely for religious exercises, is not that of their neighbours, although to-day all speak Arabic; their religious writings are written in a peculiar script of their own. They work principally at two trades, silver-working and boat-building, and their silverwork, decorated by figures and scenes inlaid in antimony, is distinctive and artistic. Few people have passed through Iraq without having seen these handsome, bearded craftsmen at work in their little shops, often labelled "Christian of St. John Baptist," and many have bought souvenirs upon which are engraved, often with genuine talent, scenes of river or desert life, the arch at Ctesiphon, or the tomb of Ezra. There is a melancholy beauty about these white-skinned, dark-haired men, with their remote eyes and fine physique, which arouses the curiosity, and when they are old there is hardly one of them that could not earn his living in an artist's studio as model.

I do not intend to enter into their religion in this article except as it touches the astrology by which they regulate the most important acts of their lives. I have lived eight years in Iraq, and, knowing personally the two *ganzowros* or "bishops" who are respectively the heads of the community in the Amara and Nasiriyah districts, have been inquisitive enough, from time to time, to inform myself concerning the traditions and practices of this interesting people as they exist to-day. I have been to see the tiny *mandi* (church) of reeds which, as far as I know, is the only existing place of worship they possess. This is at Suq-ash-Shuyukh, the headquarters of the boat-building section of the Mandaean. I have assisted at a two hours' baptism in the river at Amara, with its preliminary purification. I have inspected the dress of purity worn during religious ceremonies, and the utensils used at them, seen the sacred *paytho* (sacramental bread) baked, and the sacrament administered.

Much of my information was given me by Shaikh Dukhayl, the Nasiriyah bishop, although Shaikh Joda, the bishop of Amara, also contributed valuable items, particularly on the faith. Both are fine-looking patriarchs with large families, and Shaikh Dukhayl, like Abraham, has two wives. It is a rule of the Subba (Mandaean) community that no physical defect or blemish must be found on the person of a priest, and as the priesthood usually passes from father to son, the priests are, as a rule, fine figures of men. Although Shaikh Joda's little son is already a deacon, Shaikh Dukhayl intends to depart from tradition and to put his sons into other trades and professions. It is no longer possible, he thinks, to make a decent living as a priest. To begin with, the race is dying out and grows smaller every year, and secondly, under a settled Government, the powers and fees of the priests tend to lessen. The Civil Courts have taken over many of the functions which the *ganzowro* once exercised, and although all marriages must be performed by him, and questions settling domestic difficulties referred to him, his emoluments are not what they were. Nor is the demand for copies of the sacred books what it was formerly. Copying the sacred writings is the monopoly of the priesthood, also the casting of horoscopes and making of amulets. Shaikh Dukhayl once sent me a

brass amulet inscribed with Mandaean characters and talismanic signs, and most Subba children have similar charms hung round their necks by their mothers, or scraps of Holy Writ sewn into leather covers.

To all priests alcohol, sugar, tea, coffee and tobacco are forbidden; neither may they eat the bread which their wives bake for the family. They must make and bake their own bread, and there are occasions when their wives must not come into any contact with them.

I have said that a marriage may only be solemnized by a *ganzowro*, or "bishop." In the case of a widow's re-marrying—a thing frowned upon by Mandaean purists—the *ganzowro* is not allowed to perform the ceremony, a temporary *ganzowro*, known as the *ganzowro thaniana*, being called in to take his place. His office expires with the ceremony and he can perform no other priestly duty. To the *ganzowro thaniana*, too, it falls to marry a bride who has not lived chastely before a husband has been found for her.

In no shape are second marriages approved, although they take place. "The Mandaean idea of marriage," said a priest to me, "is two spirits in one body, and the proper course for a widow would be to follow her husband into the other world. Since she cannot do that, the least she can do is to live in godly singleness."

Divorce, properly speaking, does not exist with the Mandaean. If a woman lives with another man, her husband can separate from her with consent of the bishop, but the re-marriage of the guilty parties is against Mandaean tradition. Hence Mandaean women whose husbands have "parted" from them sometimes become Muhammadan in order to re-marry. It is hardly necessary for men to adopt this course, as a Mandaean may take four wives—on the whole a liberal allowance. If a widow re-marries, her children by the second marriage may not enter the priesthood for three generations.

The institution of marriage is much praised. "If a man has no wife, there will be no Paradise for him hereafter and no Paradise on earth." "If woman had not been created, there would be no sun and no moon, and no light would shine on the earth; there would be no water of life from heaven, no cultivation, no fire. Husband and wife are like heaven and earth. Children make a man's name great in the next world, and when he is dead they carry his body to the grave and read the *masakhto* (prayers for the dead) for him."

Marriage is the greatest event in a Mandaean girl's life. The marriage is arranged by the parents of the young people, but as the girl is unveiled, and has had the opportunity of seeing the young man often in their narrow community, it is not unnatural to suppose that she has a certain say in the matter. As soon as the match is agreed up, the dowry is fixed. Before the War this was commonly a sum of a thousand dinars or more, together with a maund of saffron, but to-day is usually from three hundred to five hundred rupees and a pea's weight of saffron.

On the day appointed for the religious ceremony, the young pair both don the *rasta* (white garments, consisting of several pieces, ceremonially pure, put on for religious rites), and, going down to the river, undergo baptism by immersion. The bride is then conducted to the bridegroom's house, in which the bishop, two priests, and a *wakil* to represent the bride in the subsequent proceedings, are already assembled. In one of the rooms a kind of reed hut, over which a mosquito net has been thrown, has been erected, and into this, as soon as she has crossed the threshold, the still dripping young bride is led. Before matter proceed further, two matrons skilled in such matters are sent to examine the girl and see whether she is a virgin. They bring their report to the *ganzowro*, who, if satisfied, may proceed with the ceremony. If the girl has not passed the test, the bridegroom has the right to repudiate her if he wishes. If he still desires to marry her, the ceremony must be carried out by the *ganzowro thaniana*, or secondary bishop.

Apropos of this, Shaikh Dukhayl told me of a difficult

case that had occurred in his own experience. A bride having been reported to him to be intact, he proceeded to marry her, but it was subsequently discovered that at the time of marriage she had been three months pregnant. He had, therefore, performed the rite against the laws of his Church. There was much theological discussion, and he consulted with his fellow bishops what was to be done. It was agreed that as the women had acted in good faith, they could not be penalised, but the bishop was readmitted to his office only after being baptized seven times a day by five priests and two deacons, until he had been baptized three hundred and sixty times.

(To be continued.)

PERSONAL AND GENERAL

TODAY

October 18, 1928 (New Style).

October 5, 1928 (Old Style).

Jomadar I, 3, 1347 A.H. of the Muslim Calendar.

Marcheshwan 4, 5689, of the Jewish Calendar.

The Hon. Mrs. Heyworth has left England to join Major Heyworth in Cairo.

Mr. Rushbrook Williams spoke to the Central Asian Society yesterday (October 17) on "The Indian States and the New Constitution."

General Sir Philip Chetwode, Bt. (upon his appointment as Chief of the General Staff, India), had the honour of being received by the King at Buckingham Palace on October 11.

Rear-Admiral H. T. Walwyn had the honour of being received by the King at Buckingham Palace on October 13, upon his appointment as Flag Officer Commanding, Royal Indian Marine.

Sir George Schuster, Finance Member-designate of the Government of India, and the Hon. Lady Schuster leave London this afternoon to embark in the Ranchi at Marseilles for Bombay.

Lieut.-Colonel Sir John Chancellor (who kissed hands upon his appointment as High Commissioner and Commander-in-Chief, Palestine) had an audience of the King at Buckingham Palace on October 11.

An exhibition of water colours of France and Yugoslavia by Miss Lily Waring is being held at the Beaux Arts Gallery, Brunton Place, Bond Street, W. This exhibition will close on October 23.

Sir John Chancellor, Governor-Designate of Palestine and High Commissioner for the Trans-Jordan, has accepted an invitation to a luncheon from the president and council of the British Cotton Growing Association, which will take place on November 6, in Manchester.

Major-General Sir Reginald and Lady Ford, Sir Thomas and Lady Smith, and Lady Godfrey and Sir Frederick Johnston left London on October 11 for Bombay by special train to embark in the P. and O. liner Razmak at Marseilles.

The King of Italy has bestowed the following decorations of the Order of the Crown of Italy upon the Governor-General and other officials of the Sudan Government:—Sir John L. Maffey, Grande Cordone Corona; R. E. More (Sudan Agent), Grande 'Ufficialato Corona; A. C. Parker (General Manager, Sudan Government Railways and Steamers), Grand 'Ufficialato Corona; R. E. H. Bailey (Governor Kassala Province), Commende Corona; H. C. Jackson (Governor, Halfa Province), Commende Corona; Ewen Campbell, 'Ufficialato Corona; and I. B. Bayley, 'Ufficialato Corona.

Miss Edith Harvey is holding an exhibition of her paintings of Egypt and the Sudan, Greece, Syria, South and East Africa and other countries, at the Arlington Gallery, 22, Old Bond Street, W.1. The exhibition closes on October 26.

Abdul Rahman Fikry Bey, who was recently appointed Technical Secretary to the Egyptian Ministry of Finance, has returned to London from Cairo to resume his duties as First Secretary at the Egyptian Legation pending the appointment of a Minister in succession to Aziz Izzet Pasha.

Mr. Charles Wilson, American Minister to Bulgaria since 1921, left Sofia on October to take up his new post as American Minister in Bucharest. Mr. Wilson, whose residence in the Bulgarian capital extended over ten years, as he had been Chargé d'Affaires from 1918 to 1921, was latterly Doyen of the Diplomatic Corps in Sofia.

General Sir Philip W. Chetwode left Victoria on October 11 to take up his appointment as Chief of the General Staff in India, accompanied by Lady Chetwode, Sir Herbert Creedy, Permanent Under-Secretary of State for War, Field-Marshal Sir Claude Jacob, and General Sir Walter Braithwaite, Adjutant-General to the Forces, were at the station. Sir Philip and Lady Chetwode joined the Razmak at Marseilles for Bombay.

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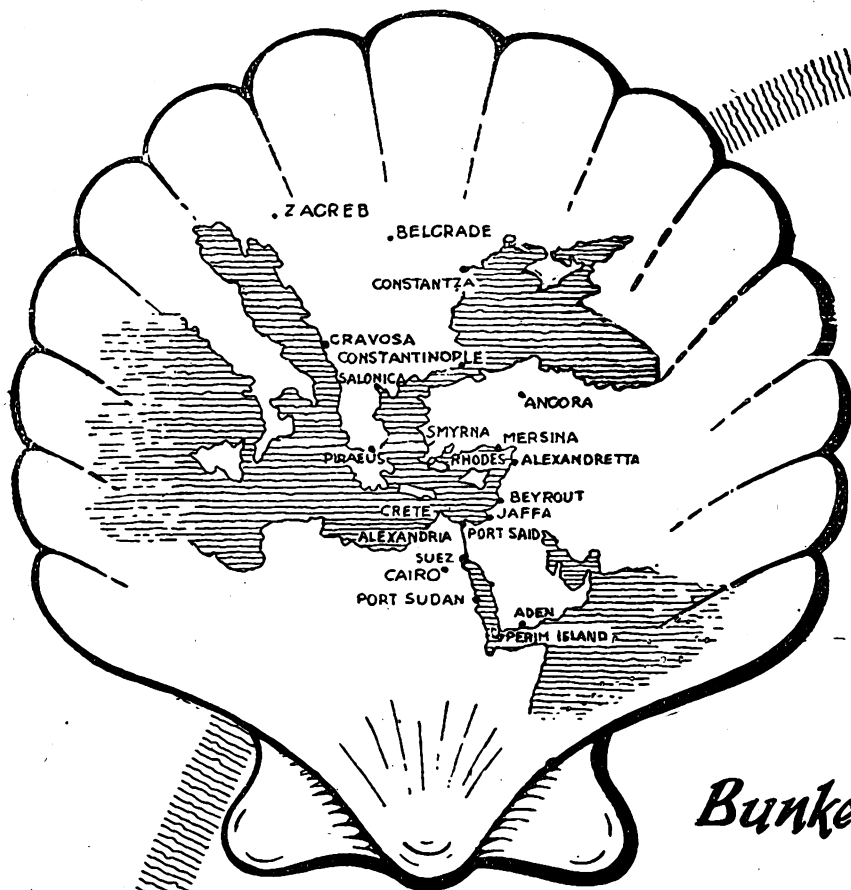
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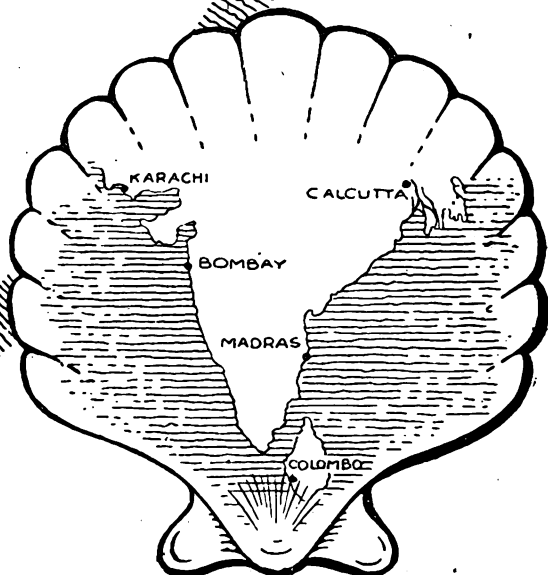
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Commercial and Financial Section.

NOTES AND NEWS

170, Strand, London, W.C.2,
Tuesday Morning.

Interesting Development at the Piræus.

Everyone who has visited a Near Eastern port is familiar with the annoyance caused by the swarms of boatmen who surround a vessel as soon as it anchors and clamour for custom. As a matter of fact there are very few Near Eastern ports—Constantza is one notable example—where the shipping can be berthed alongside the quay, thus giving the boatmen no opportunity. Coming visitors to Greece will learn with satisfaction that facilities for berthing the ships are now to be provided, though at first only on a small scale, at the Piræus—where the Troumba jetty is to be used for foreign ships which arrive and depart the same day. This is only the first step in a programme of development which will ultimately provide similar facilities for all shipping at the port. This means that the boatmen of the Piræus will be put out of business, which is not likely to cause any lamentations on the part of the travellers, and there is certainly no need that it should as the boatmen are to receive substantial compensation.

Markets for Cyprus Products.

Markets and production are two interdependent factors, and it is a natural corollary to the work that the Cyprus Government is undertaking in promoting the full development of the resources of the Island that attention should also be directed to the important question of obtaining larger markets for Cyprus products. The situation of Cyprus is greatly in its favour as regards the question of outlets for it has near to it a series of important markets, and the Government decided some time ago to investigate the conditions in each of them from the point of view of the development of Cyprus trade. It was decided to begin with Egypt, the most important market that Cyprus possesses, and the last issue of an Agricultural Supplement to the "Cyprus Gazette" gives details of preliminary inquiries regarding marketing conditions at Port Said, Alexandria, and Cairo made by Mr. P. Antoniadis, Viticulturist and Wine Expert of the Cyprus Department of Agriculture. Among the matters on which information was sought was the nature and extent of imports from Cyprus, the conditions in Egypt for the marketing of Cyprus products, the facilities for their distribution, and the possibility of improving the presentation of Cyprus products particularly as regards the grading and packing of fruit. Mr. Antoniadis in his report gives details of Egypt's imports from Cyprus, the value of which were in 1926 £E286,977 and covered a wide range of commodities. He finds that the import trade is almost entirely in the hands of Cypriots living in Egypt and some Greeks, and as regards the question of distribution he advocates the establishment of organised receiving and distributing centres, while he also stresses the need for improvement in the presentation, grading and packing

of fruit. In regard to the latter point he mentions that Cyprus oranges enjoy a high reputation in Egypt but that their sales could be increased tenfold.

The Motor Show.

We have heard enough in recent years about the depressed industries of this country, but there are others, as we know, which are doing very well indeed, and I think that no one who has visited the Motor Show at Olympia this week will be of any other opinion than that the motor industry is in an exceedingly prosperous condition. The new developments, the novelties, the improvements that are in evidence throughout are proofs of progress which would not be encountered if the industry was not holding its own. I was impressed also by the considerable crowds that Olympia is drawing this year. It is said, I see, that Olympia is no longer large enough to house all the motor exhibits; it is certainly not extensive enough to contain in comfort all those who wish to see the latest developments of the art of the motor manufacturers. Two stands attracted particular attention, and it was indeed difficult to get an uninterrupted view of the exhibits on them. One significant development of the year seems to be the arrangements for luggage. On stand after stand one could see examples of cars with the back carried out to form a trunk shaped receptacle. From the artistic standpoint the arrangement doubtless leaves something to be desired, but what is lost in this direction is certainly gained in efficiency and safety. I noticed a novelty on an Italian car in the shape of a trunk on the running board. It looked out of place but not more so in my opinion than the arrangement at the back. One other feature of the Show calls for reference and that is the predominance of the Dunlop tyre. Out of curiosity I glanced from time to time at the tyres as I strolled round, and it really seemed as if it was a Dunlop exhibition.

Sudan Trade Development.

Ample support is forthcoming for the view that conditions in the Sudan may now be expected to improve steadily from the trade returns for the first seven months of this year. Only one of the main headings shows a decrease compared with the same period of the previous

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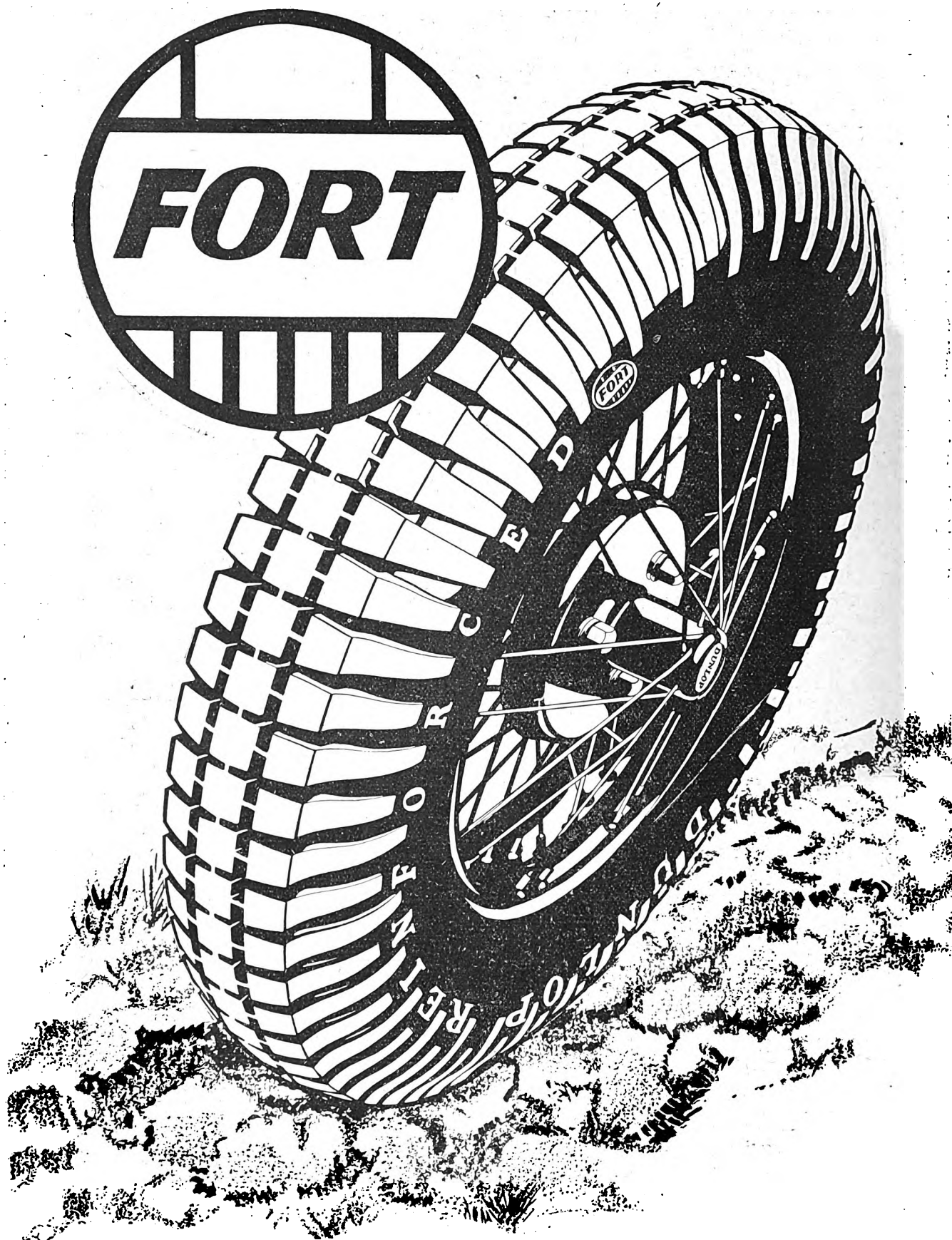
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year—this being Government imports which are £E116,991 lower at £E1,084,759. All the rest show more or less substantial increases, while the total volume of trade at £E8,616,655 shows a rise of £E651,705. The largest increase is in respect of exports which at £E4,876,557 are £E465,596 up. The principal contributors to this increase are cotton which realised much higher prices than in 1927, thus more than compensating for a smaller crop, gum to which the same remarks apply, and hides which figure in the list for £E131,939 as against £E27,129. An interesting feature of the export list is the inclusion of dura for a value of £E17,619. The fact that it is now possible to permit the export of this grain on a considerable scale speaks volumes as to the improvement of the situation in the Sudan. The value of the public imports rose from £E2,120,899 to £E2,349,002, some of the most notable increases being in respect of cotton piece-goods, tobacco, metals and metalware, machinery, motor cars, cycles and accessories, and tea. The larger imports of cotton piece-goods and of sugar, which is included in the Government imports, bear testimony to the increasing purchasing power of the population as a whole.

Lake Copais Company.

At the annual meeting of the Lake Copais Company (a report of which will be found elsewhere in this issue), Mr. W. Sandford Poole, the Chairman, was able to give a satisfactory account of the company's progress during the past year. As I have already pointed out in these notes, the company's profits for 1927 were much larger than in the previous year, this being due to the fact that the crop yields and prices were higher, as owing to a shortage of water it was not found possible to irrigate as large an area as was desirable. During 1927 2,556 acres of land in the Copais were broken in, making the total area brought into cultivation since 1924 11,086 acres. As regards the current year's prospects Mr. Sandford Poole would not go further than saying that he hoped the late crops and satisfactory prices would enable the submission of a statement next year showing results not much less satisfactory than those recorded for 1927. Work such as the company is undertaking means a long period of preparation, and in describing the invaluable results for Greece of the company's development work which has extended over nearly half a century, Mr. Sandford Poole pointed out that the shareholders have received no return on their investment while the Debenture shareholders have again and again forgone their interest. He thinks that better times may now be anticipated, a view which is obviously justified in view of the improved results which are now forthcoming.

COMMENTATOR.

Professor A. P. Newton, D.Litt., Rhodes Professor of History at London University, who was the chief examiner under the Allied Newspapers' recent Empire Free Travel and Scholarship Scheme, has been invited by the University of the Punjab, Lahore, to visit India in connexion with the organisation of advanced studies on the Arts side in the University and its associated colleges. Professor Newton, who will be in India for some three or four months, sailed from Liverpool on October 17.

BULGARIAN TOBACCO.

According to a statement issued by the Bulgarian Ministry of Finance the area under tobacco this year in Bulgaria amounts to 21,300 hectares. The peak year was reached in 1923 when 52,618 hectares were devoted to the tobacco plant; the area fell to 49,331 hectares the next year, and was 52,670 hectares in 1925. Since then there has been a drastic reduction in tobacco growing, owing to the difficulty experienced in disposing of the country's tobacco stocks. The crop this year is estimated to amount to between 16,000,000 and 18,000,000 kilograms. There is likely to be a considerable reduction this year also in the Turkish tobacco crop, which is expected not to exceed 34,000,000 kilograms as compared with 54,000,000 in 1927. The Greek crop should be in the neighbourhood of 40,000,000 kilograms as compared with 45,000,000 last year.

THE OPIUM HARVEST IN SOUTH SERBIA.

According to the Yugoslav Press the opium harvest this year in South Serbia promises to be a record one, amounting to from 150,000 to 180,000 kilograms, or nearly three times the amount of last year's harvest. The attempt made recently to break the virtual monopoly of the Shalom Company has not relieved other traders of the competition of the big Salonika house. It had been arranged that the National Bank of Serbia should finance the opium harvest to the extent of 30,000,000 dinars, but it is stated that not more than 4,000,000 dinars have been advanced. Most of the opium is said to be purchased for Switzerland.

NEWS FROM ALL SOURCES.

The Corporation of the Royal Exchange Assurance announces an interim dividend of 10 per cent., less tax, on account of the year 1928.

The production of crude oil by the British Burmah Petroleum Company and the Rangoon Oil Company for September amounted to 40,797 barrels.

The traffic receipts of the Egyptian Delta Light Railways for the ten days ended September 20 amounted to £E8,536, making the total from April 1 £E123,406.

The directors of the London and Lancashire Insurance Company announce that, in accordance with previous intimation, they have decided to pay on November 1 an interim dividend of 9s. per share, less tax, to shareholders registered on October 20.

The directors of the Ionian Bank announce that they have decided to discontinue the office in Constantinople owing to the fact that the increasing difficulties placed in the way of carrying on banking business there have made it undesirable, in their opinion, for the Bank to continue its operations in Turkey.

The Empire Marketing Board reports that although the first direct shipments of oranges from Palestine are not expected until the beginning of November, the season for oranges forwarded for transshipment is beginning much sooner than had been anticipated. The crop is reported to be very early, and large quantities were forwarded about September 25 to Port Said for transshipment.

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NEAR EAST MARKET REPORTS.

The October issue of the Monthly Review of Barclays Bank, Ltd., contains the following reports:—

Egypt.

During the month under review, the Egyptian cotton market has been in a nervous and unsettled condition. Traders apparently adopted a waiting attitude and the fluctuations which occurred were due to speculative movements caused by weather and crop news. Towards the end of August and the beginning of September, reports of damage to the crop by night fogs and boll worm caused a bullish movement, resulting in a rise of about 2 dollars, but most of this advance was lost as a result of liquidations prior to the issue of the American Bureau Report; a further rapid decline followed the publication of this report. The spot market has been dull and daily sales have not averaged much more than 1,000 bales, probably owing to the scarcity of desirable cotton and to the tendency of the trade to defer purchases, pending new crop arrivals. Reports received indicate that the crop in Upper Egypt will be abundant in quantity, but of average grade and staple. Arrivals at present, however, are slow, probably on account of the decision of the Egyptian Government to make advances to the growers on favourable terms. The Sakel crop has also suffered, to some extent, during the past month from night fogs and boll worm, but the extent of the damage is believed to be somewhat exaggerated and well-informed circles estimate the yield at from 2,250,000 to 2,500,000 kantars.

The cotton seed market has been dull and very little business has been transacted. The stock figure of Ardebs 538,459 is still given with reserve, pending further adjustment.

The market for cotton goods has been on the quiet side and dealers continue to pursue a waiting policy, but prices are steady. Owing to heavy arrivals, the sugar market has been somewhat depressed, and the tone remains dull, but it is hoped that the present quotations will stimulate business and prices are improving. The spot demand for flour has been moderate and, although there has been a satisfactory export to the Greek Islands and Syria, prices have ruled irregular, the market having been weak, in sympathy with Australian and American markets. The rice market continues to favour the Egyptian product. Business in Rangoon rice throughout the month has been exceedingly quiet and prices have shown a declining tendency. Owing to reduced stocks, transactions in cabots have been scarce and holders are very firm in their attitude, while under the influence of the Kobe market, a good advance in prices has resulted. There is little to report with regard to gunnies. No business of any importance has transpired in grain and cereal sacks, and quotations have fluctuated in sympathy with Calcutta.

The Sudan.

During the period under review business in the Sudan has been slack, but the general situation is improving and the rains, which, except in the Northern part of the Blue Nile Province, have been good, have induced optimism in the country. As yet, however, it is too early to give estimates of the forthcoming crops. The demand for gum and sesame continues steady, but arrivals are small and poor prices are being obtained.

Palestine.

Conditions in the cereal trade have not shown much variation from those of the preceding months, and local millers continue to order their stocks of wheat for milling from Egypt. The failure of cereal crops this year has brought about an increase in quotations, which are now higher than the world level. With a view to preventing the continual increase in prices, the Chamber of Commerce has forwarded an application to the local authorities for the prohibition of cereal exports this year.

Owing to the extremely poor olive crop this season, prices of olive

oil have risen by 50 per cent. and a still further rise is expected in the winter. Failing unforeseen circumstances, the prospects of this year's orange crop and season are good, particularly in view of the existence of the Fruit Export Commission, which will supervise all exports and inspect the fruit before shipment. Latest reports indicate that the Spanish crop is not very good, and should this prove to be the case, it should have a favourable effect on the Jaffa orange market.

TENDERS INVITED.

Tenders are invited for the following contracts, and must be made by the dates mentioned.

(Particulars of tenders marked D.O.T. are to be obtained from the Department of Overseas Trade, 55, Old Queen Street, S.W.1.)

EGYPT.

Power Unit for Stone Crushing Plant.—The Egyptian Ministry of Public Works invites tenders for the supply of one semi-Diesel type I.C. engine as power unit for stone crushing plant. November 10. (D.O.T.)

I.C. Engines.—The Egyptian Ministry of the Interior invites tenders for the supply of two internal combustion engines of 35 h.p. November 5. (D.O.T.)

INDIA.

Motor Generator and Switchgear.—The Indian Stores Department invites tenders for the supply and delivery of a motor generator set and switchgear for Delhi Fort. October 24. (D.O.T.)

Motor Alternator Set and Testing Transformer.—The Indian Stores Department, New Delhi, invite tenders for the supply and delivery of a motor alternator set and testing transformer, with induction regulator controller, for the Government Test House, Calcutta. November 15. (D.O.T.)

TURKEY.

Motor Lorries, Buses, Etc.—The Ministry of National Defence is in the market for motor lorries, buses, and motor tank wagons. (D.O.T.)

FORTHCOMING SAILINGS.

The following are the sailings for the Near East and India, the ports of departure and closing dates for cargo being given in parentheses:—

Anchor Line.—S.s. California for Bombay (Birkenhead, October 23); s.s. Elysia for Bombay (Birkenhead, November 5). (For passenger sailings and dates see advertisement.)

Anchor Brocklebank Line.—S.s. Maihar for Calcutta (Birkenhead, October 30); s.s. Magdapur for Calcutta (Birkenhead, November 8).

Bibby Line.—S.s. Leicestershire for Port Said, Port Sudan, Colombo, and Rangoon (Birkenhead, October 24).

British India Line.—S.s. Mantola for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, October 20); s.s. Domala for Bombay and Karachi (London, October 20); s.s. Manela for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, November 3); s.s. Mundra for Bombay and Karachi (London, November 10).

Cunard Line.—S.s. Brescia for Casablanca, Gibraltar, Genoa, Leghorn, Naples, Palermo, Messina, Catania, Corfu, Bari, Venice, Trieste, and Fiume, also at Gruz if inducement (Liverpool October 20, and Swansea October 23); s.s. Bosnia for Patras, Piræus, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, and Constantza (Liverpool, Glasgow, and Swansea, November 10).

Johnston Line.—S.s. Dromore for Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, November 3). (This steamer will be the last sailing of the season to the Danube ports.)

P. and O. Line.—S.s. Ranpura for Bombay (London, October 26); s.s. Nankin for Calcutta (London, October 27); s.s. Perim for Calcutta (London, November 10).

Prince Line.—S.s. Lancastrian Prince for Tunis, Malta, Alexandria, Jaffa, Haifa, Beyrout, Tripoli, Alexandretta, Mersina, and Cyprus (London, November 3); s.s. Egyptian Prince for Tunis, Malta, Alexandria, and Cyprus (Manchester, November 3).

Ellerman and Papayanni Lines.—S.s. Andalusian for Malta, Alexandria, Jaffa, and Haifa* (Liverpool, October 20); s.s. Assyrian for Gibraltar, Malta, Alexandria, Jaffa, and Haifa* (Liverpool, October 27); s.s. Manchurian for Genoa, Leghorn, Naples, Palermo, Messina, Catania, Bari, Gruz*, Ancona*, Venice, Trieste, and Fiume (Liverpool November 3, Swansea November 8); s.s. Mardinian for Patras, Piræus, Volo*, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, and Varna (Liverpool, November 17); s.s. Roumelian for Algiers, Piræus, Volo*, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, and Constantza (Liverpool October 27, Swansea October 27).

*Subject to sufficient inducement. Cargo taken on through Bill of Lading to:—Algerian ports via Algiers; Moroccan ports via Gibraltar; Tripoli (Barbary) via Malta; Syria and Cyprus via Alexandria; Greek outports via Piræus or other convenient port.

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THE WEEK'S FINANCE.

(By Our Financial Expert.)

London, October 16.

The Stock Exchange has had a busy week, in which the two leading features were that the negotiations of a heavy settlement coincided with a rising tide of new business, and that, while the strength of recent favourites was fully maintained, the basis of activity broadened and a fairly wide range of industrials came in for vigorous and price-raising support. The boom in gramophone shares was given a new fillip by the H.M.V. dividend declaration, and the cautious are asking when the inevitable slump is coming. The widening support for more established industrials is doubtless in fact justified by the improved tone of reports from the great trade centres, and little notice was taken of a slightly disturbing feature shown by the September returns of overseas trade. These returns revealed a drop in imports of some leading raw materials of industry. This may be fortuitous—it is never wise to deduce too much from the figures of a single month—but if it is repeated it may mean that prophecies of autumn trade revival will have to be revised. Meanwhile American prosperity, in spite of the continued warnings to the contrary, continues unabated, and there is much talk of an early intensification of the boom conditions in Wall Street.

League of Nations Loans: A Coming Issue.

The League of Nations reconstruction loans are extremely popular—and with good reason—among British investors. We have frequently recommended them in this column as well-secured foreign investments. An American investigator has just published figures which confirm the wisdom of those who first took up these loans. It is shown that the aggregate par value of all loans issued under the auspices of the League was 494,605,227 dollars; that at the price of issue their value was 447,514,187 dollars; and that the value of the bonds on the basis of recent quotations was 508,517,410 dollars. It is thus clear that the original holders of these loans, in addition to receiving a liberal current return—the average yield at the price of issue was 7.79 per cent.—have had the advantage of a 12.3 per cent. rise in capital value. The financial activities of the League have therefore conferred a twofold blessing—upon the investing public and upon the countries

that were in urgent need of funds. The investor will shortly have the opportunity of subscribing for another League of Nations loan, for it is expected that the Bulgarian stabilisation loan, to be issued under League auspices, will be offered for subscription in the near future. It is understood that preparations are now well advanced, and it is hoped to float the loan, which will amount to £5,000,000, some time this month.

Company Profits.

In its quarterly analysis of the earnings of joint stock industrial undertakings the *Economist* shows that the profits published during the past quarter were substantially higher than those recorded a year ago. The effects of the coal stoppage, however, were reflected in company accounts being published at this time last year, and this, of course, discounts to a considerable extent the actual increase now shown, which amounts to 9.7 per cent. in the aggregate net profits, after payment of debenture interest, of 237 companies, whose profit and loss accounts have been published during the past three months. The aggregate increase was unevenly spread as between different groups of industry, rubber, hotel, gas, and telegraph companies showing substantial decreases, while a large expansion was recorded by the textile, tea, and land mortgage groups. Of the aggregate net profits 56.8 per cent. was paid in ordinary dividends and 16.9 per cent. in preference dividends. The average rate of dividend on ordinary capital paid in the past quarter works out at 10.7 per cent., against 10 per cent. in the preceding quarter and 10.2 per cent. at this time last year. Larger ordinary dividends were paid by brewery and telegraph companies, but decreases were registered by the rubber, tea, hotel, and trust company groups.

The Electrical Industry.

Many millions of investors' savings have been placed in the electrical industry. The prospects of the industry are therefore of widespread interest. The latest report of the British Electrical and Allied Manufacturers' Association throws much valuable light upon the position. Taking the long view of the future of the industry, the report remarks that it is generally assumed that the electrical industry, both on the supply and the manufacturing sides, has a future of great expansion. Taking the short view, however, it would seem that progress will not consistently satisfy the highest expectations. This is true of the present year. The normal rate of expansion lies annually between 10 and 11 per cent., but this year it has been less than 7 per cent. The lower rate is attributed to "intensified trade depression." During the year electrical manufacturing has shown no increase. For almost a year the curve of export orders has declined steadily, but the movement has now come to an end and there are definite indications of improvement. The report concludes that on the whole, therefore, the electrical industry, both on the supply and manufacturing sides, is not at present in a position markedly different from that of the other basic industries of the country. This is, perhaps, rather more gloomy a conclusion than might be expected, but in any case the prospect suggested by the longer view is a more cheerful one.

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The B.O.C. Anglo-Persian Share Trust, which has been formed to acquire from the Burmah Oil Company 700,000 Anglo-Persian ordinary shares, was registered in Edinburgh as a public company on October 6, with a nominal capital of £700,001 in 700,000 ordinary and 1 voting share, all of £1 each. The directors are:—Sir John F. Cargill, Chairman, Burmah Oil Company; Mr. Robert A. Murray, director of Burmah Oil Company; Mr. Robert I. Watson, managing director of Burmah Oil Company.

Barclays Bank (Dominion, Colonial and Overseas) announce that they have received the following cable from their Cairo office:—“The Statistical Department of the Ministry of Finance announces that the total imports for Egypt for the month ended September 30 are £E4,447,152, against £E4,651,328 for September, 1927; and exports £E2,505,475, against £E2,800,602. Cotton exports were £E2,065,120, against £E2,131,605 in September, 1927.”

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Motors and Motoring.

By G. B. B.

The Motor Show.

As the first Motor Show I attended was at the Crystal Palace, and as I have not missed one since, it will be acknowledged that my experience goes back a few years, and during the whole of that time I have never seen anything like the crowd that has visited the Show this year. At one time one knew that a big proportion of the visitors had not come to choose cars, that cars were as far beyond their reach as the Woolsack or an Order of Merit; but now that we have the baby cars with us in such quantities and in such varieties, one realised that everyone in the crowd that surged on to the stands and thronged the gangways was a probably buyer.

There were more cars parked outside the Show this year than I have ever seen before; there were more women visitors; there were more young men who seemed to be graduating from the motor cycle stage; there were more exhibits. For years I have urged that Olympia is not large enough for the Show, even with the extensions, and that the Show authorities should get back to the Crystal Palace. After the crush this year I think most people will be disposed to agree with me.

There is no doubt that this year's Show has opened up an entirely new market for British manufacturers. People with incomes of under £500 are realising that, with the exercise of due economy in other directions, they can afford to run a small car. There are also numbers of people who felt last year that they could run a cheap car of low horse-power, and who now, in view of the developments made, are certain that they can do so and have placed, or are about to place, their orders. There are also many who already have a car, but who have made up their minds now to buy a second and smaller car, so that all the members of the family can indulge in more or less careful driving. Women whose husbands already have a car for business and week-end purposes are buying a baby car for shopping and visiting. Altogether, this Show must have given road engineers furiously to think. If road congestion is bad now, what, they ask, will it be like by the end of next year? It is hopeless to suppose that by that time the drivers of small, light cars will have learned to keep well into the side of the road; they will still struggle along in the dead centre of the highway, and apparently the only thing to be done is to make more roads and plenty of them.

Bentley Cars.

Space entirely forbids even an attempt at dealing with the various models on view, and it would certainly be difficult to single out any particular make of car for approval. As an engineer, I was certainly struck by the Bentley productions, and of these I fancy the speed model saloon, which is on a 6½ litre, six-cylinder engined chassis, will prove popular amongst the large section who desire comfort combined with speed. The springing and upholstery are all that can be desired, whilst the fact that there is no difficulty in getting 70 m.p.h. is certain to appeal to a large section of road users. Then there is the 3-litre Sunbeam, as comfortable and as fast a car as most people could wish to have. It is a thoroughly sound engineering proposition, magnificently designed and turned out of the finest materials by one of the best equipped factories in the world.

A New Renault.

I should like to say something also about the new straight-eight Renault, the first 8-cylinder car built by that famous firm, which has played so worthy a part in the history of the motor industry. This has a bore and stroke of 90x140 m.m. and has a most imposing appearance. The same may be said regarding the new Mercedes-Benz cars, one of which has a 36-220 h.p. supercharged 6-cylinder

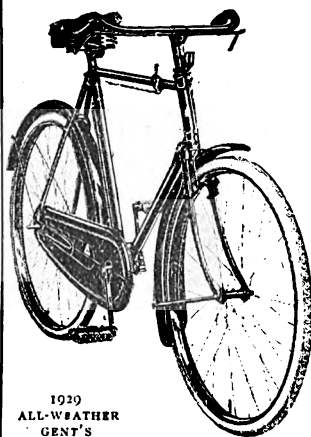
engine and another of which, and one which probably will prove the best-seller, has a 32-90 h.p. engine, of the straight-eight type and which is one of the most admired cars in the Show. Then there is the Lea-Francis car with an 11.9 h.p. engine and a speed that should satisfy even the most confirmed of those speed-worshippers who wrote recently to a daily paper to say that their chief enjoyment in life was speed and jazz music. There is no music like the hum of a perfectly timed engine and, as for speed, let them see what they could get out of a Lea-Francis Hyper-Sports model. The speed model Lagonda is another car that merits a word of approval even in so limited a space as is at my disposal. It is on similar lines to the Lagondas that did so well in the Tourist Trophy race, and one would like to say something also about the Hispano-Suiza and the Voisin, which possesses a method by which you can drive it, on either a high or a low back-axle ratio, so as to allow you, in effect, to have six or eight, instead of three or four speeds. As for the "baby" cars, I should want six or eight pages of THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA to say all I should like to say in their favour.

Accessories.

As for accessories, all one can say of them is that everything exhibited seemed to be just the thing one has been in want of for so long. There is, for instance, the Desmo Dual Safety Gauge, which is a dashboard instrument showing water temperature and oil pressure through two windows side by side on the dial of the instrument, the figures being drawn on rotating drums. Another useful accessory, of a different kind, is the Boyce Luggage Braces, for strapping down luggage on the carrier. There is also the Boyce universal connector for pumps which

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will fit any size of valve from that of the pedal cycle to that of the giant pneumatics. The price of this is so low that I cannot imagine any road user not having one. The Prima Company are showing a well-designed, light and powerful lifting jack, the "Screwdraulic," specially designed on a new principle for use with the Austin Seven, and here again the price is extremely low.

Company Meeting.

LAKE COPAIS COMPANY.

Current Year's Outlook.

The ordinary general meeting of Lake Copais Company, Ltd., was held on October 10 at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, E.C. Mr. W. Sandford Poole (chairman of the company) presided.

The Secretary (Mr. R. D. Prichard) having read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors,

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said:—More normal weather conditions prevailed at our estate during 1927, and, consequently, the results were better than in the previous year. Nevertheless, too much rain in the autumn of 1926 delayed, and in some cases prevented, the cultivation of certain areas, and we were not able, owing to lack of rain in the spring, and consequent shortage of water in our canals, to irrigate as large an area as was desirable.

As a result the area from which the crops were harvested was not so large as it might have been under more favourable conditions, being, in fact, practically the same as that harvested in the year 1926. Fortunately the yields and prices were higher, enabling us to present an improved profit and loss account.

The development of the Copais continues and, during the year 1927, 2,556 acres of land were broken in, making a total net area brought back to cultivation since the present land development programme was initiated in the year 1924 of 11,086 acres. You may be interested to hear that one of our new caterpillar tractors ploughs an acre an hour, and has been working at times 20 hours a day, headlamps being used at night. The development of this land has cost, in round figures, 21s. an acre, and has been paid for out of revenue. This should undoubtedly have a progressively beneficial effect on the revenue of the estate.

One of the crops which were the cause of some disappointment was the lucerne, the yield of which was reduced owing to lack of irrigation water in the summer; while the area of cotton harvested was also lower than in the year 1926, owing to the limitation of the water supply. As mentioned in our report, prices in general were higher, except those of wheat and lucerne.

You will have noted that our revenue was substantially reduced by the charging of expenditure on repairs to the Karditza Tunnel, where, as reported to you last year, we had a serious fall of some 1,000 cubic metres of rock and earth on June 24, 1927.

I am glad to say that our general manager, Mr. Bailey, who is present with us to-day, reports that the repairs have been completed, and the roof and sides strengthened by cement grouting, and, in his opinion, the tunnel is now in much better condition than ever before. But for this special expenditure on the tunnel our profits would have been £7,319 larger.

In regard to the accounts, I have little to remark. You will see that, in accordance with authority given by our trust deed, we have carried to capital reserve account £5,000. The balance of profit, after so doing, enables us to pay the full interest of 5 per cent. on the "A" Debenture stock and 4½ per cent. on the "B" Debenture stock. This interest, less income-tax, is again being distributed in the form of Scrip Certificates of "A" Debenture stock in accordance with the scheme approved by stockholders on July 28, 1922. After making this distribution, there will remain only £12,700 of "A" Debenture stock unissued and available for meeting Debenture stock interest in accordance with the scheme already referred to. Therefore, assuming our profits for the current year to be not less than those of the year under review, the "A" Debenture stockholders may next year again be entitled to receive payment of their interest in cash.

As regards the current year, the yields of the early crops have proved to be no less than those of 1927, but it is hoped that the late crops and higher prices will enable the directors to submit a statement twelve months hence showing results not much less satisfactory than those before you to-day.

The Greek Government's Option.

Before sitting down I desire to say just a few words as to the arbitration award of July 25, 1925. Under that award, the Greek Government were entitled to purchase certain lands provided they exercised their option last July. Just before that time arrived the Greek Government requested that the time for exercising their option might be extended to the end of the present year in order that they might further consider the matter and come to a decision. We acceded to the request of the State, and, as you may have learned from the newspapers, the Greek Government have decided to send an expert to act as adviser to the Greek Minister in London when

he discusses the matter with the directors, as we understand he has been requested to do.

We have not been made acquainted with the Government's intentions, and I can, therefore, give you no further information to-day. I would, however, like to assure you that the estate is now, after years of patient and careful development, and with the great improvement in the drainage system, a very valuable proposition, both to the company and to the Greek nation.

At one time a fever-stricken marsh, it is now healthy and provides a livelihood for about 2,600 cultivators and their families, and produces large quantities of foodstuffs and cotton for the Greek nation, which but for the enterprise of the company would have to be purchased abroad and paid for out of the resources of the country.

During this long period of development, extending over nearly half a century, the Debenture stockholders have again and again forgone their interest, while the shareholders have so far received no return whatever on their investment. We think you may now look for better times.

It is my pleasure and duty again to bear testimony to the excellent services rendered by Mr. Bailey, our general manager, and his staff on the estate; and we are also indebted to Mr. Whitmee, Mr. Prichard, and the London office staff for the care with which they have watched over your interests on this side. (Cheers.)

The report was unanimously adopted.

THE SMYRNA FRUIT MARKET.

Messrs. C. J. Giraud and Co., of Smyrna, report as follows for the week ended October 6:—

Sultanas.

The estimated sales to date total 21,600 tons against 23,700 tons for the corresponding period of the previous year.

Closing prices Smyrna, per cwt., c.i.f. London, for types 12 to 18 and 1, 3, and 5 are:—24s. 6d.; 36s. 6d.; 38s. 6d.; 42s.; 45s. 6d.; 50s.; 59s.; 69s.; 38s. 6d.; 36s. 6d.

Market Conditions.—In our last report we referred briefly to rumours circulating of the possibility of Government action on the market. The Minister of Finance showed a lively interest in existing conditions, and, although no official statement was given out, reports spread to the effect that the Government was considering the advisability of devoting about £100,000 for the purchase of sultanas with a view to giving support to the market, the fruit taken up under this credit to be quite independent of the Alcohol Monopoly's purchases. Colour was given to these reports by one or two large Government operations in the early part of the week coinciding with the tenor of the rumours in circulation. After the prolonged and uninterrupted decline in prices since the beginning of the season, the market was tuned for reaction, and speculative purchases, followed by short sellers getting nervous and showing anxiety to cover in a portion of their commitments, brought about a material enhancement in values, resulting on balance in a 3s. to 4s. advance being consolidated. The market closed strong with purchases exceeding 4,000 tons, being the heaviest weekly total recorded since the start of the season.

Figs.

The estimated arrivals on the Smyrna market since the opening of the season total 20,016 tons against 19,710 tons for the same period of last year; the sales to date are put at 19,231 tons against 18,685 tons.

Market Conditions.—The market continues strong with an upward tendency in prices. Inferior fruit, however, is not moving readily, and only finds a home for consumption in the local distilleries. Good quality is in strong demand for export.

First shipments of new figs to the States per s.s. Sinalia have been released from Customs. It is reported that some parcels ex the Blair (second steamer) have been detained. The s.s. Giulia, third steamer, has only just arrived in New York.

Judging by the heavy increase in shipments to the States as compared with last year, shippers generally appear to be of an optimistic mind as regards the chances of getting their figs through the Customs inspection this season. End September shipments have been on a heavy scale and now bring up the totals to date to above last year's figures.

The directors of the Burmah Oil Company have declared an interim dividend of 10 per cent. (2s. per share) on the ordinary shares, payable on November 6 to holders registered on October 11.

J. Henry Schroder and Co. announce in connexion with the Roumanian Government 4½ per Cent. Loan of 1913 that with reference to the schedules to the agreement of July 4, 1928, between the Roumanian Government and themselves, they are authorised by the Roumanian Government to state that arrears of capital and interest on 1,349 Bonds of Part 2 of the Second Schedule, the numbers of which are announced, will be payable in full, instead of at 20 per cent. only, by the delivery to the holders of the Bonds of the Roumanian Government 4 per Cent. Consolidated Loan of 1922, which, taken at the market price ruling on the day of presentation, will be equal in value to the sum due.

British Consular Reports

VIII.—GREECE.

The following extracts are taken from the report on the economic conditions in Greece down to May last of Mr. R. M. A. Turner, O.B.E., British Commercial Secretary at Athens :—

The outstanding feature of the year 1927 was the large measure of success that attended the efforts of the Government to re-establish the financial position of the country.

It is evident that this success was not obtained without recourse to stringent measures of retrenchment and an increase in the taxation burden, and the effects of the application of such a policy are so divergent, and in some cases so contradictory, that it is difficult to form a lucid opinion as to the actual economic state of the country. On the other hand the increase in the import duties in 1926 would, one was confidently assured, tend to reduce imports, some traders going so far as to assert that the duties were in many cases so high that they would, in the end, defeat their own fiscal object by rendering importation of certain articles impossible. On the other hand, the practical stabilisation of the national currency, or at least the restriction of its exchange fluctuations to a minimum (the drachma was quoted at 380 to the £ in January, and 367.50 to the £ in December), together with the absence of political upheavals, gave a much-needed sense of security to importers and the general public, and thereby tended to increase foreign trade. Again, the efforts towards economy, which resulted in a reduction of the budgets of the various Ministries, combined with a more systematic collection of direct taxes, inevitably diminished the buying power of a very considerable section of the population, while the manifest intention of the Government rigorously to enforce these economies, and the apparent patience with which they and the taxation burdens were borne, undoubtedly contributed to enhance the prestige of Greece abroad, encouraging foreign traders generally to regard Greece with more favourable eyes.

When, in the early part of the year, the Greek War Debt to Great Britain was funded on terms undoubtedly favourable to Greece, and this settlement was accompanied by a promise of British support to any well-considered plan for Greek economic reconstruction, it was felt that the first corner had been turned, and, although the negotiations which concluded in December for the issue of a "Reconstruction Loan" of £9,000,000 under the auspices of the League of Nations were not always easy, yet the fact that they were being steadily pursued was regarded as international recognition of the strengthened position of the country. As in all such cases, the result is due partly to material, but also in no small measure to psychological, causes, the one arising from the other, and operating often with cumulative effect. Of the inter-reaction of material and psychological causes, it may be sufficient to mention that the practical stabilisation of the drachma, which coincided with the declared intention of the Government to place the State finances on a sound footing, produced a sense of security which not only gave an impetus to commerce and industry, but also encouraged the placing of foreign capital in Greece, and some return

to Greece of capital which had been sent out of the country for fear of further depreciation or of renewed Governmental attacks on capital. This return of capital and a readiness on the part of foreign financial groups to advance capital for Greek undertakings, again of itself strengthened the position of the country. Other instances might doubtless be cited where the return of confidence in the economic future operated with cumulative effect. Money was consequently easier, the official discount rate of the National Bank being reduced from 11 to 10 per cent. in June. Private money, however, remained dear, interest varying from 12 to 25 per cent., the rates charged for commercial money being generally higher than for industrial and building enterprises. That nevertheless imports were so considerably higher than in the previous year may be ascribed, on the one hand, to the restricted imports during 1926 and resulting depletion of stocks, and on the other to an increased readiness on the part of foreign shippers to give credit, together with the general return of confidence mentioned above.

Contrary to the expectations of many, the Greek imports and exports during 1927 were considerably higher than during the previous year :—

	1926	1927
Imports	£ 25,865,000	£ 34,200,000
Exports	£ 14,040,000	£ 16,400,000
Import surplus	£ 11,825,000	£ 17,800,000

One encouraging feature of the figures for the foreign trade of Greece during 1927 is a definite increase in the value of exports. The increase appears to have been general for most of the Greek articles of export, but would seem to have been greatest in the case of tobacco, which has now become the most important export article of the country.

It would, perhaps, in this place, be well to endeavour to arrive at some explanation of the manner in which the very considerable adverse trade balance—which is a yearly recurring feature—is liquidated. Apart from such obvious sources of invisible income as shipping—and it must be remembered that Greece owns a considerable mercantile marine—and the money brought into the country by tourists, there have in the past years been various foreign loans for refugees and other purposes which have gone to swell the amounts of foreign exchange available. Among other factors which contribute materially to improve the Greek foreign payment balance, factors which perhaps do not play so large a rôle in the commercial exchange of other countries, probably the most important is the remittance home of considerable sums, amounting, it is

FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

Country.	Method of Quoting.	Parity of Exchange.	Latest Quotations
Alexandria.....	Piastre to £	97½	97½
Amsterdam ...	Florins to £	12.107	12.10
Athens	Drachma to £	25.22½	375
Belgrade.....	Dinars to £	25.22½	276
Berlin	Marks to £	20.43	20.7½
Berne	Francs to £	25.22½	25.20½
Bombay	Sterling to Rupee	18d.	18 1/16
Brussels	Belga to £.....	35	34 89½
Bueharest	Lei to £	25.22½	802½
Budapest	Pen to £	27.82	27.80
Calcutta	Sterling to Rupee	18d.	18 1/16
Constantinople	Piastres to £	110	950
New York	Dollars to £	4.86 2-3	4 85
Paris	Francs to £.....	25.22½	124.22½
Prague	Kronen to £.....	24.02	163½
Rome	Lire to £	25.22½	92.60
Sofia	Leva to £	25.22½	670
Tokoran	Krans to £	48	48½
Vienna	Sch to £	34.58	34.51
Warsaw	Zloty to £	25.22½	43 8/16—7/16

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estimated, to several million pounds sterling annually, by Greek emigrants abroad. Further, there is no doubt that the majority of wealthier Greeks have practically all their capital invested abroad, much of the interest on which probably finds its way back to Greece.

Again, it would appear practically certain that a not unimportant part of the Greek foreign trade is financed by wealthy Greek firms resident abroad, the actual Greek importer acting as a kind of selling agent for his non-resident compatriots. When one recollects the wealthy Greek colonies in Egypt, the United Kingdom, France and the United States, such a contention seems not unreasonable.

While some authorities hold that the proceeds of the more evident sources of invisible income, e.g., shipping, only suffice to meet the calls upon the country for its gold payments in respect of the interest and amortisation of its foreign loans, it is possible that there still remains some small balance to be added to the amounts obtained from the other sources above referred to. This is the more creditable, inasmuch as no small proportion of the bonds of many of these loans is in Greek hands. Furthermore, particularly during 1927, considerable sums of money were invested in Greece from abroad, the rich Greek community in Egypt having, it is stated, been large buyers of Greek bonds and house and similar property. It is manifestly impossible to form a definite estimate of the total amounts of the supplementary foreign exchange available to liquidate the adverse trade balance, but these and other factors are, in some quarters at least, considered to be sufficiently productive to leave only a comparatively small amount to be carried forward from year to year as an uncovered deficit.

Another factor to be taken into consideration in examining the Greek trade balance is the general increase that has taken place in the practice of giving credit. Undoubtedly no inconsiderable part of the imports during the past year were made on more or less generous credit terms, particularly easy terms being in many cases given by German, Italian, Czechoslovak, American and other exporters. Thus it will be seen that while the Greek banks maintained, on the whole, their conservative attitude in regard to commercial credits (total advances against shipping documents amounted on December 31, 1927, to Drs. 789,367,345—French Francs 143,509,939—and £1,652,371, as compared with Drs. 753,992,726—French Francs 108,269,800—and £1,318,879 in 1926, and the total discounts on the same dates to Drs. 1,693,689,470—French Francs 32,083,616—and £1,108,867; and Drs. 1,208,743,965—French Francs 27,202,501—and £794,578) foreign exporters had been ready to grant often long term credits to Greek importers. The Greek banks justify their attitude by asserting that the number of merchants and small industrialists has, during recent years, increased considerably in excess of the requirements of the market, and that it therefore becomes an economic duty to restrict credit to only the most healthy and solvent of their customers. If this attitude is

correct, and there is but little doubt that it is, then the question of the granting of credit by foreign shippers is one that merits serious consideration. It must be remembered that in order to balance the budget and obtain a permanently healthy condition of the State Finances, the Government have seen themselves obliged to increase the fiscal burden of the population very materially. While during the earlier part of 1927 the full weight of this new burden had not become fully appreciated, its effect became more apparent with the turn of the year. It is now contended by many Greeks that the buying power of very large sections, particularly of the urban population, has been very materially reduced; the result is that the retailer, himself finding difficulties in getting paid, is demanding longer and longer credits from the wholesaler, while the latter, even if he has obtained credit from his foreign shipper, is often hard put to it to find the wherewithal either to meet his acceptances, or even to clear fresh consignments through the Customs. British firms dealing with Greece should therefore continue to act with circumspection, and in granting credits exercise careful examination.

Thanks to some of the factors above alluded to, there was, however, during 1927, somewhat more capital available in the banks, and the National Bank was able to reduce its rate of discount on the 5th of June to 10 per cent. Despite this alleviation, the banks were, as mentioned above, reluctant to grant commercial credits, and although some Greek capital from abroad and some foreign capital was available for industrial undertakings, both they, and particularly also commercial enterprises, suffered from want of working capital. This lack of capital, together with the increased confidence felt in the economic situation of the country, would appear to have rendered Greece a popular field for consideration by foreign capitalists. While up to the end of the year, so far as is known, no actual foreign loans of any importance have been given to Greek undertakings, various loans are now under consideration, and may possibly be issued during the current year.

These loan schemes, if realised, will, together with the new Greek loan issued under the auspices of the League of Nations, add very considerably to the Greek foreign debt. While there is no doubt that many of them will materially add to the prosperity of the country, and enable a better exploitation of its undoubted natural resources, some misgiving is expressed, not only as to the wisdom of the policy, at this juncture, of further burdening the coming generations, but also lest this influx of foreign capital, even though graduated, may not lead to a "boom," the inevitable resultant reaction from which may have the gravest results. It is to be believed that those directing the economic policy of the country are alive to this later danger, and will see that the loans are only taken up gradually and as the works for which they are intended progress.

The progress made in agricultural development is evidenced by the increased harvest returns during the past year, which augur well for the eventual success of the policy of rendering Greece less dependent on foreign breadstuffs, which at present constitute the heaviest item of expenditure. The successful settlement of the refugees is one of the brightest features in the development of modern Greece, redounding to the credit of the refugees themselves, the Greek administration and the Refugee Settlement Commission. The execution of the various schemes of drainage and reclamation, together with that for the construction and maintenance of an adequate system of roads, will go very far, when supported by the industry of the agricultural refugees, towards improving the general economic conditions of the country. As regards the urban refugees, there is little doubt that their industry in the case of the working classes, and their great energy and more up-to-date methods in the case of the commercial classes, are raising the general level of efficiency in Greek business life, the most marked feature of which was a return of confidence in the economic future of the country.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the next ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING of the South Indian Railway Company, Limited, will be held at the Offices of the Company, 91, Petty France, Westminster, S.W.1, on Friday, the 26th October, 1928, at 11.30 a.m., for the purpose of receiving the Directors' Report and Statements of Accounts for the Year ended 31st March, 1928, and for the transaction of the ordinary general business of the Company.

The Transfer Books will be closed from Monday, the 17th, to Monday, the 31st day of December, 1928, both days inclusive, for the preparation of the half-yearly Warrants.

Transfers will not be received at the Office while the Books remain closed.

The Warrants payable on and after the 1st January, 1929, will be forwarded to the Proprietors on the 31st December, 1928.

By order,

A. MUIRHEAD,
Managing Director.

Company's Offices:—

91, Petty France, Westminster, S.W.1.
3rd October, 1928.

Cotton and Cotton Goods.

THE LIVERPOOL COTTON MARKET.

Messrs. Reynolds and Gibson report as follows for the week ended October 10:—

Egyptian Futures.—Sakel Contract.—We have had rather a featureless week in this market, and values continue to fluctuate round the 17d. level. Just after the American Bureau Report some short covering and stop-loss orders ran prices up somewhat, but lack of outside interest and a reactionary tendency in New York have since caused a weakening, to-night's close showing only minor alterations since our last report.

Trading continues on a very light scale for this period of the year, and outside interest in this contract is, and has been for some little time, very restricted, with the result that the open account appears evenly balanced. Trade reports still indicate a more optimistic tone prevailing, but fine cottons are not meeting their customary demand for this period of the season. It thus appears as if any "bullish" features in other markets under ruling conditions would only have a stabilising effect on this contract, whilst any depressing outside influences might easily force values down to a more attractive difference with other varieties.

We notice in reports from Alexandria that, whilst active spot markets have been experienced, Sakels only form a very minor part of the business transacted. This may, in part, be attributed to the lateness of the crop and consequent light receipts to date, but it also serves as a confirmation that consumers, not only in Lancashire, but in other parts of the world, have switched on to other and more profitable spinnings. The official crop report for September only indicates normal damage and may be construed as slightly "bearish," inasmuch as prospects for a good second picking are favourable. Movements in the Alexandria market have corresponded fairly closely to fluctuations at this side; stocks of tenderable cotton here are limited, and as imports for the next month or so will, unless a radical change in the outlook occurs, be restricted, we are quite prepared to see our contract re-established at a moderate premium. For the immediate future values will probably be held round the present level, the market, however, will later feel the pressure of the crop unless more support develops.

Upper Contract.—A fair amount of activity has again been witnessed in this market during the past week; the undertone on the whole has been quite steady, and a firming up in the basis of the other side has resulted in a reduction of hedge selling by importing houses. Straddle purchases against sales of American have again been favoured, especially by firms acting for Continental interests. Whilst Upper cotton at its present premium appears reasonable, we cannot anticipate any material widening until a large percentage of the crop has passed into trade channels. The offtake for both spot and forward cotton continues to expand, and as clearer ideas of the size and value of the American crop are beginning to be formulated spinners will probably from now onwards show more enterprise by covering their requirements a little way ahead.

The Alexandria General Produce Association monthly report for October states that the yield per feddan is appreciably higher than last year; prospects for the second picking are good and ginning yields three per cent. higher than 1927. For the time being, it rather appears as if prices will fluctuate in the neighbourhood of 11.75d. to 12d. per lb.; should any factors crop up depressing values well below this figure, we should recommend conservative purchases.

Egyptian Spot.—Steadiness has again characterised all markets, and the disturbance caused by last Monday's Bureau report was slight in nature and of short duration. As usual, the demand slackened off during the two or three days preceding the report, but spinners have kept in close touch with the market, and we expect to see the lost ground soon made good again. Doubtless, between now and the end of the year, sheer weight of cotton may depress prices to somewhat lower levels than those at present ruling, but, should this occur, there is little doubt that spinners will make good use of the occasion. When prices fluctuate freely buyers grumble freely and we are invariably told that "what the trade wants is steady prices." For weeks past now prices have remained extraordinarily steady, and, though at the moment spinners are reported to have no confidence in current rates, their purchases have been increasing steadily. Spot sales are notoriously unreliable as an indication of the state of trade, but when day after day trading in cotton for forward delivery is reported as "good" then we think that the facts speak for themselves.

There is little fresh to report as to the quality of the demand which has run on the usual stereotyped lines. Sakel still appears to be making some headway, and an improved business has undoubtedly taken place in the Good Fair to Fully Good grades. Low cotton at from 10.50d. to 14.50d. has been in steady request. Uppers have again maintained their position as "best sellers," and the type of cotton in popular request has been of a bright attractive appearance, without anything very much in the staple to recommend it. There are some cheap sellers about and the market is irregular. On the spot, there has been a brisk demand for cotton at from 25 off to 25 on November contracts. Cotton over "Good" in grade, either in Sakel or Upper, has been difficult to move, although there does appear to be a little more doing in the finer qualities of Sakel. Pilion has been in moderate demand, but Nahda, Maarad, Fuadi, etc., have been neglected. New crop cotton of any growth is eagerly awaited. The Sudan market has been very quiet.

Forwardings to spinners for the week ending the 5th inst. were returned as 4,583 bales Egyptian and 1,552 bales Sudan. Estimated spot sales, 2,100 bales Egyptian and 200 bales Sudan. Quotations of Sakel show a small decline on the week of 15 points. Uppers and Pilion are unchanged for Extra Fine, with other grades advanced 5 points. F.G.F. Sakel to-day, 17.55d. F.G.F. Upper to-day, 12.15d. F.G.F. Pilion to-day, 13.05d.

THE EGYPTIAN MARKET.

The Alexandria Commercial Company, in their report for the week ended October 4, state:—

The market since our last report has been active; the tone has been rather firm. The week's summary of price movements is as follows:—Sakellaridis: November, 34.38 dollars, 0.03 dollars up; January, 34.88 dollars, 0.10 dollars up; March, 35.27 dollars, 0.01 dollars down. Ashmouni: October, 21.77 dollars, 0.44 dollars up; December, 22.32 dollars, 0.34 dollars up; February, 22.85 dollars, 0.32 dollars up; April, 23.38 dollars, 0.31 dollars up.

Sakel.—The rise of last week has been maintained in spite of the continued poorness of the demand from abroad and the commencement of regular arrivals of new cotton. The relative firmness of the market is remarkable, but may be explained by the apathy of local speculators and the absence, for the time being, of hedge selling by growers and up-country merchants. As the season advances and the crop movement becomes more intense, we shall, of course, see more and more sales against arrivals and the effect on the market of these sales will depend on the demand from spinners. Our advices from Khartoum predict a slight increase in the acreage of Sudan Sakel this year and a crop, under normal conditions, of at least half a million kantars. The Sakel/Ashmouni straddle stands at 1,261 points against 1,302 points last week and 913 points at this date last year.

Uppers.—This market has been very firm during the week and the difference with Sakel is slightly narrower. The improvement in the tone may be attributed to the closing out of the straddles which were in favour during the summer, viz., sales of Ashmouni against purchases of Sakel; this week has also seen some straddling of Uppers against sales of American in New York. The demand from spinners has been again quite good and some important orders have been booked.

At the first October tender only 250 kantars dockets were issued; the market had expected a large tender and, as a result, the difference



The Postal Account

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October/December has narrowed from 70 to 45 points. The Ashmouni American straddle is 327 points (December/December) against 312 points (December/December) last week and 731 points (December, December) a year ago.

Present prices of Ashmouni seem reasonable, and are attracting the attention of spinners generally using American; on the other hand, however, the production is so big that this extra consumption will take some time to make itself felt, and we think that, for the time being, Ashmouni prices will follow American fluctuations fairly closely. The American Bureau Report will be published on Monday, the 8th inst., and is awaited with some anxiety.

Spot.—The past week has witnessed a further expansion of activity at Minet el Bassal and a large business has been done. Sales amount to about 33,000 bales, of which we estimate 6,625 bales Sakellaridis, 24,300 bales Ashmouni and Zagora, 1,900 bales Pilon, and 175 bales other varieties. As last week, Upper Egypt has attracted by far the greater proportion of the total business transacted, and Sakel is still rather neglected.

Sakellaridis: A somewhat larger turnover has been effected but demand is still very mediocre, though business has been done in all grades. Spot differences show very little actual change from last week but are inclined to ease.

Ashmouni and Zagora: Continue to attract a very large business, chiefly for the medium styles, though all grades have changed hands. Spot differences are generally dearer than last week.

Pilon: Continues in good favour with buyers and a very good business has been done, mainly in the better grades.

Other Varieties: A small business has been done in White, and such lots of Nahda as have been offered have been readily disposed of at good prices, especially the higher grades.

Crop, 1928.—Weather conditions have been favourable during the week and very helpful to the green bolls still on the plants.

COMPANY NOTES AND REPORTS.

NATIONAL BANK OF EGYPT.

Position at August 31, 1928, published in conformity with Article 6 of the Statutes. Banking Department.—Liabilities: Share capital (300,000 fully paid shares of £10 each), £E2,925,000. Reserve Fund: Statutory reserve, £E1,462,500; special reserve, £E1,243,125; current, deposit, and other accounts, £E14,116,672; Egyptian Government, £E16,373,750; Sudan Government, £E171,041; Mixed Tribunals, £E1,868,653; bankers' accounts, £E253,862; cheques and bills payable, £E226,079; sundry other accounts, £E1,854,913—£E40,495,595. Assets: Government securities and securities guaranteed by the Egyptian Government, £E21,712,313; sundry securities, £E521,512; advances on merchandise, £E1,065,306; advances on securities, £E4,130,815; advances otherwise secured, £E1,320,168; sundry other advances, £E1,271,182; bills of exchange, £E2,989,640; local bills discounted, £E744,600; buildings and furniture, £E243,944; money at call and at short notice, £E1,038,375; bankers' accounts, £E1,897,233; sundry other accounts, £E1,192,697. Cash: Notes, £E1,540,730; gold, £E462,013; silver, nickel, etc., £E365,067—£E2,367,810—£E40,495,595. Issue Department.—Notes issued, £E23,200,000—£E23,200,000. Gold, £E3,339,570; *British Treasury Bills, £E8,260,430—£E11,600,000. Securities: Egyptian Government securities and securities guaranteed by Egyptian Government, £E1,500,000; British Treasury Bills, National War Bonds, and British War Loan, £E70,100,000—£E11,600,000—£E23,200,000.

* By authority of the Egyptian Government these Treasury Bills are deposited in lieu of gold. (See *Journal Officiel* of October 30, 1910).

Stock and Share Markets.

LONDON EXCHANGE		Prices on Oct. 15	Railways.		Prices on Oct. 15	Banks		Prices on Sept. 19
Government Stocks.								
Egyptian 4 p.c. Unified Debt ..	...	86½	Assam-Bengal ..	...	93½	Imperial Bank of India ..	...	147½
Do. Pref. 3½ p.c. 1890 ..	...	74	Bengal Nagpur ..	...	101½	Bank of India ..	...	91
Do. Turk 4 p.c. 1891 ..	...	90½d	Egypt Delta Light Riv. ..	...	315/16	Central Bank of India ..	...	24½
Do. 3½ p.c. Eg. Trib. Bonds. '94 ..	...	81½d	Ottoman (Smy. t. Aid) ..	...	42/6	Coal.		
Bulgaria 7 p.c. ..	...	90½	Southern Punjab ..	...	201	Baraboni ..	...	1
Greek 5 p.c., 1881 ..	...	64½	South Indian ..	...	123½	Bengal ..	...	402½
Do. 5 p.c., 1884 ..	...	64½	Rubber.			Burrakur ..	...	124
Do. 4 p.c. Rentes, 1889 ..	...	51	Ceylon Para Rubber Ord. ..	...	7/6	East Indian ..	...	17½
Do. 5 p.c. 1890 ..	...	64½	Doolgalla (Ceylon) Rub. Est.	...	19/-	Equitable ..	...	19½
Do. 5 p.c. Funding Loan, 1893 ..	...	64	Grand Cent. (Ceylon) Rubber ..	...	24/6	Pench Valley ..	...	25
Do. 4 p.c. Rents, Loan, 1902 ..	...	61	Hewagum Rubber Co. ..	...	10/9	Raneegunge ..	...	56½
Do. 4 p.c. Loan, 1910 ..	...	61	Keptigalla Rubber Estates ..	...	1/3	Standard ..	...	53½
Do. 5 p.c. Loan, 1914 (Lon. issue) ..	...	75½	Malayalam Rub. and Produce ..	...	29/9	Cotton.		
Do. 7 p.c., 1924 ..	...	103	Shipping.			Bengal Nagpur ..	...	30
Do. 6 p.c. St. Bds. ..	...	91½	Anchor 5½ p.c. Prf. ..	...	8½	Bombay Dyeing, etc.	...	79½
Palestine 5 p.c. ..	...	102½	Cunard ..	...	33	Bowreah ..	...	330
Persia 5 p.c., 1911 ..	...	89½	Furness Withy ..	...	39	Buckingham and Carnatic ..	...	125
Roumania 4 p.c. Ext. ..	...	73½	Khedivial Mail Ord.	...	265	Cawnpore Textiles ..	...	11
Do. 4 p.c. Consolidation ..	...	46½	P. and O. Deferred ..	...		Century ..	...	267½
Sudan 5½ p.c. Guar. Bds.	...	108	Tea.			Central India ..	...	495
India 3½ p.c.	...	71½	Assam Co.	...	40/9	Elgin ..	...	91
Do. 3 p.c.	...	60½	Bengal United Tea Ord ..	...	24	Khatau Makanji ..	...	96½
Do. 5½ p.c.	...	102 13/16	Bramapootra ..	...	33½	Muir ..	...	35½
Do. 4½ p.c.	...	94½	British Indian Tea Ord.	...	4	New Ring ..	...	289
Turkish 4 p.c. Unified ..	...	23½	Cachar and Dooars Tea Ord.	...	21	Phoenix ..	...	360
Banks.			Carolina ..	...	31	Svadeshi ..	...	453½
Agri. Bank of Egypt ..	...	72	Ceylon Tea Plantations Ord.	...	51/16	Jute.		
Bank of British West Africa ..	...	4½	Consolidated Estates ..	...	3	Alliance ..	...	640½
Bank of Roumania ..	...	86 3/8	Darjeeling Co.	...	225 32	Barnagore ..	...	316
Barclays Dom. Col. Pf.	...	28 3/8	Dimbula Valley (Ceylon) Ord.	...	34½d	Budge Budge ..	...	650
Chartered Bank of India ..	...	21½	Dooars Tea Ord.	...	39 1/2	Clive ..	...	47½
Eastern ..	...	7 1/16	Doolooogram Tea ..	...	1 1/4	Dalhousie ..	...	650½
onian Bank ..	...	7½	Doom Dooma ..	...	4 1/16	Delta ..	...	684
Imperial Bank of Persia ..	...	11½	East Assam ..	...	4 1/16	Fort Gloster ..	...	1 1/4
Land Bank of Egypt Ord.	...	18½	Empire of Ind.	...	24	Gourepore ..	...	668
Lloyds ..	...	65/-	Halem Tea ..	...	2 1/6	Howrah ..	...	791½
Mercantile Bank of India A ..	...	34½	Imperial Ind.	...	2 1/6	Kamarhaty ..	...	615
National Bank of Egypt ..	...	34½	Jhanzie Tea Association ..	...	2 1/6	Kankarrah ..	...	660
National Bank of India ..	...	53½	Jokai (Assam) Tea Ord.	...	2 1/6	Khardah ..	...	1225
Ottoman Bank ..	...	14	Jorehaut ..	...	3 11/16	Kinnison ..	...	83½
Westminster ..	...	20½	Lanka Plantations Ord.	...	4 5/32	National ..	...	445
Land.			Lungla (Sylhet) Tea Ord.	...	2	Standard ..	...	584
Kassala Cotton ..	...	6/6	New Dimbula ..	...	6 9/16½d	Union ..	...	
Sudan Plantations ..	...	47 3/2	Nuwara Eliya Tea Estates Ord.	...	5½	Miscellaneous		
Mines.			Nedeen ..	...	24	British India Corporation ..	...	31
Balaghat Gold Mining ..	...	6/6	Ouvah ..	...	3 3/16	Bengal Paper Mills ..	...	394
Burma Corp.	...	14 7/8	Pabbojan ..	...	35/16	Bengal Timber Trading ..	...	245
Champion Reef Gold ..	...	10 7/8	Standard ..	...	15 1/4	Burn and Co.	...	385
Mysore ..	...	16/9	Scottish Assam ..	...	5 1/16	Cawnpore Sugar ..	...	27½
Nundydroog ..	...	16/-	Scottish Tea and Lands ..	...	3 3/16	Champaran Sugar ..	...	124
Ooregum Gold Mining Ord.	...	14/-	Upper Assam ..	...	2 13/16	Howrah Oil Mills ..	...	84
Oil.			Insurance.			ALEXANDRIA		
Anglo-Egyptian B ..	...	211/32	General Accident Fire and Life (£5, £1½ paid) ..	...	14½	Prices on Oct. 5, supplied by G. L. Mortier, Alexandria & Cairo		
Anglo-Persian Ord.	...	4 1/16	London & Lancs (£5, £1 paid) ..	...	32½	Agricultural Bank of Egypt ..	...	£74
Do. 8 p.c. Cum. 1st Pf.	...	25 7/8	Royal Exchange (£1) ..	...	74	" " Fond.	...	£810
Do. 9 p.c. Cum. 2nd Pf.	...	29 3/8	Sun Fire £10 (£2 paid) ..	...	4	Alexandria Water Co.	...	£174
Do. 5 p.c. Debs.	...	73	Trade Indemnity (£10) ..	...	15½	Assoc. Cotton Ginners ..	...	£716
Brit. Burmah ..	...	51 1/16	Miscellaneous.			Beh'ra Ord.	...	£E201
Burmah Oil Co. Ord.	...	27 7/8	Alexandria Water Co.	...	17½d	Ciments d'Egypte ..	...	Fr. 128
Do. 8% Cum. Pref.	...	14/9	Associated Cotton Ginners ..	...	23 3/2	" Div.	...	184
Phoenix Oil and Transport ..	...	12 3/8	Egyptian Hotels ..	...	7	Comptoir Fin. & Com. d'Egypte ..	...	£516
Steaua Rom. na ..	...	12 3/8	Do. Markets Ord.	...	25 3/8	Credit Foncier Egyptien ..	...	Fr. 1163
			Do. Salt and Soda ..	...	28 3/8	" Fondateur ..	...	£289
			Mortgage Co. of Egypt 5 p.c. Pref.	...	84	Crown Brewery Priv.	...	Fr. 156
			INDIAN EXCHANGES.			Filature Nationale d'Egypte ..	...	£34
			Government Loans.			Frigorifique d'Egypte ..	...	£729 3/2
			3½% Government Paper ..	...	73½	Immeubles d'Egypte Soc. An. des.	...	£1613 1/2
						Land Bank of Egypt Actions ..	...	£18 5/2
						" Parts de Fond ..	...	£247
						Menzaleh Canal Navigation ..	...	Pt. 194

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*NANDARA	16,000	Oct. 19	Oct. 26	Bombay and Japan
*RANPURA	16,600	Oct. 26	Nov. 2	Bombay and Karachi
*NANKIN	7,000	Oct. 27	—	Colombo & Calcutta
*COMORIN	15,000	Nov. 2	Nov. 8	Colombo & Australia
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*MANOLA	8,963	—	Oct. 20	Madras and Calcutta
MADURA	8,975	Oct. 17	Oct. 26	East African Ports
*MANILA	8,303	Oct. 27	Nov. 3	Madras and Calcutta
*MUNDRA	7,275	Nov. 3	Nov. 10	Bombay and Karachi
MERKARA	8,235	Nov. 10	Nov. 17	Madras & Calcutta
MATIANA	9,066	Nov. 14	Nov. 23	East African Ports
*HATIMURA	6,656	Nov. 24	Dec. 1	Bombay and Karachi

*Cargo steamer. ‡Calls Malta.

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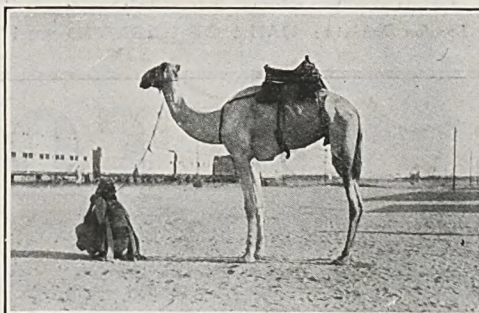
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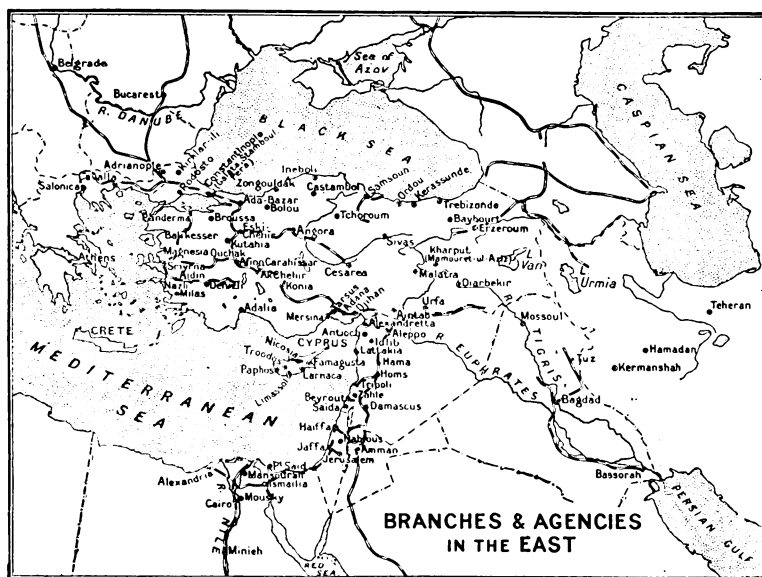
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Notes of the Week.

A Royal Progress in Egypt.

King Fuad's visit to the Siwa Oasis has a wider interest than would attach to a royal tour in a more accessible part of Egypt. During the War the Egyptians were reminded of their continental position by having the Turks hammering at their eastern door, and the Senussi for a brief period on the west. Since then the rectification of the western frontier, which gave Jarabub to Italy, has drawn further attention to Egypt's proximity to the play of European forces. The very remoteness of the Siwa Oasis is a reminder of responsibilities that may not always be present to town dwellers on the Nile, and King Fuad has done well to emphasize a national unity which has to rise superior to geographical distances. Not the least value of this royal visit is the impetus that it has given to the lessening of those distances. Siwa will now be connected with the coast by a motor road instead of by merely a desert track. The railway, which before the War went as far as Ras el Daba, but sacrificed a hundred kilometres of its length to provide rails for Sinai in the advance against the Turks, will now be extended and may one day reach even Siwa. If that should come to pass, other uses are likely to be found for the distant oasis than that of a convenient centre for the scientific exploration of the surrounding region. By then, something more will have been heard, perhaps, of the bold project for letting the Mediterranean into the Qattara depression. Egypt has handled the torch of civilization in many ages, and it may be that she has yet to be the means of throwing its light over one of those portions of the earth before which civilised man is inclined to admit his limitations by labelling them Desert.

Egypt's Codlin and Short.

One of the grievances of the Egyptian Opposition against the Government of Mahomed Pasha Mahmoud is that the latter is taking to itself credit for reforms that had been prepared or voted by the Parliament which has been suspended. In these days, with the experience of so many countries to serve as a guide, few Governments

are likely to waste time in claiming originality for ideas, and least of all a Ministry that has shown that its *raison d'être* lies in action, not in words. If the reforms of which the present Government has made a beginning, within a few months of taking office, were already on the Egyptian Statute Book, the failure of previous Governments to carry them into practice becomes the more notable, and an explanation has to be sought in that fatal paralysis of the administration for which the domination of Parliament by Wafd extremists was responsible. No one supposes that the need for the numerous reforms which Mahmoud Pasha's Ministry has already started was not recognized by a large number of Egyptians long ago, and it would have been strange indeed, if the reforms had not been mooted in Parliament. If any credit, however, is attached to them, it belongs to those who carry them into effect rather than to those who claim merely to have discovered Egypt's need of the reforms. The outside world, if appeal is made to its judgment, is more likely to be impressed by what the new Government accomplishes for the benefit of Egypt than by denunciation of its action in suspending Parliament. The step was admittedly a drastic one, and more often than not connotes hostility to parliamentary government in the abstract. So far Mahmoud Pasha's Cabinet has done nothing to suggest such hostility, and the dispassionate onlooker is not prepared to regard the future of parliamentary government as identified with the perpetuation of Egypt's peculiar adaptation of it.

Students and Politics

What may yet prove to be by no means the least striking or the least beneficial of the new Government's innovations was indicated by Mohamed Pasha Mahmoud's action in refusing to allow a student to present him with an address of welcome, on the ground that Egyptian students must henceforth abandon their obsession for politics and stick to their studies. No seriously-minded politician in Egypt can fail to ignore the harm that has been done to the country by the roping in of students as

a factor in the country's politics. The temptation to which the Wafd yielded in so doing may have been great, but it is impossible to justify its action in the light of the effect on the students' careers. Inevitably and demonstrably the standard of Egyptian scholarship has suffered; and the suspension of Parliament will have been justified, if for no other reason, if it serves to free the student class from the distractions of politics for a few years, until the fatal practice of the last decade has had time to lose its hold as a tradition on the student mind. It is, therefore, a matter for regret to those who have the interests of Egypt at heart and are not involved in Egyptian party politics to note that the propagandists whom the Wafd have sent to England are trying to perpetuate what amounts to a crime against the student class of Egypt by instilling their doctrines into those who are supposed to be prosecuting their studies in this country. The time to make politicians of them will be when they have finished their studies. That a Wafdist ex-Minister should find it necessary to come all this way to win students to his way of thinking suggests that not only the fortunes, but also the confidence and self-respect of the Party have fallen very low.

Foreign Residents in Roumania.

A Roumanian Decree that came into force on October 8, which appeared to guarantee to certain classes of foreigners permission to continue residence in Roumania for periods of three years, two years and one year, and enumerated other classes whose permits to reside in the country would not be extended, has not unnaturally caused uneasiness among foreign business men and workers. An official statement issued by the Roumanian Government disclaims any measures of expulsion for political ends, and describes the Decree as in the nature of a "revision which takes place every year in order to determine whether permits to reside in the country granted to foreigners should be renewed for a further period." It is to be hoped that this explanation will prove as reassuring in practice as it is intended to be. A most unfortunate impression would be conveyed abroad, if, for instance, the Roumanian Government, having modified its intention to compel foreign companies to employ only Roumanians, were now to aim at enforcing its former decision by ordering the expulsion of foreign employees. The fullest sympathy will be felt with any Government faced with the problem of unemployment; but the peculiar circumstances of many industries in Roumania must not be overlooked. Where foreign capital was deliberately invited to perform in Roumania what the Roumanians could not do themselves, the greatest possible care should be exercised to avoid such a charge as that an attempt is now being made to impair the security of the capital so invested. Any steps that tend to weaken the efficiency of a company or an enterprise by interfering with its personnel must impair the security of its capital. It is difficult to believe that the country or its business efficiency benefits by the appointment of Roumanians to positions in which they are not qualified to do the work entailed, merely to carry out the provisions of a Law which requires a certain percentage of a directorate or staff to be Roumanian. Individual Roumanians may benefit, but a business edifice built up on such artificial foundations cannot be inherently sound.

Serbs and Croats.

The activities of M. Milosh Savtchitch, who, either of his own initiative, or, as seems more likely, at the prompting of King Alexander, is exploring the ground for a reconciliation between the Croats and the Serbs, have already had the effect of creating a better atmosphere in Yugoslavia. M. Savtchitch was favourably placed for his task. A Banker by calling, he has played his part in the political life of the country, but since the split in the Democratic ranks has held aloof from party politics, while retaining the personal friendship of both M. Pribitchevitch

and Dr. Davidovitch. He has shrewdly laid stress on the economic crisis through which Yugoslavia is passing, and his contention that the situation cannot improve, until the political deadlock has been removed, and that it stands to grow worse with delay, makes a strong appeal to business circles throughout the country. Accordingly a considerable section of the Serbs as well as of the Croats seems to have acquired the will of reconciliation, and the politicians cannot well hold back much longer. The election of M. Vukitchevitch as President of the Radical Club may be resented in Zagreb, but the Croats will do well not to expect the "enemy" to make too hurried a retreat all along the line. Any compromise inevitably entails concessions on each side, and so far it is the Serbs rather than the Croats who seem disposed to abandon their former intransigent attitude.

An Amnesty in Greece.

M. Venizelos has, logically and wisely, followed up the liberation of General Pangalos from prison—one of his first measures on returning to power—by granting an amnesty for all political offences committed since 1925. The Greek Government places on record its disapproval of the Pangalist dictatorship, but considers that during the present period of intensive internal organization Greece should be freed from the strife which would inevitably be caused by any judicial raking up of the past. Even if he were to achieve nothing else, M. Venizelos would have justified his resumption of office by this one step alone. A grave reproach rested on the Greek politicians who formed the Governments between September 1926 and September 1928 for deliberately keeping a political sore open by the retention of General Pangalos in prison, while they lacked the moral courage to release him or to bring him to trial. The step now taken should mark a further stage in the restoration of normal relations between monarchists and republicans. General Pangalos and his dictatorship are claimed by neither, but action against him kept alive ill-feeling on both sides. Their ordinary leaders failed Greece when the opportunity was theirs, so both parties have reason to be thankful that they can fall back on a Greek who is now getting things done.

The Riddle of the Dodecanese.

The Dodecanesans, it is to be feared, share with other inhabitants of the wide East the habit of telling the inquirer what they imagine that he would like to hear. To those interested in the subject the letter that we publish on another page may be commended for careful study. The writer has recently paid a visit to the Islands, and he sums up his impressions in a letter of considerable interest. He found "exceedingly friendly intercourse between Greeks and Italians in society and between the Carabinieri and the people in the outlying villages. The relations between the latter were, in fact, particularly striking and, in some cases, touching." He adds: "The Italians may well be proud of their work and not least for their success in creating a genuine spirit of collaboration between themselves and the people over whose destiny they preside." In June of this year was published a book, entitled "Italy's Ægean Possessions," by Mr. and Mrs. C. D. Booth. These authors present a different picture; they record the grievances of the islanders, but without taking it upon themselves to pronounce judgment on the validity of those grievances. Thus they write: "The details of the complaints made by the inhabitants are so numerous that they cannot be set forth in a work of this kind, nor could they be examined except by an impartial body receiving and sifting evidence over a period of many months. But the substance of them is, that, since Italy came to the Dodecanese, the ancient privileges have been suppressed, land has been unfairly expropriated, taxes have been inordinately increased, religious and educational institutions have been interfered with, and last, but not least, the people have been harshly and brutally treated by carabinieri and other minor officials."

The Turco-Syrian Border.

The report of trouble on the frontier between Turkey and Syria, a report which there is as yet no means of verifying, inevitably reminds one that the vexed problem of the frontier between the Turkish State and Syria in the neighbourhood of Nisibin is still, in spite of the fact that a decision has been made by a neutral arbitrator, General Ernst, unsettled. The Turks have steadfastly refused to accept the award to which they had previously bound themselves. In the meantime, it is perhaps natural that there should be signs of unrest on either side of the border—for this corner of north-east Syria is in any case a region where the reign of order and of law has not been very seriously enforced. The report from Constantinople of brigandage and pillage being the order of the day is probably propaganda, but the Turks have always complained, and with apparent justification, that there is an extensive trade in contraband. The French would possibly be the first to admit that their control of north-east Syria is of a loose sort, but two blacks do not make a white; and the Turks would place themselves in a much stronger position were they at once to accept the findings of the neutral arbitration on the exact line of the frontier.

Rumours about Iraq.

As the year 1928, by the end of which, unless the matter is to go to arbitration, the problem of the future of the Iraq Railways has to be solved, draws to a close, it is perhaps inevitable that the still unratified Anglo-Iraqi Treaty should be the subject of constant rumour. The native Iraqi Press appears to be full of such reports, but it seems a pity that echoes of these unconfirmed reports should find their way into responsible British papers. During the last week, however, it has been confidently reported from Basrah (as if matters principally affecting London should be reported from Manchester!) that the future ownership and administration of the Iraq Railways had been decided, and that, as a consequence of this, the recommendations of the Hammond Report, which was summarised in THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA at the time of its publication, would in the very near future be put into effect. It was even stated that a loan to enable these recommendations to be so put into effect would be issued without delay, owing to the fact that there was a very strong move on the part of financial interests to connect Nisibin with Mosul, and so rob Iraq of the traffic from Southern Kurdistan. There is in all this rumour, however, no word of truth at present. The fact is that nothing at all has been decided, and observers of the

development of Iraq would be wise to examine very carefully all reports upon this matter that emanate from Basrah, which, it may be remembered, already has an unenviable reputation for inaccuracy through the wild stories that it spread at the time of the tension along the Iraqi-Najdi frontier. Another report from Iraq which is inaccurate concerns the appointment of Sir John Campbell to be Adviser to the Ministry of Finance. The post which formerly was held by Mr. R. V. Vernon remains vacant.

INDIAN NOTES.

Ave Atque Vale.

After many "alarums and excursions off" the resignation of Lord Birkenhead is at last an accomplished fact, and already his successor is installed at the India Office. The Prime Minister's choice, as was anticipated, has fallen upon Lord Peel who filled the same post from the date of the formation of Mr. Bonar Law's Government in 1922 until the Labour Party took office for the first time two years later, and has since officiated with distinction as First Commissioner of Works. Lord Peel's selection has met with general approval, for there are few men with a better record in public administration, and it is, moreover, of distinct advantage that the new Secretary of State, at so critical a time in the history of India, should be thoroughly familiar with the administrative side of his duties in order that he may have more time in which to familiarise himself with the many and varied aspects of the thousand and one special problems that the Simon Commission is endeavouring to resolve. If Lord Birkenhead's decision was irrevocable, he has certainly consulted the public interest in determining to retire at the present juncture rather than wait until after the General Election. For, as he points out in his letter to the Prime Minister, the Commissioners' report will impose exceptional responsibilities upon the Secretary of State for India during the next few years. Lord Peel's record during his earlier incumbency and the broadminded and well-informed character of his subsequent references to Indian and other questions of the day encourage the belief that he will not be found wanting when the testing time arrives. While regret at Lord Birkenhead's retirement from politics will be widespread, and by no means confined to those who think with him politically, it is idle to pretend that during the latter years, particularly, of his tenure of the India Office, he has incurred not altogether unjustifiable criticism. The possessor of one of the finest intellects in the service of the State, he has been responsible in other fields for some of the best constructive statesmanship of our generation, but he also suffers from the defects of those qualities. "It is too early yet," observes Mr. Baldwin, in acknowledging his colleague's resignation, "to estimate the value of your work at the India Office, but I am confident that the history of our time will do it justice." To the outgoing Secretary of State more than of his distinguished predecessors, perhaps, Lord Morley's words apply most closely: "The outcome, the final outcome, of British rule in India may be a profitable study for the musings of meditative minds. But we are not here to muse. We have the duty of to-day to perform. We have the tasks of to-morrow spread out before us."

Father Douglas.

Precisely forty years ago a well-known authority on India said that: "the Oxford Brotherhood in Calcutta discloses the strange spectacle of men of birth and scholarship living in common a life of apostolic simplicity and self-sacrifice." Father Douglas, to whom Lord Lytton paid a well-merited tribute the other day at a meeting of the London Missionary Society, is a devoted member of this Brotherhood—the Oxford University

(Continued on page 484)

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PALESTINE AND THE JEWS.

At this particular moment, considerable tension exists between Jewry and the Government of Palestine, in the one case, and the Jews in Palestine and the Arab population in the other. It is, in fact, both a grave and a sad period in the history of Palestine under the British Mandate. Not since 1922 and 1925, when the Wailing Wall came into prominence, has such cleavage between Arab and Jewish communities in Palestine been manifest. From the point of view of peace and quiet in Palestine—and it should particularly be remembered that matters affecting Jew and Arab had been proceeding very smoothly in the last year or two—it is a matter of profound regret that such bitter feelings should have been engendered through the unfortunate incident, already recorded in our "Notes of the Week," that took place on the Day of Atonement at the Wailing Wall. From all aspects, indeed, the event is to be deplored. But to any impartial observer it is perfectly obvious that, however petty may appear to be the attitude of the Muslims, the Jews were absolutely and entirely in the wrong in the first place. Since the matter is manifestly to be given considerable publicity in the future, it may be well to recall the origins of the dispute. A screen was put up by the Jews in a public thoroughfare. The attention of the Palestine Police was called to the matter. They ordered the responsible Jews to remove the obstruction, and a promise to do so was obtained. But on the Day of Atonement it was discovered that this promise had not been fulfilled; nor was it possible, on this Holy Day, to obtain a fulfilment of this promise. Realising, therefore, that such an infringement of the *status quo* could not be permitted, and realising, moreover, what should never be forgotten, that bloodshed was more than likely if the obstruction were not removed, as the result of Muslim resentment of Jewish pretensions, the Police forcibly removed the offending structure. It may be—we cannot tell—that there was a display of unnecessary violence on the part of the authorities; admittedly we have read somewhere that one American lady had her foot trodden upon. But to revile the Police, as the Jews almost all over the world appear to be doing, is simply to display ignorance of local conditions and local feeling in Jerusalem. No one who is aware of the fanaticism of claimants to local rights in Jerusalem will fail to believe that the shedding of blood on this occasion was a distinct possibility so long as the offending screen remained on a site, where, for all the Muslims knew, a claim might be made by Jews for a structure always to be in place. With the praying Jews and Jewesses at the Wall we have very considerable sympathy: it was no fault of theirs that their immemorial practices should thus be rudely interfered with. To interrupt anyone's religious exercise at any time is unseemly; to interrupt it at the holiest of all times is particularly regrettable. That fact, however, should not blind one to the identity of the original culprits, who laid on the Palestine Police a duty the fulfilment of which no self-respecting force could postpone. If the cause of peace

and amity in Palestine is to receive a set-back as the result of all this Jewish protest and of all this counter Muslim claim, it is an obligation to remember upon whom the chief responsibility lies.

The plain fact is that, were an impartial authority like Great Britain not in charge in the City of Jerusalem, the various claims of the different religious communities would be made in much more violent fashion than is now possible. It is all very well for excited Jews to exclaim, as they exclaimed when the present Governor of Cyprus was Governor of Jerusalem, that never had they received such treatment since the days of Hadrian as they received at the hands of Sir Ronald Storrs, or to announce that the present British authorities in Palestine are denying them rights which were scrupulously respected even in Turkish times. For the Jews in the Holy Land must know that, since the Balfour Declaration, the Arabs regard them and any claims which they care to set up with anxious eyes; they must know that, if they infringe existing rights in Palestine (by means such as the erection of the partition) the very basis of the Mandate which Great Britain is in the Holy Land to fulfil is menaced. The indignation of those Jews who, seeing only the "outrage" done to worshippers by the Western Wall, and ignoring both the causes of the Police's interference and the fact that, in the worshippers' own interest, postponement of interference was ill-advised, is quite comprehensible, but it is not intelligent. The obvious duty which is incumbent upon the Jewish authorities in Palestine is now so to co-operate with the Government that a recurrence of such an event by the Wall is impossible. A way out of this most regrettable *impasse* must be found, and we have no doubt that with good will and moderation—virtues which the Jews certainly possess is as great a degree as other peoples—means will be devised for the satisfaction of Jewish religious needs at the Wailing Wall, without any trampling upon a very sensitive Muslim public opinion.

For, despite such happenings as this affair at the Wall, general wisdom is descending upon Jews in Palestine. Idealists there must always be, but there is now a visible tendency—even at Tel-Aviv—to make sure that foundations are laid in fact, not in impossible fancy. Gradually, reluctantly, but courageously Jews both in and outside the Holy Land are learning the truth about the possibilities of Palestine as a place of settlement for members of their race. If nothing else could demonstrate the utter impracticability of political Zionism, or of the policy of a Jewish National State, two facts alone could do so; the fact that ever since the middle of 1926 more Jews have had to leave Palestine than could immigrate into the Holy Land, and the fact that, but a few days ago, Dr. Weizmann arrived in America for the absolutely essential purpose of arranging matters so that non-Zionists could contribute to the sadly dwindling funds in support of a "Jewish National Home" in Palestine. It is, indeed, slowly dawning on everyone concerned in this problem of the settlement of Jews in Palestine, Jewish as well as non-Jewish, that the Holy Land, so far from ever containing a majority of Jews, can never be more than a place of spiritual regeneration for the race, a country in which the religious, the cultural, the historic feelings of the Jews may be deepened and refreshed. Dreams of Jewish governance, of Jewish overlordship, are now gone into the limbo of unpractical, if not yet forgotten, things. For there is a limit to Palestine, there is a limit to Jewish immigration. Nothing, on the other hand, can stay the Arabs' natural increase of population. To pretend that the contrary is true is merely to walk in a world of fancy, fancy which may do harm both to Jew and to Arab. But what is possible in Palestine is, even from the Jews' point of view, sufficient for the aspirations of their race. A Power like Great Britain, at any rate, cannot ignore the fact that conditions in Palestine can never be again what they were two thousand years ago, whether those conditions be viewed from the religious or the social or the political or the economic aspect.

*The Near and Middle East

From Our Own Correspondents.



Belgrade, October 18.

M. Milosh Savtchitch, one of the leading members of the Peasant-Democrat Coalition, is continuing his attempts to find some formula on which Belgrade and Zagreb can both agree for the renewal of relations. "By chance," it is announced, he met his old friend, M. Davidovitch, with whom he conversed for over two hours; and "by chance" again Dr. Koroshetz, Dr. Spaho, and M. Yovan Yovanovitch as well. Presumably it will be "by chance" that he will meet M. Aca Stanoyevitch and perhaps M. Vukitchevitch too, within the next few days. If only his luck holds and he can "by chance" meet M. Pribitchevitch, M. Machek and M. Predavatz, M. Savtchitch should be in a good position to judge of the possibility of agreement.

M. Savtchitch's action is favoured by Belgrade, and he has been well received by all the party leaders whom he has met. Dr. Davidovitch held that an agreement is essential at all costs. The Democrats would like to know, however, exactly what are the desires of the Peasant-Democrat bloc, and especially what changes they would like to make in the Constitution. They are quite prepared for elections. It is said that Dr. Koroshetz assured M. Savtchitch of his sympathetic desire for agreement with the Croats, which is all the greater since the Slovenian People's Party experienced for themselves, until quite recently, all the inconveniences of a strongly centralistic organisation of the State. In this respect it should be borne in mind that, until the last elections, Dr. Koroshetz and his party were most doggedly against the present Constitution and energetically sought its alteration in the direction of federation. The Bosnian Muslims, who are not on too good terms with some of the Radicals, also want an agreement to be reached as soon as possible, but they do not think that the time is ripe for elections yet. If elections are held, however, they think that they should be carried through by a normal parliamentary Government in accordance with ordinary usage. With the Serbian Peasant Party M. Savtchitch found himself in perfect accord, for they have been persistently in opposition since long before June 20 and demand an immediate agreement without condition or reserve, free elections, and a revision of the Constitution which would result in complete equality of the citizens of all parts of the country. This, of course, the present Constitution should give, but, rightly or wrongly, the people from the new provinces believe that they have not the same chance of reaching the higher ranks of the Diplomatic and Civil Services or of the Army as have those born in Belgrade and district. This may merely result from the fact that the Serbian parties have been in office almost all the time since the unification and the Civil Service is openly a political one.

With M. Aca Stanoyevitch M. Savtchitch should have no difficulty, for the National Executive group of Radicals have even gone so far in their desire to prove their sympathy with the Croats as to abstain, unofficially, from all collaboration in the work of the present Skupshtina, and

it is well known that they are eager for an agreement with Zagreb, elections; and a reconsideration of certain clauses of the Constitution. Whether he goes to see M. Vukitchevitch as well will depend largely on the events of the next two days.

On October 20 the Skupshtina will hold the first meeting of a new session. This means the re-election of officers, and it is not sure who will be elected by the Radicals as their candidate for the Presidency of the Skupshtina. If M. Ninko Peritch is re-elected, this will be considered as a direct challenge by the Zagreb parties; but if a member of the National Executive group is chosen a great step forward will have been made. Similarly the President of the Radical Club must be elected anew. If M. Vukitchevitch, who seems to have a majority in the Club, which is composed of the Radical M.P.s, is elected, M. Savtchitch will be obliged to consult him too. The National Executive seems to command a majority among the Radical masses in the country and may be able to exert sufficient influence in the Club to secure the election of someone less politically compromised than M. Vukitchevitch.

In Zagreb M. Savtchitch's activities have met with a cool reception. It is stated that M. Pribitchevitch has asked him, through friends, to refrain from further conversations with these people, since they are all involved in the social boycott which the Peasant-Democrat Coalition is still trying to enforce against all who help the present Government in any way. But it is said that the disciplinary measures laid down for those who break the boycott will not be enforced against M. Savtchitch, since it is recognised that, as a Serbian, he is in a difficult position and he has always insisted throughout that he is acting on his own initiative and not as a representative of his party.

A start has at least been made. The difficulties still in the way of an agreement between Belgrade and Zagreb are enormous, but the outlook is much brighter than it has been for many months. Perhaps the most important aspect of the present negotiations between M. Savtchitch and the party leaders is that they are being conducted more from the point of view of economics than political necessity. M. Savtchitch's view is that if, as it seems, the various parties are agreed that they intend to keep a united country, and only to modify the present Constitution and to improve the administration, it is absurd to waste time at a moment when the country is in grave economic difficulties, which are far more important than mere matters of political polemics. On this basis a working agreement might be reached.

Mr. Ramsay MacDonald's Visit to Prague.

M. Machek and M. Predavatz, the leaders of the Croatian Peasant Party, are in Prague attending a conference of Peasant Parties, at which they are reported to have met Mr. Ramsay MacDonald. The Croats are inclined to attribute great importance to this meeting, for they recall M. Raditch's meeting with Mr. MacDonald in London when he was Prime Minister, after which the important decision to give up the policy of abstaining and to go to Belgrade was reached. The Zagreb papers suggest that the British elections of next spring will surely result in the return of the Labour Party to office and have great hopes that the great influence

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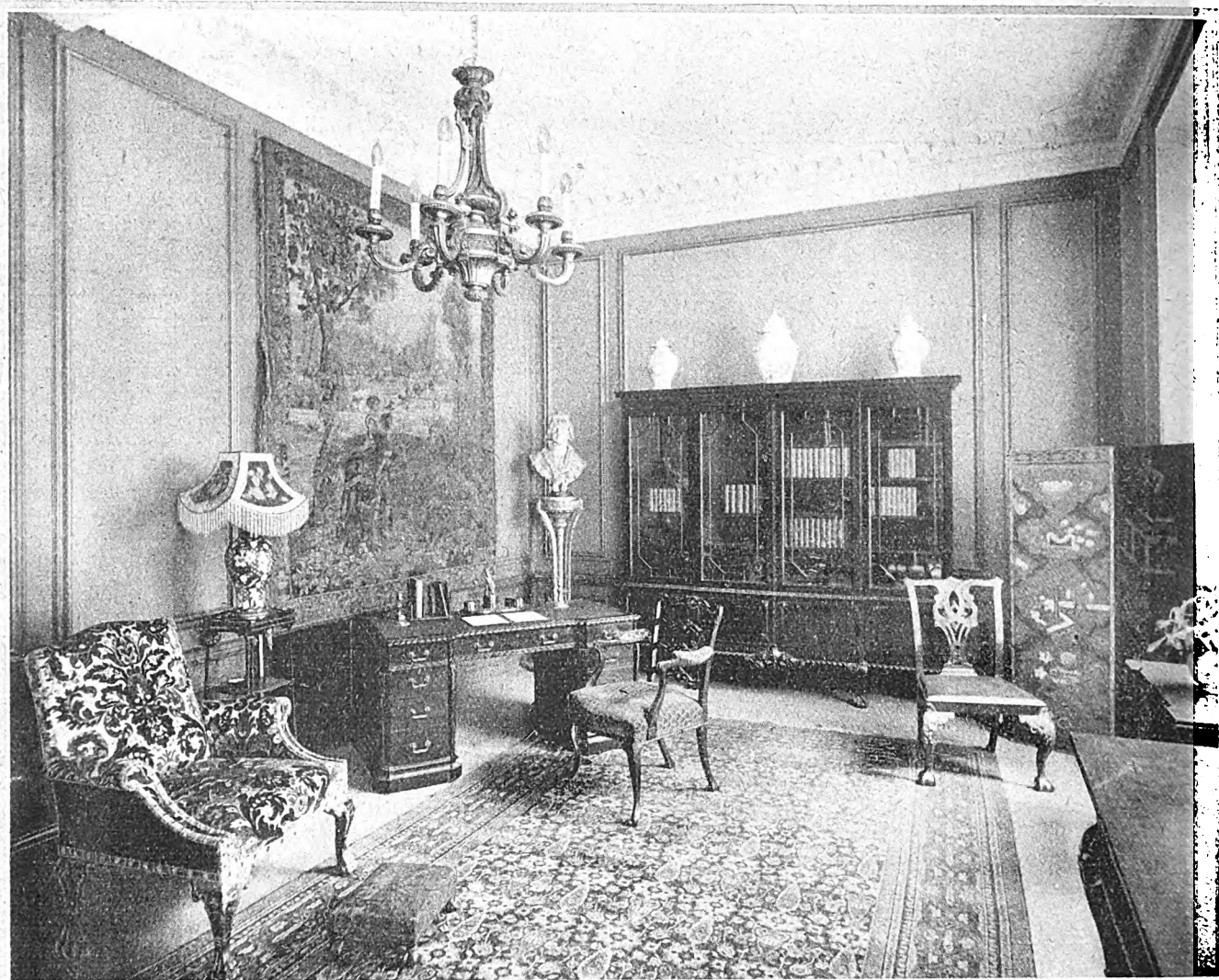
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*Under this heading appear weekly or at regular intervals communications from correspondents in Egypt, the Sudan, Roumania, Yugoslavia, Greece, Bulgaria, Albania, Turkey, Cyprus, Palestine, Iraq, and Persia.

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Mr. MacDonald would then have will be exerted in their favour.

General Sir Charles J. Briggs in Belgrade.

As Field-Marshal Sir George Milne, who commanded the British troops on the Salonika front, was unable to attend the celebration of the Tenth Anniversary of the Salonika Victory, Lieut.-General Sir Charles Briggs was sent to represent the British Army. Sir Charles was very favourably impressed by his reception at the station and wherever he went in Belgrade. He was particularly pleased to be invited to ride with the King to inspect the troops on the day of the great review, and to remain with him during the march past. He expressed himself as very favourably impressed by the troops and especially by their smart bearing and good marching at the review point. He recalled how, on the Salonika front, they had won the admiration of the British Army by the speed with which they recovered from the suffering and privations of the retreat through Albania and reformed themselves into a magnificent fighting force, the only European troops which could possibly have gone so far daily with so scanty rations, as they did when they broke through the enemy's lines and pursued them all the way to Belgrade.

At the gala performance given at the National Theatre the many distinguished visitors from other lands were surprised and delighted at the beauty of form, colour and movement shown in acts taken from a Serbian historical play, a national musical play and a Croatian ballet. The décor and production were excellent and the dancing delightful.

Macedonia.

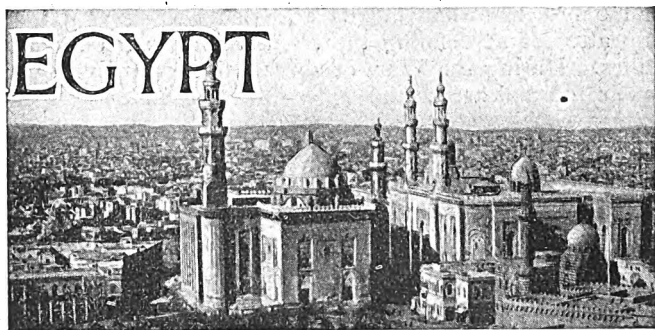
Recently many foreign visitors have passed through all parts of Macedonia, and all on their return tell the same story—admiration for the excellent roads, the rapidly growing railway system, the economic development of Skoplye and other centres, and the general air of advancement shown in this district despite two bad years.

From Bulgaria come censored reports of innumerable political murders, even in the streets of Sofia itself, of pitched battles between the followers of the late Protogeroff and Vantcha Mihailoff, of the terrorisation of the peasants of Bulgarian Macedonia by *komitajis*, the raising of special additional taxes for their own purpose, the murder and torture of all who oppose them. It is a grave misfortune for Bulgaria, but it leads one to reflect that it ill behoves those who have had so little success with their own Macedonian problem to offer advice to their neighbours through the Association of League of Nations Union as to how they should deal with theirs.

M. Venizelos' Visit.

M. Venizelos has continued his triumphant journey, and all who hope for Balkan peace must welcome the success that he had here in Belgrade. It must not, however, be thought that all difficulties between Greece and Yugoslavia are settled. The great problem of the transport of arms and men through Salonika in case of war (which was only

solved in the last war by a virtual breach of Greece's neutrality by the Allies) has yet to be solved, and the terms of good will and friendship at the end of the protocols exchanged by M. Venizelos and M. Shumenkovitch have yet to be turned into deeds before real friendship is established, and another great step is completed towards assuring that security so essential to this turbulent peninsula.



Cairo, October 13.

King's Accession Anniversary.

The eleventh anniversary of the King's accession, which fell on October 9, was celebrated with unwonted enthusiasm, particularly in Alexandria, where, as the seat of Government at the present moment, the principal celebrations took place. In the morning there was a full-dress reception at Ras-El-Tin Palace, which was the largest ever held there—with the exception of the welcome given to His Majesty when he returned from his European tour last autumn. On this occasion it was noticeable that there was an abnormally large element from the provinces. In regard to the official celebration an important and very wise departure from precedent was inaugurated. Hitherto, apart from the Municipality reception of the King, a dinner has been given in the evening by the Governor and a tea party in the afternoon by the Prime Minister. This division of programme between the Government and the Municipality has always been regarded as inconsistent, particularly as the tea party was given in one of the public gardens belonging to the Municipality, who should by rights have been the hosts in their own domain. Mohamed Mahmoud Pasha very rightly has caused the rôles to be reversed this year. The Municipality gave the garden party in the Antoniadis Garden, at which Prince Omar Tussun represented the King. This party was followed by a reception at the Municipality House at which the King received addresses of congratulation in Arabic and French, and in the evening a banquet of two hundred and sixty covers was given by the Prime Minister at San Stefano Casino, the management of which quite surpassed itself in the manner in which it laid out the area used as a banqueting hall and provided and served the menu. At night the whole of the centre of the city was illuminated on a scale which produced a most pleasing effect.

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The Royal Visit to the Western Desert.

King Fuad left to-day on his trip to the Western Desert, including the Oasis of Siwa. This is the first time the King has visited this part of his country, and great preparations have been made at all the points where he will stay. It was, indeed, an excellent idea for the King to make this visit, for the tribes of this vast outlying portion of Egyptian territory have never had any real contact with the sovereign to whom they owe fealty. Before the War this area was to all intents and purposes No Man's Land, and only when the Italians occupied Tripoli was there any attempt at defining the frontier and controlling the tribes. During the War, of course, the control was very much more drastic, and since the Armistice there has been a considerable tightening up of the administration and a bringing into line of the various tribes. The fact that the King will have been in their midst should make the tribes more ready to acquiesce in the form of government to which they are now subjected.

Incidentally the King's visit should call attention to a portion of Egypt which is little known to the tourist, but is well worth a visit. Siwa teems with interest, and there are many points on the way from Alexandria which are worthy of inspection. Things that have probably prevented any tourist exploitation of this area have been the bad communications and the absence of any of the amenities which are necessary to attract visitors. But the King's visit will result in improving very materially the means of communications between Siwa and Sollum and Hammam, the terminus of the Mariut Railway, while with a little encouragement from the authorities there is little doubt that the amenities will follow and new ground will be opened for the distraction not only of the tourist but also of the residents of Alexandria.

The New Alexandria British Schools.

On Wednesday last the first of the new British schools—the Boys Primary Intermediate—was opened. It may be recollected that last spring the Consul General at Alexandria, Mr. Heathcote Smith, issued under the patronage of Lord Lloyd an appeal for £150,000 for the creation and endowment of British schools in Alexandria, where there has for some time existed a great demand for education on British lines, and the British community of which has been compelled by the lack of such education to send their children to schools run by the French and Italian communities. The response to the appeal was very good, and up to date the sum of £68,000 has been subscribed. This sum would have been almost sufficient to enable the committee to purchase the land for, and start building, one at least of the proposed schools. Unfortunately the scheme of subscription, which permitted subscribers to spread their contribution over five years, has meant that only about £20,000 is available in actual cash, of which £10,000 has had to be passed on to Victoria College under the agreement whereby the appeal was made to the public.

The committee considered, however, that in view of the great demand for British education, especially for boys, they ought not to delay any longer in starting at least the Boys Primary Intermediate school, and so, pending the reception of the amount necessary for buying the land and erecting a building, temporary premises have been taken in the Rue des Pharaons, where the interior has been most satisfactorily adapted to meet the needs of a school. The scheme provided for the reception of a maximum of 100 boys in the first year, and the estimates of those in touch with the community, particularly the

Maltese community, placed at 70 the number of applications which could be expected. The actual number admitted on the first day, by Mr. H. R. Thompson, formerly assistant master at the John Ruskin Central school for boys near Croydon, who has been selected as Headmaster, was 82, which shows that the committee has not been unduly optimistic either in its estimates of the numbers awaiting education or in its view of the need for these schools.

In view of the success of this initial venture it is to be hoped that those in touch with British interests in Egypt and particularly those interested in the spread of British education will do their utmost to assist this scheme to the success to which its object entitles it and send their subscriptions to Barclays Bank (Dominions Colonial and Overseas) Ltd., at Alexandria, who are kindly acting as Honorary Treasurers.

The Queen Elizabeth.

H.M.S. Queen Elizabeth, the flagship of the Mediterranean Command, has just completed another visit to Alexandria, this time with Admiral Sir J. Field, the new Commander-in-Chief, on board. As usual great efforts were made to entertain the officers and the crew both here and in Alexandria, and they seem thoroughly to have enjoyed themselves. Other units of the fleet, the Valiant and the Royal Oak, will come to Port Said some time next week.

Mr. Van Den Bosche.

Everyone has learned with much regret of the intention of Mr. Firmin Van Den Bosche to retire next spring from the Procureur Generalship of the Mixed Courts, and the hope is general that in the interval sufficient arguments will have been found to persuade this popular and able Belgian to reconsider his decision. What makes it appear as improbable that he will do so, is the fact that one of the main reasons for his action is his health, which has suffered considerably as the result of his accident to his leg last year which makes it difficult for him to stand this tropical climate. If he adheres to his intention, Mr. Van Den Bosche's retirement will be a real loss to the community in general. Not only has he been a most courageous and efficient holder of a post which has been filled by many eminent jurists, but he also played a notable part in the affairs both of Alexandria, of which he is one of the Vice-Presidents of the Municipality, and of those of Egypt in general. His advice has repeatedly been sought by all parties at critical moments, and it has been given unstintedly and always proved sound and practical. It is understood that he will retire to Belgium, where he will occupy himself with politics and journalism, incidentally completing his memoirs, which should prove most interesting and entertaining reading. His departure will leave a void which it will be difficult to fill.

CYPRUS.

Nicosia, October 9.

End of Summer Season.

Summer in the hills has passed. The hotels have done very well at Platres and some other hill villages. Heat in the plains has been prolonged and the early part of October, as sometimes happens, has seemed as trying as that of midsummer. The number of visitors from Egypt has been so great that extra steamers have been sent by the Khedivial Company to cope with the demand for passages.

The Mediterranean Squadron.

The visit of a week to the roadstead of Limassol by H.M.S. Royal Oak, Valiant, and Assistance, and the store ship Perthshire, has been very welcome, and has been the occasion of much excitement and gaiety. Some of the vessels went to Larnaca, and others to Famagusta.

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where there were many exchanges of hospitality and amusements. An intended visit of these vessels to Athens had to be cancelled on account of the prevalence of dengue fever. Other vessels of the Squadron are expected on the 18th of this month. In honour of this visit, horse races will be held at Nicosia on October 21.

Cyprus Wines.

It would appear that once again efforts are to be made to determine whether island vintages can be made to compete with at least some other wines of the Empire. Experts who have recently arrived are dealing with the situation and the outlook of this backward industry. It is said that the capital of the "Cyprus Wine Company"—a Greco-Cypriot Association—is to be largely increased. This Company owns what was some years ago the factory and establishment of Messrs. Chaplin, of London. These are situate a few miles below the summer resorts of Platres and the Troodos Camp. The Company has recently built another factory at Malli, a village consisting chiefly of Turkish residents. The question of Cyprus wines is far too large to discuss in a letter: but it will be very interesting to see what will be the outcome of the present movement, as in that relating to tobacco cultivation.

Water Trouble at Nicosia.

At the capital, scarcity of water has been felt and has caused considerable hardship to many of the poorer classes. This is bound to happen periodically, as in the past, until means can be devised to provide a full and adequate supply of pure drinking water for the whole city. The distribution is at present in the hands of a mixed Water Board, to which it was transferred some years ago from the Municipal Council. There is now much anxiety lest impure water be used in the manufacture of mineral drinks and by bakers, and so increase the danger of dengue fever, of which fresh cases have been reported. Fortunately, all cases of this fever have been, so far, of a mild character.

The Turkish Community.

The changes brought about already, as seen in the widely discarded use of the fez by men and of the veil by women, are being followed by others. In conformity with the edicts ordained in Turkey by the Ghazi Mustapha Kemal, boys in the Ottoman schools of Nicosia are now studying the alphabet in Latin characters and primers. New books will be introduced as soon as they can be obtained. The change will no doubt be adopted in due course in the schools of other districts.

General News.

Talal, son of the Amir Abdullah, of Trans-Jordan, has recently paid a visit to his grandfather, ex-King Husain, at Nicosia, before returning, after a holiday in Trans-Jordan, to England, where he takes up studies at Sandhurst.

Sir Ronald Storrs, with Lady Storrs, and his A.D.C., is expected to arrive at Famagusta on board H.M.S. Bryony, on October 18.

The Legislative Council will meet at Nicosia soon after the Governor's arrival.

ABYSSINIA.

Addis-Ababa, September 29.

The Regent as King.

At the moment of writing, Abyssinia has just passed through an internal crisis. It is always extremely difficult in this country to ascertain the exact truth in domestic matters; hence it is only possible to indicate briefly what has happened, and is happening.

As is well known, the country is governed by Her Majesty the Empress Zauditu, His Highness Tafari Makonnen being Heir to the Throne, and Regent. One may say, therefore, that the country has in fact been split into two camps: that of the Empress, which may be

described as the reactionary, or old-fashioned school, and that of the Regent, who favours progress on modern lines. From time to time the latent rivalry between the two parties comes to the surface.

On the 5th of this month certain chiefs, opposed to the Regent, formed a plot to arrest him. What exactly they intended to do then is not known. His Highness, however, received information of the plot and was able to turn the tables on his would-be captors. The whole matter took place extremely quietly, and few people outside Abyssinian circles knew of what was taking place. The trouble was confined to the Palace of the Empress, which was surrounded by the troops of the Regent. There was no disturbance in the town—in fact, the only sign that anything was happening was the strengthening of the usual police patrols.

For some days *pourparlers* took place between the Regent, the Empress and various important chiefs. It was finally decided, with the consent of the Empress, that His Highness should receive the title of King. It is thought that he will have the title of King of Shoa, but up to the present no definite decision has been announced on this point. In addition it has been decided that his hands as Regent shall be greatly strengthened, and a proclamation has been issued to this effect. The exact extent of his new powers is not known at the moment, but it is thought that although he will only receive the title of King of Shoa, and not of Abyssinia, he will in fact have full powers to govern the whole country. If so, it is hoped that the position here will be greatly ameliorated, as up to the present it has been extremely difficult to find one person with full power to take a decision on any matter.

The change is viewed with great favour by the foreign community, irrespective of nationality.

NEWS IN BRIEF.

Telephonic communication between Roumania and Bulgaria was opened on October 18.

The Turkish newspapers have been officially requested to adopt the new Latin alphabet in place of the Arabic hitherto employed, as from the beginning of November.

An earthquake of moderate intensity was recorded at Kew Observatory on October 15. The epicentre was 3,800 miles away, probably off the north of the Persian Gulf.

The Bishop of Gibraltar last week left England *en route* for the Balkans, Constantinople, Smyrna, and Athens. He hopes to be at Malta for four weeks from December 18, and in Italy, Sicily, and the Riviera until the end of March.

Behij Bey, Turkish Minister of Public Works, has resigned. His successor, Rejeb Bey, was Minister of the Interior in 1924 in General Ismet Pasha's second Cabinet and also in the second Chamber of Fethi Bey, and Minister of War in Ismet Pasha's third Cabinet from March, 1925, to November, 1927.

The Greek Chamber assembled in Athens on October 17, when all the Deputies, including the members of the Popular Party, took the oath of allegiance to the Republican régime without reservations. M. Jean Tsirimakos has been elected President of the Greek Parliament. He is a former Cabinet Minister and has already served as Speaker.

British School of Archaeology in Jerusalem.

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF SUBSCRIBERS will be held on FRIDAY, OCTOBER 26th, 1928, at the ROOMS OF THE SOCIETY OF ANTIQUARIES, BURLINGTON HOUSE, PICCADILLY, W.1. The Chair will be taken by FIELD-MARSHAL THE RIGHT HONOURABLE LORD PLUMER OF MESSINES, G.C.B., G.C.M.G., G.C.V.O., G.B.E., late High Commissioner in Palestine.

AGENDA.

4.30 p.m. LORD PLUMER will move the adoption of the Annual Report and Election of Officers.

5.0 p.m. The School's Excavation at Jerash (Gorasa) will be described (in the absence of the Director) by PROFESSOR J. L. MYRES, M.A., F.B.A., F.S.A.

Subscribers are invited to bring friends who are interested.

2, Hinde Street, Manchester Square, W.1.

C. E. MOTT, Hon. Secretary.

CALCUTTA LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Calcutta, October 4.

The Statutory Commission.

There are signs enough, besides the various memoranda to the Commission that are proof of it, in evidence that the interest of the European community in India in the Commission and its task is very deep. I had some talk with two mercantile men on Saturday, in the lounge of one of the hotels. We agreed that whoever wants to follow the situation must keep his eyes on the Indian Princes and their advisers, for that is the vital point, and for the rest two things; (1) that India must not be given a Constitution too costly for her to run; (2) that much as one may sympathise with the Indian's desire that he should govern his country himself, as the country must keep "a straight bat" to the world, there must be the same leavening of the governing mass with English and Scottish as there is such a leavening in mercantile affairs. Sir Abdur Rahim said in the Bengal Legislative Council on the last day of July: "As regards British interests what we say is this: we want to make our own country worth living in. We want them to remember that this is our own home and our ambition is to make it worth living in. We do not want to injure their interests in any way. In fact, the condition of the country is such that to improve our condition we shall be only too glad to avail ourselves of their knowledge of science, technical skill and power of organisation. *But what we want is that whatever intellect we have in this country should have the fullest scope.*"

That is all right; let it have the fullest scope; but let it be recognised that, great talent as India has in many directions, in others she is almost destitute of talent. I can think of several fields of activity, and of a Board of Appointment composed of Indians that would take the view, notwithstanding that the members were all Indians, that the work in question was work for an Englishman. The danger to India will come from the men, with too much power being given to them, who would blindly insist on an Indian every time. An influential Swarajist said to me yesterday evening: "It is not a change of men that we want, but a change in the machinery of government. If the same machinery is to continue, then what profit would it be to us if Sir Stanley Jackson packed his trunks and went home, and a Swarajist took his place. He would have to do the same things that Sir Stanley Jackson would have done, but probably not as well. To me it is all one whether it is an Englishman or an Indian, as long as he is a good man." — (he named a well-known Calcutta citizen) came to me yesterday, urging me to use my influence to see that a particular appointment was given the next time to an Indian. I said: "He must be a good enough man: if we can't find a good enough man amongst ourselves, the appointment must go again to an Englishman." That is the sensible view, but there are considerably fewer Indians of the way of thinking of Sir Abdur Rahim and my Swarajist friend than there are Indians of the opposite way of thinking. The danger will lie in giving the latter too much power.

Independence of India League.

Now that there is an All-Bengal Branch of the Independence of India League, might not a jester say, let there be an all-Calcutta Branch of the All-Bengal Branch? But, not to jest, the *Englishman* sees in the movement "nothing more nor less than the deliberate challenge of the rising generation of Congressmen to the present leaders." It is a bad thing in India that no Party can be formed that will not soon grow a new party in its tail. Political ambition as a disturbing element in Party life is, of course, not unknown in England, but there things are done with a certain regard for public interest. The rank and file of a Party insists on that. If Mr. Lloyd

George had tried to oust Lord Oxford and Asquith from the Prime Ministership ten years before 1916, the rank and file of the Party would have trodden him under foot.

In India—and at a time when the question of the amount of power proper to give men and Parties is under consideration, it is legitimate to look closely into such a thing—the rising Lloyd George, it may be Mr. Subhas Bose, may begin almost at once to try to turn out the Prime Minister, and he will be sure of detaching a portion of the Prime Minister's following. The poison of personal intrigue is stronger in the blood of Indians than in that of any other race I know. You may see it breaking out among schoolboys over the election of the office-bearers of their cricket or football club. The little rascals will sit up the whole of a night, intriguing in this boy's favour or that. The first time the phenomenon came under my observation, I was so little prepared for it, that I could not for a time see the plain signs of it.

Irrigation in Bengal.

Sir William Willcocks has concluded his indictment of the official engineers in Bengal and their irrigation policy. It is all a question of rivers and their treatment, in other words, it is about as technical a matter as an obscure piece of surgery. What the public is concerned with is one question. Could a whole staff of experts be radically wrong in their reading of a difficult problem, while a man of genius had only to come and look round to see that they were wrong? It is perhaps a lot to believe, and of course the engineers, the men at the top, say it is too much. The men below them are not allowed to say anything. The men outside the Department seem most of them to think that, much as it may look a lot to believe, it ought this time to be believed. It is surely time that the Executive should say what they are going to do. To my mind there are only two things worth doing; the first being to send for Sir William to come at once; the second being to lift the ban that forbids the younger men to speak. It need not be lifted publicly. Lifted it must be. The alternative to lifting it is to dismiss the whole *personnel* of the Department, and to get men whose judgments would not be biased by the fact that what was under judgment was their own work.

Physical Culture.

There is a chance for any wealthy man, a lover of India. According to Professor Ramamurthi, a deep student of the subject, Indian youths fall so short in physique, as to make India a C3 nation. The average longevity (that word seems the wrong one to use) in India is less than 25 years, as against over 50 years in Canada, England, Norway, etc. Professor Ramamurthi proposes that there should be a Central Physical culture and Training Institute, and he wants twenty lakhs for it. It is a reform urgently calling for attention.

LORD GOSCHEN'S EXTENSION.

An India Office *communiqué* states that, with His Majesty's approval, the Secretary of State for India has invited Viscount Goschen, G.C.I.E., C.B.E., who will complete five years' tenure of the Governorship of Madras on April 13 next, to continue to serve in India until the autumn of 1929. Lord Goschen has consented to do so.

The announcement, it is widely believed, foreshadows the possibility of arrangements being made for the Viceroy, Lord Irwin, provided circumstances at the time permit, to pay a short visit to this country next summer. Under an Act passed during the Viceroyalty of Lord Reading, who himself availed himself of its provisions, Viceroys and Governors may take four months' leave of absence out of India during their five years' tenure of office. In accordance with precedent the senior of the three Presidency Governors—who next year will be Lord Goschen—acts during the Viceroy's absence.

SMALLER STATES AND THE BUTLER COMMITTEE.

(Contributed.)

The following article deals with one aspect of India's constitutional problem. The appearance of the article in our columns does not necessarily imply endorsement of the views expressed by the writer.

The appointment of the Indian States Inquiry Committee has aroused much public interest both in England and in India about the affairs of the Indian States. But there appears to be a wrong impression about the working of the Committee. It is generally believed that the Committee is examining the relations of all the Indian States with the Paramount Power. But that is not the case. The Committee's inquiry is confined only to 235 States out of about 700 States, large and small. The Committee has issued its questionnaire only to those Princes who are members of the Princes' Chamber or who are represented on that body, thus excluding from the inquiry a very large number of other States in India.

For the sake of convenience the Indian States may be divided into three classes, namely, those that have representation on the Chamber of Princes, secondly, those States which have no such representation, but which are directly subordinate to the British Government; and lastly, the States holding guarantees from the British Government, but primarily subordinate to some other State, which in respect of its subordinate is called the parent or suzerain State. States like Gwalior, Kashmir, Indore and also comparatively small States like Rewa and Ratlam belong to the first class. The last named is only a feudatory of Gwalior, but owing to its size and importance has been admitted to the Princes' Chamber. Under the second class fall the States of Rajputana, Central India and Simla Hills, and lastly come the Princes like the Nawab of Mangrol, Raja of Punja and feudatory chiefs under Kolhapur. In the first class are included Princes who enjoy full internal sovereignty and others who exercise it subject to the control of the British Government. The States of the second and third class enjoy limited civil and criminal powers and are subject to a greater measure of control of the British Government. The right of determining succession and granting permission to adopt rests with the British Government, though in some cases the superior State is also consulted, but the final authority always rests with the British Government.

One of the demands of the suzerain States before the Butler Committee is that right of approaching the British Government possessed by the Feudatories is inconsistent with their subordination and Government ought not to interfere on their behalf as they have been doing. Some of the feudatory States have submitted statements to the Committee about this matter, but it is reported that the Committee is unable to consider their representations. In view of the Terms of Reference of the Committee, the request of the guaranteed States for a hearing before the Committee appears to be not unreasonable, though of course, the Committee is the best judge of its limitations. Under the first part of its Terms of Reference, the Committee is asked to report upon the relationship between the States and the Paramount Power, with special reference to the rights and obligations arising from treaties, engagements and Sanads, etc. The guarantees given to the feudatories constitute obligations both upon the British Government and the suzerain States, and these guarantees have the same sanctity and are as binding as treaties and engagements, etc. So it will appear that the relations of the feudatory States with their suzerains, so far at least as their guarantees are concerned, form part of the present inquiry by the Committee. Even under the ordinary civil and criminal law, third parties who are interested in the subject matter of a suit or action are allowed to join as

parties or to watch the proceedings on their behalf. It would seem unfair, therefore, if the guaranteed feudatories were altogether excluded from the deliberations of the Committee. If the treaty rights of the Princes ought to be preserved, the guarantees of the feudatories ought also to be maintained, and they are anxious that their rights should not be prejudiced by any readjustment of relations between the Paramount Power and suzerain States. In fact their rights stand or fall with such guarantees, and if any modification of the guarantees be contemplated, as the feudatories have reason to fear, it is but fair that they should be given an opportunity to represent their views before the Committee.

Recently there has been a change in the policy of Government towards the bigger Princes. Government seem to be anxious to preserve, maintain and enhance the rights, dignity and honour of these Princes, and non-intervention in their internal affairs is the guiding principle of the Political Department. It would, however, be unjust, if Government did not show the same solicitude and consideration towards the humbler order of mediatised States, which more than any other require protection from the Paramount Power. The fact that Government had to interfere on their behalf many times in the past has given rise to fears that the interests of feudatories are not quite safe in the hands of the parent States. In fact it is to the protecting arm of the British Government that the mediatised States owe their present existence as separate entities; otherwise their estates might have long ago been absorbed by their suzerains.

What makes the feudatories apprehensive is that there is actually a demand by the bigger States before the Butler Committee for complete and unfettered jurisdiction over the former. If that is granted behind the back of the feudatories, their fate is sealed. Just as the suzerain States are anxious to have their rights preserved so also the mediatised feudatories earnestly wish that their rights which they have been enjoying long since, and for the preservation of which the solemn word of the British Government is pledged, should be maintained intact in the proposed readjustment of relations between the Princes and the Paramount Power. Just as the Princes feel that the intervention of the British Government in their internal affairs is galling to them, so also the mediatised feudatories, in their own limited sphere, think that their suzerain States ought not to interfere continuously or minutely, as is unfortunately the tendency, in their internal administration. Just as the suzerain States are jealous of any encroachment upon their rights by the Paramount Power, so also, the minor States feel that their rights should not be violated by their suzerains. If the Chamber of Princes complain that the existing system of settling disputes between the Paramount Power and the States is unsatisfactory, the feudatories also think that it is unjust that the suzerains should decide disputes between themselves and their feudatories. Just as the Princes think that some new machinery must be devised for adjustment of their disputes with the Paramount Power, so also the feudatories desire that matters of difference between them and the suzerain should be settled by an independent tribunal.

It is clear that the feudatories have a real grievance, and their case deserves sympathetic consideration at the hands of the Committee. If, however, the Committee thinks that it is not justified by its terms of reference to grant them a hearing, it is hoped that the Government of India will consider their case when the Committee's recommendations are sent up to them. When in 1918 Government were considering the proposal for the establishment of the Chamber of Princes, they had invited the views of the feudatories on the subject. Obviously the present inquiry affects more the rights and interests of the feudatories, than the institution of the Chamber of Princes, and it is hoped that their interests will not be altogether ignored in any new arrangement between the Paramount Power and the States.

THE INDIAN STATES AND THE CROWN.

Professor L. F. Rushbrook Williams gave an address on "The Indian States and the New Constitution" before the Central Asian Society at Burlington House on October 17. Sir Michael O'Dwyer presided over a large attendance in the Royal Society's Hall.

After introductory remarks by the Chairman, the lecturer prefaced his address by stating that a brief historical survey was necessary to show the importance of the States in the early growth of British rule in India. The Moghul Empire had insisted upon its paramountcy, but provided that that was recognised and its demands for tribute met, it left the States to themselves without any attempt to interfere with their internal organization. It was the attempt of Aurangzeb to meddle with the dynastic affairs of the States that helped in the downfall of the Moghul Empire. The argument had been advanced that the Sanads issued by Lord Canning introduced a new status for the States, but the lecturer pointed out that the nature of the Sanads by no means supported that contention. During the long régime of the East India Company there was little opportunity to distinguish between the two sides of its activities—namely, the administration of its own territories and its diplomatic negotiations with the Indian Rulers. After the Mutiny, when the new machinery was introduced for the direct administration of the Crown, it was assumed by the responsible authorities that it would be easy and convenient to continue the indefinite system of the Company days. Great stress, however, was laid on the advantage of centralization, contrary to the previous tendency of Indian history for the building up of relatively small self-governing units. The development of modern means of communication throughout British India since the Mutiny had enabled the Government to promote large and far-reaching schemes for the commercial and economic development of the country. The result—not unnatural—was that Government became far more interested in the development of British India than in the discharge of its primary obligations to the States. As time went on, there arose some incompatibility between the two functions of government, because the authority discharging the task of maintaining diplomatic relations with the States was the authority directly interested in the financial prosperity of British India. The result was that restrictions laid down in treaties appeared to administrative departments of the Government to be obstacles to progress to be overcome.

The divergence between the two sides of government activity became more pronounced when British Indians were made members of the Government, and the system was continued by which the same machinery which dealt with British India looked after the political relations with the States. The experience of the Princes had shown that under the existing machinery their rights were liable to infringement, and they asked for adjustments under which they would have a voice in the settlement of important issues affecting their interests as well as those of British India.

Mr. Rushbrook Williams then showed a number of lantern slides illustrating some of the chief towns in the States and conditions in them. The discussion which followed was opened by Sir Louis Dane, who found himself in general agreement with the lecturer, but thought that he had overlooked the part played by the British in saving the Indian States from the Marathas, whose policy it was to exterminate them. The Crown became the sole supreme power in India, and the Sanads were issued as evidence of that fact.

Sir Stuart Fraser pointed out that the position of the Indian States was materially helped by the fact that the Viceroy was also Minister for Foreign Affairs. Sir Prabashankar Pattani also spoke. In replying to the points raised by the various speakers Mr. Rushbrook Williams said that, with regard to the assumption of paramountcy by the Crown, it was a unilateral declaration

which in international law was valid only on its acceptance by the other party or parties concerned. He also challenged the reading of history that attributed to the Marathas the intention of wiping out the States.

A brief speech by Sir Michael O'Dwyer brought the proceedings to a close.

INDIAN NOTES.

(Continued from page 475.)

Mission to Calcutta. His has indeed been a life of apostolic simplicity and self-sacrifice; for it has been spent in the service of the mission station which he established many years ago at Behala, a village near Calcutta. The object of the mission is the promotion of the spiritual welfare of the young waifs and strays of various races who are for ever drifting about in the neighbourhood. It is indeed a wonderful work which Father Douglas has undertaken, and in which he has been astonishingly successful. Years of patient and courageous labour have been at length rewarded, and the mission is now firmly established with a church, a school, houses—of a very humble type—for Father Douglas and his helpers, and with various other facilities. But the organisation and the management are on the simplest lines; there is no striving after effect, and nothing in the nature of display. It is just a humble little mission station among the fields, and not far from the jungle; and those who are responsible for it live the simplest of lives. As Lord Lytton said, it is largely unknown to the general public, for Father Douglas is no seeker after publicity. It is well, therefore, that an ex-Governor of Bengal, with his first-hand knowledge of Calcutta and its needs, should have expressed his sense of the value of the work of the Mission and of the nobility of character of its founder. Missionary effort in India is often adversely criticised, but we question whether even the severest critic could find anything but good to say of the Behala Mission Station or of Father Douglas.

The Joint Free Conferences.

Preliminary details with regard to procedure having been satisfactorily settled and the real nature of the Commission's task, namely, "to give a true description of the working of constitutional machinery in India, as a preliminary to the proposed changes in the Constitution itself," having been clearly explained once again by the Chairman, the joint free conferences between the Simon Commission and the Committees of the Central and Provincial Legislatures are proceeding according to plan. Before the examination of witnesses began Sir John Simon, who has early demonstrated his masterly grasp of the past history and essential features of the many and complex issues which the Conference is being called upon to review, made an interesting announcement regarding the methods which the Commission proposes to adopt in that regard. Oral evidence on educational problems, for instance, will not be heard until Sir Philip Hartog's Auxiliary Committee has reported. Similarly, in order to facilitate the inquiry and avoid repetition, the Commission will hear the main case in particular centres. For example, the representation of the Associated Chambers of Commerce and of the European Association will be considered in Calcutta, leaving the Bombay Chamber to concentrate on criticism of the Meston Settlement. In the same way the leading witnesses on behalf of the Depressed Class will be heard in Madras, and the discussion of the Communal question confined chiefly to the Punjab and Bengal.

An Air Force bomber from Basrah on October 18 carried a nursing sister to the chaplain for Basrah and the Persian Gulf, the Rev. C. J. G. Andrews, who was lying seriously ill at Bushire. Mr. Andrews died in the evening after her arrival.

THE PORT OF BOMBAY.

(From a Correspondent.)

The report of the Bombay Port Trust for the past year shows satisfactory indications of recovery from the depression under which the seaborne trade of the port has laboured for the last few years. The receipts increased by 17 lakhs, while the rigid economy exercised in the administration of the Port led to a further reduction of $1\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs in the expenditure, the deficit of 11 lakhs in the previous year being thus changed into a surplus of $7\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs. This improvement was not due to any increase in the Port charges: the keen competition of Karachi and the Kathiawar Ports makes any such enhancement impossible. The Port Trustees, in fact, continued to reduce these charges in various ways, and have in this way made a difficult but very necessary sacrifice of revenue amounting to $8\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs in the last three years.

The cargo handled at the docks and jetties was as much as 20 per cent. above that of the previous year: and, though the total trade of the Port yielded a smaller increase and was, on the whole, somewhat featureless, it showed a healthy expansion from 245 to 251 crores. This increase occurred in despite of a heavy decline in cotton, Bombay's staple export, and it is perhaps disquieting to find that Indian cotton cannot, in a year of world wide bumper crops, hold its own in the world market against American cotton, nor even prevent a largely increased import of the latter into India. The year was, however, an exceptional one, both as regards the abundance of American cotton and the financial and other troubles of China and Japan. Any continuation of the decline in the cotton exports, combined with the parlous condition of the Bombay cotton mills, must greatly reduce the value of Bombay as a cotton market, and thus lessen its power to meet the competition of other ports.

If, however, the condition of the cotton trade must cause anxiety, it is satisfactory to observe that other industries are increasing and finding space on the land of the Trustees, since it is obvious that, if Bombay is to hold its place, it must rely on a general expansion of industry and not wholly on its previous support, the cotton export and mill industry. The Trustees must indeed look to their landed estate to supply them with the much-needed augmentation of their revenues. If the expansion of Bombay takes place, this expectation will doubtless be fulfilled: but it may be slow of coming, as the past year showed an actual decrease in the revenue needed from the landed estates of the Trust. An especially satisfactory feature of the year has been the improvement in the working of the Port Trust Railway. This somewhat late-born, but none the less essential, component of the Port Administration suffered at the outset from an unduly expensive establishment, and from the refusal of the two great railways which serve Bombay to pay adequate terminal charges on the goods carried by them. The expenses of the Trust Railway establishment have been reduced by 38 per cent. in the last six years, and the Railway Board has finally agreed to the railways paying a larger, though hardly from the Port point of view yet adequate, rate of terminal charges.

Although the improved financial condition of the Port is due to most careful administration, for which its officers deserve all credit, it is obvious that the non-spending policy cannot be continued indefinitely. The capital expenditure in the past year was the lowest for the past twenty-five years, though the cost of labour and material has increased greatly in that period: and there has been no fresh expenditure whatever from borrowed funds for three years. A port which fails to keep pace with the requirements of trade is perilously near retrogression. It is to be hoped, therefore, that when the Bombay Port has to face further expenditure, it may receive from the Government the help it will assuredly require. The most obvious method of such help would be to give it the major portion of the revenue now obtained from the levy of duty on all cotton coming into Bombay.

INDIA'S NEW FINANCE MEMBER.

Sir George Schuster, the Finance Member-designate of the Governor-General's Executive Council, left London on October 18 to take up his new duties. It will be recalled that the office of Finance Member was relinquished by Sir Basil Blackett, after an extended term, in March last. When, however, the selection of Sir George Schuster was announced at the end of last year it was stated that he would not be able to assume charge until the autumn, owing to his appointment as a member of the East African Commission. The further postponement of his departure has been occasioned by the delay in the completion of the Commission's report, which, it is understood, was not ready for signature until last week. During the interval the duties of the office have been discharged, as on two previous occasions, with conspicuous ability by Sir B. N. Mitra, one of the best known and most highly respected Indians in the service of the Crown, whose career is a remarkable example of the opportunities for advancement which the present system, with all its imperfections, undoubtedly offers to those with the capacity to avail themselves of them.

The task of finding a suitable permanent successor to Sir Basil Blackett presented many difficulties, but Sir George Schuster, although he has never been in the country before, is peculiarly fitted in many respects for his responsible post. Probably best known by reason of his services as Financial Secretary to the Sudan Government, the new Finance Member has behind him a record of administrative experience—financial, economic, and political—which is probably unrivalled, certainly in so young a man, for Sir George is only in his 48th year.

The Indian Broadcasting Company announce that broadcasting in India will be continued, and that every effort will be made to make broadcasting a success.

Sir Denys Bray, Foreign Secretary to the Government of India, who recently made a tour of the Persian Gulf, left Simla on October 18 on a brief visit to London.

Reuter reports that Abdur Rahman of Baghtut, late chief Qazi at Kabul, and three other Mullahs have been condemned on a charge of sedition and executed at Kabul.

Lieutenant-Colonel Henry St. Patrick Maxwell, C.S.I. (78), of Oakley Avenue, Acton, W., son of the late Major-General William Maxwell, R.A. (net personality £1,128), left £1,378.

Sir Philip Sassoon, British Under-Secretary of State for Air, who is making a tour of Royal Air Force station in the Middle East, Iraq, and India, arrived at Simla on October 18. He is staying at the Viceregal Lodge.

The Bhavnagar medal has been awarded to W. H. J. Christie, B.A., of King's College, Cambridge, who is placed third among the Indian Civil Service probationers in the final list arranged from the combined results of the open competition of 1927 and the final examination of 1928.

Lieutenant-Colonel John F. Turner, D.S.O., R.E., who has been appointed a Chief Engineer for Air Force duties in India, has been employed in Mesopotamia, the Zakka Khel country, and the Gold Coast, where he was with the Anglo-German Boundary Commission. On promotion to Captain he was transferred to Malakand and Gilgit. His post-War service has been in India, where he has been attached to the Royal Air Force.

The intervening difficulties having been surmounted, Imperial Airways will open the air service between Basrah and Karachi next January. When the London to Cairo service begins in April, the whole journey from Great Britain to India should occupy four days. The aeroplanes will stay a night at Genoa, fuel at Alexandria, stay a night at Cairo and a night at Basrah and refuel at Bushire. The cost of the passage will be £112.

At a meeting of the council of the East India Association on October 15, Sir M. M. Bhownaggee was elected Vice-chairman in succession to the late Mr. Ameer Ali, and Sir Muhammed Rafique was co-opted to the council. The new members elected included Sir Malcolm Hailey, Governor of the United Provinces; Sir Geoffrey de Montmorency, Governor of the Punjab; Sir George Schuster, Finance Member-designate of the Government of India; Mr. C. B. Chartres, President of the European Association in India; and Mrs. Ameer Ali.

CORRESPONDENCE.

The columns of THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA are open for the discussion of subjects of general interest to its readers. The publication of such letters must not be taken, however, as indicating that the views expressed by the writers are those of THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA.

ITALY AND THE DODECANESE.

To the Editor of THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA.

Sir,—I have lately returned from a very delightful holiday spent in the Dodecanese; and in view of the publicity given to certain statements by M. Venizelos with reference to these islands and to Greco-Italian friendship, it may prove of some interest to your readers to hear my impressions.

I may confess at the outset that I am known to be a staunch friend of Italy's. I have a great admiration for Italy and faith in her future. I love the Italians, whom I have known intimately since babyhood. But I love also Greece. I count among Greeks some of the dearest of my friends; and I warmly sympathise with Greek nationalist sentiment. I went, accordingly, to the Dodecanese, sympathising with Greek aspirations; but otherwise with a perfectly open mind.

I had countless opportunities of conversing with Greeks in every branch of society. They all, unanimously, expressed the hope that the day would come when their islands would be united to Greece. But they, likewise, all agreed on the following points:—That Italy during the past six years had done a tremendous lot for them; that the future programme of development was quite admirable; that, unlike the case of the Greeks in Cyprus, where the British, after fifty years' administration, had accomplished comparatively little for the development of that island, unity between the Dodecanese and Greece would definitely entail sacrifices; that socially and individually they like the Italians very much indeed, found them very much akin and considered themselves well treated by the Italians; that, unlike the Cypriots, they did not feel themselves considered as inferiors by the dominant race; that they had nothing to fear from any forcible italianisation; that their language, religion and social customs were perfectly respected and safeguarded. These expressions of opinion were not only unanimous, but were confirmed by observation of the exceedingly friendly intercourse between Greeks and Italians in society and between the Carabinieri and the people in the outlying villages. The relations between the latter were, in fact, particularly striking and in some cases touching.

The Italian attitude is a perfectly loyal one. The public expression of irredentist opinion, still more any form of irredentist agitation or propaganda, is immediately stamped upon. Greek propagandists from Greece are not allowed to land; Dodecanesan propagandists are promptly deported. But during the past six years only twelve persons have been deported and ten of these have been allowed to return on *parole*. The election of the local "demogerontia" is free; but should any of these bodies indulge in irredentist agitation or obstruction, they are liable to be dissolved. So far, one assembly only has been dissolved. The election of local mayors has to be confirmed by the Central Government. So far, on only four occasions have local mayors failed to be confirmed. All this proves that the task of the Italian Government has not proved a difficult one. For all these widely flung islands, the Italian garrison consists of only one regiment of infantry and 250 Carabinieri. The appeal of the Italians, in fact, to the Greeks to accept the facts of the situation, whatever their private aspirations may be, and to collaborate with the Italians in promoting the material and moral prosperity of the islands, has been singularly successful.

The Italians argue (and, I think, with good reason) that formal respect for the sovereign power and the complete prohibition of outward manifestations of irredentism are essential for good government. Otherwise, time, money and breath are wasted in sterile agitation, people are distracted from productive work, sores are kept running,

bad blood created and maintained, the masses kept in an unhealthy fever of hopes, followed invariably by disappointment and moral depression.

The only complaints I came across were those from individuals with a personal grievance. Good government and progressive reforms invariably entail injury to vested interests. For instance, the custom of burning down an area of shrub, sowing it extensively and then abandoning it for several years has been put an end to. Peasants must cultivate land regularly and intensively, or allow shrub to grow into forest. Similarly, the pasturing of goats at large and the indiscriminate cutting of wood are prohibited. These measures have produced many an individual "grouse," but nobody denies their economic utility. Moreover, the losses occasioned to peasants by such measures are altogether outweighed by the help accorded them in other direction (agricultural credit facilities, travelling agricultural chairs, distribution at cost price of selected seeds and young olive trees and vines, improved communications, better markets, etc.).

Again, waste land has been expropriated by the Government at a low price and has since been developed by Italian enterprise. In such cases it is human, though none the less unjustifiable, for the former owners to be sorry that they were forced to part with land since become valuable. Similarly, owners of valuable works of art, for which they have been offered high prices from foreigners, are angry that the law prohibits their export, when the local market cannot compete with foreign prices. These, however, are the only kind of complaints that one hears, except that of the Greek ecclesiastical authorities in respect to the loss of their former right of completely controlling the schools. But for this there is a great deal to be said; and the stories set about by propagandist committees abroad to the effect that the islanders are an oppressed race are utterly absurd. It is well that M. Venizelos has discountenanced them. There is, indeed, much to be said for the hope that the Italian possession of the Dodecanese may become the means of mutual understanding between the two peoples, whose interests and psychology are very similar, rather than a bone of contention and a means of separation. The Italians have approached their task in a true Roman spirit, the spirit of constructors who look to their work as something which will stand the test of time. They have already accomplished a prodigious lot—splendid roads; improved water supplies and hygiene; ports, sea communications and markets; town planning and extensions; schools; advanced plans for the establishment of a university; hospitals; first-rate hotels and the development of the tourist traffic; afforestation, experimental agricultural farms; the founding of new industries; progressive social legislation; the restoration of ancient monuments, etc. It is difficult, indeed, to exaggerate the extent of the progress made in so brief a period since Signor Mario Lago assumed the post of Governor, less than six years ago. The Italians may well be proud of their work and not least for their success in creating a genuine spirit of collaboration between themselves and the people over whose destiny they preside.—I am, etc.

J. S. BARNES.

9, Avenue Eglantine, Lausanne.

October 15.

DOG RACING IN THE EAST.

To the Editor of THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA.

Sir,—The harm done to English prestige and to the capitulations by dog racing in Shanghai affects Englishmen in other countries. The Chinese object to it so strongly that they are making it a serious international question between their own country and England.

Dog racing syndicates want persons of position as "owners" of dogs in order to make their show fashionable. The syndicates are practically their own handicappers. As the keep of a dog is cheap, no doubt such "owners" find it very profitable.

Betting on dog races is forbidden in Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Holland, Poland, France, Germany, Austria, Switzerland, Spain, Portugal, Greece, India, Ceylon, Burma, Japan, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Cape Colony, and the Transvaal. Most of these countries regard it as a public casino and, as such, object to it in cities.—I am, etc.,

C. A. KNAPP, Captain.

Athens, October 12.

THE FIRST AFRICAN GAMES.

Next year Africa is to have its own Olympic Games. They are to be known as the African Games, and the first Meeting is to take place at Alexandria from April 5 to April 19. The Games will be held in the new Stadium that is being built in that town. Its area is roughly forty thousand square metres, and there will be seating accommodation for twenty-four thousand spectators. The track will have a total length of 500 metres, enclosing a games arena of 135 metres in length and 70 metres wide. The total cost of the Stadium will be about £110,000, towards which King Fuad, to whose suggestion the scheme is due, contributed £5,000.

The programme of the African Games comprises the following items :—

Athletic Sports and Cycling.

Gymnastics : Weight Lifting, and Gymnastic Display.

Defensive Sports : Fencing, Greco-Roman Wrestling,

English Boxing.

Aquatic Sport : Rowing, Swimming.

Games : Lawn Tennis, Association Football.

Only athletes, who must be amateurs, representing Nations, States, Protectorates, or Territories of Africa will be entitled to compete in the African Games. For the first meeting, athletes will be considered as being qualified to compete by the simple evidence of their having been born in Africa, and they will represent the country in which they were born, should they have no legal African nationality.

Women are allowed to compete in the Tennis tournament only. There is no age limit for competitors.

The details of the Programme are as follows :—

Athletic Sports.—The track events comprise flat races for 100, 200, 400, 800, 1,500, 5,000 and 10,000 metres, a 110-metre hurdle race and a Marathon Race of 42 kilo-metres 195 metres.

The Field events will be : High jump, Long jump, Pole jump, Throwing the javelin, Throwing the discus, Putting the 16 lb. shot.

There will also be a Relay Race of 400 metres for teams of four each.

Cycling.—The cycling event is confined to a single road race of 130 kilometres from the Stadium to Rosetta and back.

Gymnastics.—In the gymnastic display groups of at least sixteen gymnasts will compete against one another.

The Weight Lifting competition will be divided into five classes : (1) Feather Weights, up to 60 kgs. (2) Light Weights, up to 67 kgs. (3) Middle Weights, up to 75 kgs. (4) Light-Heavy Weights, up to 82.5 kgs. (5) Heavy Weights, over 82.5 kgs.

Fencing will comprise Foil, Sword and Sabre contests.

In **Boxing** and **Greco-Roman Wrestling** competitors will be divided into the recognised eight and six categories respectively, according to weight.

The **Boat races** will comprise a canoe race of 1,500 metres, a Two-oared, with cox, of 1,500 metres, a Four-oared, of 2,000 metres, and an Eight-oared, of 2,000 metres.

The **Swimming** contests will comprise races of 100 metres free style, 100 metres back stroke, 200 metres breast stroke, 400 metres free style, and 1,500 metres free style. There will also be a Team relay-race of 800 metres, four members to a team, and a Water-Polo tournament.

The **Lawn Tennis** events will consist of Men's Singles, Ladies' Singles, Men's Doubles, Ladies' Doubles, and Mixed Doubles.

Next year's Games will include two Exhibitions of National Sports staged by Egypt, consisting of Nabout (or stick) Display and a Fantasia on horseback.

Egypt has recognised the Albanian Monarchy. It will be remembered, says *The Times*, that fifteen years ago the present King of Egypt, who then had no prospects of inheriting the Egyptian Crown, was, as a member of a Dynasty of Albanian origin, himself a candidate for the Throne of Albania.

NEWS IN BRIEF.

The Greek Government has decided to grant an amnesty for all political offences committed since 1925.

Earthquake shocks were last week reported from Plovdiv (Philippopolis) and Chirpan, in Bulgaria.

Sir Ronald Storrs, Governor of Cyprus, arrived on board H.M.S. Bryony, the yacht of the Commander-in-Chief, Mediterranean, from Salonika and reached Nicosia last Thursday.

The Greek Naval Council on October 20 agreed to the request of France that she should establish an air station on the Franco-Syrian line at Eleusis, though this will be near the Greek naval base.

The Turkish Minister at Tirana, Loutfi Bey, has been recalled, the Turkish Government having decided not to recognise the proclamation of King Zogu until outstanding questions with Albania have been settled.

The Egyptian Government has decided to grant to an Italian aviation company authority to land at Aboukir the aeroplane which it proposes to fly experimentally from Genoa *via* Benghazi, with a view to ascertaining the possibility of carrying mails over that route.

The Greek Minister to Turkey, M. Pappas, arrived in Athens on October 19 from Angora with M. Diamandopoulos, Greek delegate on the Mixed Commission for the Exchange of Populations in Constantinople, in order to inform the Government on the position with regard to pending questions with Turkey.

The Golden Horn Shipping Company has complained to the Constantinople Prefecture of the rapid silting up of the Golden Horn. It declares that unless the necessary dredging is undertaken before winter sets in, the Company's boats will not be able to operate. The Company has sixteen vessels with a joint tonnage of 1,400 tons.

As the Egyptian Government has not received replies, except from Norway, to its circular letter of last December to the Powers on the subject of reforms in the Mixed Tribunals, it has been decided to send them a reminder suggesting that the proposed conference on that subject should meet in Cairo this winter.

At the opening of the autumn sessions of the Skupshtina in Belgrade on October 20 the Radicals re-elected M. Vukitchevitch, the late Prime Minister, to be President of the Radical Club for the coming year, and the House chose as its new speaker M. Mihailovitch, a Radical of the same group, to take the place of the former Speaker, who had resigned.

Mrs. Catherine Gregory Zlatano, of Rue Kephissia, Athens, who died on June 3, 1927, left property in this country of the gross value of £12,500. She left £50 to St. Mary's Hospital for Women and Children, Manchester; £50 to the Greek Church at Manchester; £500 to the Greek Orthodox Patriarchate, Jerusalem; her Byzantine collection of pictures to the National Museum of Pictures at Athens on condition that the collection shall not be dispersed, but shall be kept together in one room and known as the "Catherine Gregory Zlatano Collection of Byzantine Pictures"; £500 to Fakhri Naschasib of Jerusalem, "who twice saved my life in Palestine." Any balance remaining unpaid of 25,000 drachmæ she had promised to St. Panteleimon Church, on the Ilissos, near Athens, is to be paid out of her estate, and she directed the trustees to purchase a plot of land either in the hills at Gouthi, Athens, or in the vicinity of Phaleron near the sea and to erect thereon at a cost not exceeding (with the cost of the land) 70,000 drachmæ a church in the Byzantine architecture style, with two altars therein, one dedicated to St. Gregory and the other to St. Catherine, for the interment of the remains of "my late husband, and I direct that on my death I shall be buried by his side," and the trustees are to set aside £60 per annum and see to it that masses shall be made on St. Gregory's Day and St. Catherine's Day in the said church, the amount to be expended on such masses not to exceed a sum of £10 for each mass, and any balance shall be applied either in money or garments for the benefit of the very poor of Athens; and she left 10,000 drachmæ upon trust to apply the income for the benefit of poor prisoners condemned to hard labour and confined in the Prison Synagros, Athens, on every Christmas Eve.

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A PECULIAR PEOPLE IN IRAQ—II.

By E. S. STEVENS.

To return to the marriage ceremony. As soon as the girl is declared virgin, the bishop sends a priest to her with two rings, one set with a red stone and the other with a green (for instance, a ruby and emerald, or a garnet and turquoise). When the priest has inspected the girl's *rasta* to see that the dress is complete in all its details, he puts the rings, the red one on a finger of her right hand, and the green on a finger of her left, recalling to the Western mind the use of red and green lights on the port and starboard of a ship. This done, the *tamiyd* (priest) rejoins the assembly, consisting of the bridegroom, girl's deputy, witnesses and bishop, and informs them that the *rasta* was complete and that the rings have been placed on the girl's fingers. The bishop then reads prayers, following upon which a deacon takes a *tungo* or clay pot and breaks it by throwing it to the ground. The bridegroom, seated on the left of the bishop, is solemnly exhorted by the bishop to forsake his sins. The address begins, "Oh So-and-So (the man's name), son of So-and-So, son of So-and-So." The girl's deputy, on the bishop's right, is next addressed by the bishop, who asks him, as if he were the girl, "Oh So-and-So, daughter of So-and-So, do you accept So-and-So, son of So-and-So, etc." He repeats this question three times, and *wakil* answers three times in the affirmative. The same question reversed is asked of the bridegroom, but only twice, and he too replies. The girl's representative and the bridegroom now stand and join hands. They are asked separately and together whether they agree to this solemn act, and the bishop exhorts the bridegroom not to break his marriage vows, to keep himself pure, to observe religious ceremonies, to protect his wife and not leave her in want, and more in the same strain.

Next, the dowry is declared in the presence of the assembly and before the appointed witnesses, two or three in number. The bishop then sprinkles the saffron on the *klila* (or wreath of myrtle) worn by each, and on the forehead of both bride and bridegroom. Finally, there are readings from the sacred books and many prayers, and the marriage, as far as the ceremony goes, is complete.

The bridegroom may not approach his wife, however, until a time astrologically propitious. The *ganzowro* makes these calculations from the horoscope of both, and by their two names, religious and lay. Should the hour prove to be an inconvenient one, fresh calculations are made for the following six hours.

This brings me to the question of names. Every Mandaean has two names, one a "spiritual" name and the other a "lay" name. Names are chosen according to their numerical value, for although letters have not a numerical value, the names themselves have. These names may either be drawn from the holy books, or belong to one of the three hundred and sixty Melki. Here I must diverge into Mandaean cosmogony and theology. Like Christians, Muslims and Jews, the Mandaeans believe in a Supreme Being, called in their tongue Alaha. But Alaha, they say, has deputed the powers of governance of the material world (the world of non-reality), and even its creation, to regents, spirits of power and purity who sprang into existence as their names were pronounced by

the Almighty. Of these beings, three hundred and sixty in number, the most important is Moro-Eddarbutho, but the divine being who is most directly in touch with this world at present is Hiwel-Ziwa (whose story reminds one of the Adonis myths). His victorious return from the material regions with a celestial woman called Ruhaya—an Oriental Psyche—is celebrated yearly at the feast known as *Dehvo Hnino*. Ruhaya, brought by Hiwel Ziwa from the seventh material world, was in a state of pregnancy, and was placed in the abode of darkness. There, when her time was come, Ruhaya brought forth a son, named Ur, upon whose back the physical worlds were built. I will continue the narrative in the words of the bishop. "When born, Ur said to his mother, 'Why are we two alone in this world?' She replied that his father was a *malka* named Ashdun, and that he had many relatives amongst the sons of light. Ur was of colossal size. He shouted until the realm of light shook. He desired to see his people, so Ruhaya gave him certain binoculars with which he might be able to see his people of the world of light. But Hiwel Ziwa was wearing a talismanic face, and so was invisible, and under cover of his invisibility he was able to snatch the glasses from Ur, capture him and imprison him beneath the earth in Avad Nahasha, the Land of Bronze, and the seven worlds were over him. His mother followed him below and became his wife, and bore him seven sons, each son being placed by Hiwel Ziwa in a planet. The planets are the creatures of God, and each has a spirit in it. They are Shamash (the Sun), Sera (the Moon), Neragh (Mars), Enbu (Mercury), Bel (Jupiter), Liwat or Zahara (Venus), and Kiwan (Saturn)."

It will be seen that the names of the planets are mostly ancient Babylonian, and most of them fulfil the duties assigned them by Babylonian astrologers. Shamash governs the day and Sera the night. Bel is clearly unchanged. Enbu, lord of science and wisdom, is the Babylonian Nebo, Kywan is the lord of thunder, and Liwat informs the minds of those who manufacture inventions, such as aeroplanes or wireless telegraphy. The simile used by the bishop when speaking of the planets interested an Assyriologist, whom I had brought with me on one occasion, on account of its resemblance to a simile used in Sumerian inscriptions. Shaikh Dukhayl said, "The planets are ships (*marakib*, vehicles in which one rides) in which the melki ride for great distances or small. In the ship of Shamash is a *sanjak* (banner), and from this streams the Light of God. The sun is a reflection of the Light of God, and the standard reflects the light of the sun."

After the seven planets, Ruhaya and Ur had twelve more children, the signs of the Zodiac. The age of the material universe, said the bishop, is divided from the time of Adam to the end of the world, into twelve parts, each governed by a sign of the Zodiac. To Umbara (the Lamb or Ram) a period of twelve thousand years was assigned, to Taura (the Bull), eleven thousand, to Selmi (the Scales), ten thousand, and so on. When the world arrives at the Nuna (Fish or Whale) period, it will come to an end, Ur will perish, and Ruhaya return to the realms of light.

The signs of the Zodiac and their numerical values are as follows:—

Umbara (New Year)	...	Lamb or Ram	...	1
Taura	...	Bull	...	2
Selmi	...	Scales	...	3
Saratana	...	Crab	...	4
Arya	...	Lion	...	5
Shumbul	...	Ear of Corn	...	6
Qeyna	...	Reed	...	7
Arqa	...	Scorpion	...	8
Hatya	...	Mare	...	9
Gadia	...	Kid	...	10
Dowla	...	Camel	...	11
Nuna	...	(Whale) Fish	...	12

Each year has a *burj*, or Zodiacal house, so has each month, each day and each hour—the day being divided into two parts of twelve, twelve for the day and twelve for the night.

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To name an infant, they take the month sign, count from it round the Zodiacal circle and calculate from it the sign of the hour (the day is not taken into consideration), and from the numerical value which results they subtract the value of the mother's name.

For instance, a child is born at 11 a.m. in February. His mother's name is Shara (numerical value 2). The sign for February is Arya. Hence, starting at Arya, but not counting it in, eleven hours gives us Saratana (numerical value 4). Two, for the mother's name, deducted from four, leaves two. The name selected is Zahrun, one of the names the numerical value of which is two, so that the infant's name in full, Zahrun bar Shahra, equals four, which is the number of the Zodiacal sign Saratana.

It is interesting to know that the Mandaean believe that humanity has been destroyed, with the exception of only one couple or a few survivors, three times; first by war, next by fire, and then by water (the survivors that time being Noah and his family). The fourth destruction of the human race has not yet taken place, but the prophecy is that it will be by *hawa* which may be interpreted either by "air" or by "spirit." Some Madaeans look at the aeroplanes which fly from time to time over their heads and ask themselves whether the destruction of civilised man will come about that way.

Children are looked upon as great blessings, not only while their parents are alive, but after their death, for they can help the liberated soul through Purgatory (Matharotha) by their prayers and almsgiving, and so hasten the moment when the purified soul, weighed in the abode of the pole-star, Awather, in the scales with the soul of Shitel (Seth, purest of all human souls) in the opposite balance, is not found wanting. Thereafter, it may wing its way to "the place of light, the place of the redeemed and pure. In that place the sun will never set, and the lights are forever burning and unquenched. In that place all is truth and perfection and no increasing or decreasing."

A father is responsible for his son from the child's birth to his twentieth year. He must educate, discipline and nourish him and see that he carries out his religious duties and purifications. There are a number of ritual ablutions which the boy must learn, for instance, he must pray three times a day before each meal, and be careful, before eating, to wash his hands and his arms as far as the elbow. He must never touch meat which has not been properly killed, or food forbidden by the faith, for Hiwel Ziwa made a distinction between clean and unclean animals when Mithail created animals and fowls of the air. When a man kills a bird or beast for food, he repeats the verse which speaks of animal creation and of the distinction between clean and unclean animals, and ends, "whoso eateth of it (this clean food) shall be blessed." At his subsequent baptism (for the shedding of blood renders his purification necessary) he says as he goes into the river. "I, So-an-so, son of So-and-so, have slaughtered this fowl (or lamb or what it may be), and God will forgive me. Eat!" Sheep are permitted for food, as are fowls, ducks, geese, turkeys and fish. The ox and buffalo are forbidden in all forms, for Hiwel Ziwa created these animals for the production of milk, for draught and for ploughing, and not for food. Birds which have a certain pouch in their anatomy (I could not discover what this was) are unclean. The black crow is unlawful food, while the raven may be eaten without blame.

After all deeds or states which pollute or defile, baptism by immersion is obligatory. A woman who has had a child must be baptised the fourth Sunday after her confinement, and as the river is bitterly cold at some seasons of the year, this is a trying ordeal for delicate women, as the baptized person must remain in her wet *rasta* for some time after the actual immersion.* Baptism should take place often, in fact, a good Mandaean should be baptized

every Sunday. "Baptism, alms, and good deeds make the perfect Mandaean," they told me.

There are four great feasts annually: (1) The *Dehwa Rabba* (The Great Feast), the Feast of the Creation; during which the created worlds visit the Creator in Paradise and congratulate him on his work. (2) *Dehwa Hanina* (The Little Feast), which commemorates the creation of this world's living creatures. (3) *Dehwa ed Daiman*, which celebrates the baptism of Adam. On this feast all newly born children must be baptized. (4) *Paronaia*, the Feast of Five, in honour of five Melki. There is a baptism on this day of all spirits in the various worlds, and amongst Madaeans on earth a general baptism for five days. If anyone dies during *Paronaia*, much of his sin will be forgiven him. "The doors of pardon are open."

At the Big and Little Feasts it is customary to give the priest money or a gift. He goes from house to house, giving his blessing and receiving what each family in turn offers him.

Mandaean women are, in spite of the practice of polygamy, as free as their Christian sisters. They may own property, and not only can become priests, but are also sometimes made bishops. As a bishop, a woman may baptize and carry out the other functions of a bishop, but may not perform more than two marriage ceremonies. "What are the duties of a bishop besides ritual ones?" I asked Shaikh Dukayl. He replied with a smile, "He is a *mu'abbr ud din!*" (a ferryman of the faith). "He helps people across their spiritual difficulties."

The women, like the men, are often good-looking, which in the past has been a source of trouble, since Muslims have fallen in love with handsome Subba girls, and, marrying them, have forced them into the fold of Islam. A steadily dwindling nation cannot afford such incidents. The women have superstitions at which the men, better educated, profess to smile. They are experts in ways of keeping off the Shiviahi, or evil spirits, and use all manner of exorcisms and amulets against sickness, scorpion and snake bites, and the evil eye. The mad, supposed by them to be possessed, are taken to the exorcist rather than to the alienist, and a scrap of holy writ is valued above a doctor's prescription. As one said to me, "Writings (i.e. exorcisms and sacred texts) are our hospitals and our prescriptions."

When a Subba dies, if his life has been a good one, his family must show a cheerful countenance, and not weep. Every tear shed by a mourner, says Subba Legend, forms a wide river, over which a newly-released soul passes with difficulty. The dead man must be washed, dressed in his *rasta*, and laid in the tomb facing the North Star, the seat of judgment, while the *masakhto* is said to help his soul on its way. The most that can happen to a bad Subba is a prolonged sojourn in Purgatory. But for the man who renounces his faith, there is a heavier punishment. Till the end of the material world he must endure the torture of Ur's burning out-breath, and the icy inrush of air as he draws it into his Titanic lungs. The worst inferno is "to be eaten by Ur," but even then, there is the distant hope of an ultimate release.

It is a cheerful faith, and a smiling face is supposed by Madaeans to indicate a conscience at ease and the knowledge of duty performed. Personally, I do not remember ever to have seen a Subba who looked miserable or of poor physique. This may be due to their belief that cleanliness is, not next to godliness, but its counterpart; and that cleanliness of body is symbolical of cleanliness of mind and purity of soul. For that is the main tenet of this race of Baptists.

(Concluded.)

As a meeting of the Greek Cabinet held on October 20 it was agreed to accept in principle the request of the British Government for the establishment of aeroplane stations at Corfu, Argostoli, Navarino, and Suda Bay, in order to facilitate communications by air between England and India. The request was submitted to the competent department of the Ministry of Marine for examination.

* At such a baptism all the cooking pots and utensils she has touched during the confinement are taken into the river and purified by the bishop.

THE WEEK AT HOME

London, Tuesday Morning.

A Politician's Exit.

The correspondence of farewell between Lord Birkenhead and the Prime Minister had a curious ring, for Lord Birkenhead, ever a bold man, actually took it upon himself (as if in challenge to *The Times*, which had spoken of his loose seat at the India Office) to defend his régime as Secretary of State for India. But Mr. Baldwin, ever a cautious man, sagaciously left the issue for future generations to determine.

The fact is that politics in Great Britain do not pay, by which one means that they do not pay as in more corrupt countries. No man who is set upon "earning" large sums of money is advised to enter English politics. Probably our politics are all the better for this fact, although it must occasionally happen that we lose—for a time—the services of such eminent men as the retiring Secretary of State for India.

Without him the Conservative Party will do its best: the optimistic might even be tempted to say that that best will inevitably be better than any past efforts. Lord Birkenhead was never a great asset to the party as an election orator, fine speaker though he was.

Political Speculation.

The statisticians are busy speculating upon the possible combinations and permutations of parties in the next Parliament. Recent indications of probable lines of conduct have been given by Mr. Lloyd George and by Mr. Philip Snowden, who, while having many a "dig" at the rival "progressive" party (for that is the correct party game) are credited with a sincere intention and desire to work in collaboration, in the event of the combined Labour and Liberal vote exceeding that of the Conservatives.

It is true that Sir Herbert Samuel talks in grandiloquent way of the Liberals' gaining, not a balance of power, but dominance in the next, or next but one, House of Commons, but such idle words are not to be taken very seriously except by the loyal, and, therefore, to a certain extent, blind, Party worker.

A Literary Censorship.

Sir William Joynson-Hicks is a man of parts. Having told the Church how it ought to behave, he now talks of taking on his comprehensive shoulders the burden of distinguishing good books from bad. Manifestly the recent

publicity given to what I am told is a rather dreary but more or less readable novel has affected him deeply, and he is now in the mood for a crusade against all novels which by any sort of mind could be regarded as salacious. He actually said the other day that in the near future he might have to deal with immoral and disgusting books.

Now one should be perfectly clear in one's mind what are the issues at stake in this question of a literary censorship. With Sir William's sentiments there can be no decent person who will not agree. But with his proposal it is another matter. The freedom of the Press is something for which our forefathers fought hard, and it should not be placed in jeopardy by one who, for all the correctness of his morals, is hardly a judge of literature. The existing laws relating to libel, sedition, blasphemy, and indecency are still quite sufficient for the purpose of our generation: and public morals are the affair of the public, not of the Home Secretary, or of a Puritan Committee which he might appoint.

Public opinion in itself will kill a rotten book, which stands only to gain in circulation by such methods as those who are advocating a moral censorship would use.

One-way Traffic.

It is rather fun to observe that the Traffic Advisory Board, which introduced the one-way system of traffic in London some six months ago, has now condemned it. The system has never been popular, either among tradespeople, ordinary pedestrians, or the motorists, who found that the blockages were certainly not less numerous than before. To the man in the street, indeed, the congestion of wheeled traffic has seemed even worse in the last few months.

In some places, of course, the one-way system has obvious advantages, and presumably it will be retained in large circuses or squares, or where narrow parallel streets can contain traffic going in opposite directions. But the folly of having one-way traffic in a wide street, such as the Haymarket, is now fully demonstrated, and it is to be hoped that we shall soon have seen the last of this nonsense. The pedestrian will never come into his own again in London (not until we all are flying, that is), but it is certainly something to have his existence recognised officially once more.

Influenza.

After probably the finest summer on record, and in the midst of a magnificent autumn, there has descended upon us the scourge of influenza. It is all terribly disappointing, not so much because it has puzzled the doctors, who were quite sure that after we had absorbed all those sun-rays during the summer, they would be penniless during the autumn and winter, but because we really did imagine that good weather implied good health.

All we know is that the precise connexion between the two is unascertainable. The theory now is that all this catarrh, these sore throats, these shivering fits and hot flushes, are due to the fact that during the summer we were so unwise as to swallow an unusual amount of dust, and that the germ of influenza flourishes in the dust. But this explanation is possibly as wide of the mark as are most generalisations.

Yet there certainly is an unusual number of people suffering with more or less serious colds. I wonder whether the early autumn is a dangerous time in countries in the East which have dusty summers?

The Health of the Nation.

One of the few Governmental Annual Reports to the publication of which one looks forward is Sir George Newman's examination of the state of the public health. His Report for 1927, which has just been published, is full of stimulating matter—stimulating some to gloom, others to cheerfulness.

He points out that the birth rate in 1927 was the lowest on record—only 16.6 per 1,000 persons or half what it was between say 1881 and 1890. But infant mortality has been cut down by half since 1910. This



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fact in itself, however, creates a problem, for the salvation of the weaker children is "casting a burden on preventive medicine." But if the weaklings can be saved, who is to say that they shall not be? This evidently is a serious problem for the State.

Another problem, which gives the impression that the old war-dodge of "swinging the lead" has not been forgotten in times of peace, is set by the fact that in 1927 the country lost, through sickness among the insured population alone, the equivalent of twelve months' work of almost 500,000 persons. The expenditure per person has risen from 2s. 2½d. in 1921 to 3s. 2½d. in 1928, and this increase is not to be accounted for in the records of illness or epidemics. As a matter of fact, the Approved Societies themselves are inclined to put it all down to a greater tendency on the part of their members to "go sick," and to worry over slight indispositions which in former years they would hardly have noticed.

ALTER EGO.

PERSONAL AND GENERAL

TO-DAY

October 25, 1928 (New Style).

October 12, 1928 (Old Style).

Jumada 1, 10, 1347 A.H., of the Muslim Calendar.

Marcheshvan 11, 5689, of the Jewish Calendar.

Lord and Lady Lloyd left London on October 22 en route for Egypt.

Earl Winterton arrived last week at the Grand Pump Room Hotel, Bath.

The Aga Khan arrived last week at the Ritz Hotel from Paris.

Major-General Sir Edmund Ironside is sailing in the P. and O. ss. Ranpura, which leaves Tilbury to-morrow (Friday) for Bombay.

Lieutenant-General Sir George MacMunn has returned to Upton Park, Slough, from his tour in Canada on behalf of Empire Settlement.

Lord and Lady Airedale will leave 3, Cadogan Square on October 27 for India, sailing from Tilbury in the P. and O. ss. Nankin.

The Maharaja of Burdwan attended a reception given by Mr. H. Daly Stanford at 27, Knightsbridge, on October 20.

Field-Marshal Lord Plumer will be the guest of honour at the Canadian Expeditionary Force Re-Union Dinner on November 9 at the Hotel Cecil.

Sir John Chancellor, High Commissioner elect for Palestine, was one of the principal guests at a luncheon of African Society held at Hotel Victoria on October 23.

Sir John Maffey, Governor-General of the Sudan, has left London for Khartoum. Lady Maffey expects to go out early in December.

Mr. C. J. Gadd, of the Department of Egyptian and Assyrian Antiquities of the British Museum, delivered the first of the series of lectures arranged by the Egypt Exploration Society yesterday, in the meeting-room of the Royal Society, Burlington House. The lecture was entitled "Babylon Seers and their Art."

The Earl of Birkenhead (Secretary of State for India) had an Audience of the King at Sandringham on October 22, and delivered up his Seals of Office and took leave upon relinquishing his appointment. His Majesty invested the Earl of Birkenhead with the Insignia of a Knight Grand Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the Star of India.

SKETCHES OF YUGOSLAVIA.

The exhibition of water-colours of France and Yugoslavia which Miss Lily Waring has just concluded at the Beaux Arts Gallery, Bruton Place, Bond Street, W., was a very gay show. Particularly in her sketches of Yugoslavia were there manifest a jolly spontaneity and delight in fresh (not always faithful) colour. Miss Waring's attempt was obviously to recreate rather than to represent the various scenes, and certainly she succeeded in conveying the spirit of places, that is, their inner rather than their outer charm.

In one or two sketches of Sarajevo, for instance, and of Dubrovnik, she has achieved a happy general effect. It is obvious that, whether she was drawing at Mostar, or Zagreb, or Lapad it was the colour, primarily, of Croatia and Dalmatia that appealed to her: she did not, for example, endeavour to make old stones speak nor new places prophesy. Yet it is something to have the old and the new as they are mingled in Yugoslavia set down, as they were here set down, with neither fuss nor prejudice but simply with an infectious enthusiasm.

IN ASIA AND AFRICA.

Miss Edith Harvey, for her exhibition at the Arlington Gallery, Old Bond Street (which closes to-morrow, October 26), has travelled somewhat extensively in Asia and Africa. She has a pleasing reticence in the use of colour, although her harmonising is not always just. But she undoubtedly can draw, and has a gift in characterisation. One would draw special attention to "Persian Khan, Constantinople," "Old Khan, Damascus," and "Sir Samuel Baker's Stone, Rejaf," as showing the versatility of her brush. Other works that may excite interest are of Delphi, the Lebanon, Aswan, Khartoum, Athens, and Thebes.

R.A.S.C. AND THE E.E.F.

Major-General G. F. Davies presided at the Tenth Annual Dinner of the Royal Army Service Corps Egyptian Expeditionary Force at the Trocadero Restaurant on October 12. Other officers present included Captain G. Aitchison, Lieutenant-Colonel G. E. Badcock, Major E. S. Baring-Gould, Major K. M. Beaumont, Captain D. W. Boileau, Major C. H. Burke, Captain F. Harman Brown, Captain F. S. Butler, Captain M. J. Cahill, Major J. P. T. Clarke, Captain G. K. Congreve, Major L. M. Cox, Captain C. E. Davies, Captain A. D. Dogson, Major-General E. Evans, Major H. A. Fox, Lieutenant-Colonel A. Gillibrand, Captain P. G. Grinling, Captain W. E. Green, Major R. C. Haddon, Major J. M. Harby, Mr. J. W. Joyce, Captain D. Kennedy, Captain A. W. Marton, Colonel Matthew, Captain E. H. Mahon, Captain P. T. Marshall, Captain Mann, Major E. A. Medley, Mr. R. Mighall, Captain G. R. Morris, Captain C. E. Mott, Lieutenant-Colonel J. H. Morris, Mr. D. W. Musselwhite, Captain B. W. Nicholson, Captain A. E. Nugent, Captain E. H. Potter, Mr. H. Price, Captain R. R. Ripon, Captain L. Rowell, Major P. M. Sanders, Major J. Sewell, Mr. J. J. Sewell, Mr. A. Stansbury, Captain J. South, Captain J. P. Stratton, Sir Samuel Shead, Captain J. A. Tafft, Captain A. R. Tanner, Captain E. Upton, Captain Eric Unwin, V.C., Mr. G. Wagstaff, Captain A. H. Wale, Major F. R. Way, Mr. F. S. Wilkins, Mr. F. S. Wilks, Major C. White, and Captain B. R. Witt.

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NOTES AND NEWS

170, Strand, London, W.C.2,
Tuesday Morning.

The Bulgarian Loan.

While it was expected that the Bulgarian Loan would make its appearance before the end of this month I understand that this is not likely now to be the case. Loan negotiations in the most favourable circumstances are a delicate matter and often last longer than was originally anticipated, and at the time of writing the precise details of the issue have not been arranged. It must not be understood from what I have said that it is believed there be any long delay in negotiating the loan; it is quite possible that it will be issued some time next month. The amount of the loan, as I have already recorded, is £5,000,000, and it is amply secured by a first charge on the Customs dues.

Roumanian Loan Negotiations.

A Roumanian loan also is on the tapis, but in this case nothing definite has so far been arranged. The amount of the loan now desired is £16,000,000, but this is only a relatively small part of the amount which will ultimately be required to place Roumania in a position to carry out the requisite reconstruction scheme. Negotiations have been carried on in London, New York, and Paris by a Roumanian Commission, and while the conversations of the Commission are understood to have been satisfactory I understand that the present position with regard to the loan may best be summed up in the statement that negotiations are still in progress.

Loan Essential for Roumania.

There are two points with regard to this loan which require to be emphasised. In the first place there is a certain amount of opposition to it not only in certain circles in this country but on the part of the oil companies in Roumania who desire first a modification of the Mining Laws. The second point is that developments in Roumania during the summer have made a loan an imperative necessity. Some of the crops throughout the country have been indifferent, while in Bessarabia the maize crop has been a complete failure, and in that region, as a result, something approximating to famine conditions prevails and has called for remedial measures on the part of the Government.

The Anglo-Persian Dividend.

The dividend announcement of the Anglo-Persian Oil Company was forthcoming last week. It is proposed to pay a dividend of $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. on the ordinary shares as against $12\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. for the previous year and $17\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. for 1925-26, with which period, however, it cannot be compared, as the shareholders then received a capital bonus of 50 per cent. The present dividend is in no way a surprise, for it was generally expected that there would be some reduction in the distribution in view of the difficult period through which the oil companies have been passing.

This time it is proposed to place £800,000 to the reserves, as against £1,300,000, while the allocation for extra depreciation is £453,000, as against £450,293, and the carry forward will be £2,224,266, subject to excess profits duty, as compared with £2,246,880. Shareholders will no doubt find ample consolation for the smaller dividend this year in the fact that the oil position has materially changed for the better in recent months.

Progress of Cyprus.

Elsewhere in this issue will be found a review of the annual Administration Report of Cyprus for 1927. The progress made by the Island recently has brought it into prominence, and the report in question gives a most encouraging story of progress in agriculture and in the mining industry during the year. Developments in the current year have been on the whole favourable, and it is now abundantly evident that under capable administration the Island is well on the path which should lead to a most prosperous future. Incidentally, one promising industry of the Island, which is, so to speak, still in the making, is that of catering for the tourist. Special efforts are now being made to provide adequate facilities for travellers, and as the Island has special attractions of its own, not least among them the prospect of a really peaceful holiday, it may be anticipated that in the future there will be no lack of visitors.

An Interesting Development.

Particulars were announced during the week of another important development in the oil world, this being the formation of a new company by the Anglo-Persian Oil Company and the Asiatic Petroleum Company to acquire the distributing organisations of these companies in South and East Africa, Egypt, the Sudan, Palestine, Syria, the Red Sea, and Ceylon. The new concern, which will be known as the Consolidated Petroleum Company, Ltd., and in which the two companies associated in it will be equally represented, will take over the various installations of the companies in the areas in question and will distribute the products. The result of this arrangement will naturally

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be that economies of a very substantial nature will be effected to the advantage of both the participating companies.

Southern Punjab Railway.

The announcement was forthcoming last week that the Government of India proposes to purchase the undertaking of the Southern Punjab Railway at the end of 1929 on the terms prescribed in the contract. Notice of this intention had to be given twelve months beforehand, so the intimation has been received well in advance of the necessary date, for which consideration those interested in the company will be grateful. The terms on which the railway can be acquired are 25 years' purchase of the company's share of the average net earnings of each section for the five years preceding the purchase, any payments by way of rebate being excluded. It is provided that the price must not be less than the capital expenditure, and must not be more than 20 per cent. over it. As there is a considerable period still to be allowed for on which the price will be estimated, it is obviously impossible to attempt an estimate of the amount for which the concern will pass to the Government, but it may be noted that the latest figures show an appreciable improvement on the corresponding results of last year.

Suez Canal Traffic.

The traffic of the Suez Canal continues to increase, and gives cause for hope that trade may be improving to a greater extent than would appear to be the case from indications in the United Kingdom. For the first eight months of this year the number of transits through the Canal was 4,078, which compares with 3,692 for the corresponding period of 1927 and 3,312 for 1926, while the total net tonnage was 21,142,718 as against 19,239,441 for 1927 and 17,192,366 for 1926. For August, which is the last month for which figures are available the number of transits was 487, the net tonnage being 2,421,000, an increase of 126,000 tons on the figures for August of last year. This increase was due entirely to the growth of the outward traffic, as the homeward traffic showed a decline of 73,000 tons.

South Indian Railway.

For a long time the traffic returns of the South Indian Railway have shown a tendency to improve, and the report for the year ended March 31 last shows an increase of Rs.33,84,045 in the gross earnings, the figures being Rs.5,59,96,133. Against this increase there has to be set, however, a considerable rise in the working expenses, which, at Rs.3,38,23,519, show an increase of Rs.55,25,729, with the result that the net earnings at Rs.2,21,72,614 show a decrease on the previous year of Rs.21,41,648. The explanation of the increase in the expenditure is that the company is still engaged in the work of modernising its equipment while during the year 156 miles were added to the length of the lines. This outlay will, no doubt, be reflected in increasingly favourable returns in the next few years.

COMMENTATOR.

The directors of Imperial Airways, Ltd., have nominated Viscount Chetwynd to be Vice-chairman of the board.

The traffic receipts of the South Indian Railway Company for the week ended September 22 amounted to Rs.11,50,745, making the total from April 1 Rs.2,93,93,070.

Stewart and Lloyds, Glasgow, have received a contract from the Anglo-Persian Oil Company for 7 miles of 12 in. oil piping, to be delivered over a period of six months. There will be 9,200 tons of piping.

New extensions of the Dunlop cotton mills at Rochdale now make the largest in the world under one roof. They have 35 acres of floor space; 286,400 spinning spindles; 100,000 doubling spindles; 3,000 workers (at the least); 14,500 h.p. of electricity. Every week 1,100 bales of cotton are turned into half-a-million lb. of yarn which is doubled and made into cord for Dunlop products, chiefly tyres.

CYPRUS IN 1927.

In a period when some Near Eastern countries with considerable resources have found it a difficult matter to make substantial progress in reconstruction the success so far achieved by the authorities in Cyprus in furthering the development of the Island stands out with particular prominence. While it may be said that the date of the inception of the British Empire Exhibition roughly determines the time, when a definite advance was made in the task of utilising to the utmost the Island's resources and finding larger markets for the various products, it is only in the last year or so that really appreciable progress has been achieved. In recent months evidence has been forthcoming in a variety of ways that the Government is sparing no pains to do everything possible to improve the economic position of the Island. Thus, as was recorded in these columns last week, an investigation is now proceeding with regard to the conditions in the various neighbouring markets with a view to finding larger outlets for Cyprus products. This is one example of the useful work being carried on by the Government, whose example might well be followed by certain Near Eastern administrations.

The Administration Report for 1927, which has now been issued, shows that last year was one of considerable progress, not least as regards the financial position of the Island. In the previous year, while the revenue had declined the expenditure had increased with the result that there was a fairly large adverse balance. In 1927 the revenue showed an increase of £26,731 at £655,997, and with the Grant-in-aid the total was £705,907 which compared with a total expenditure of £707,829, the deficit being the small one of £1,832 as against one of £68,761. The increased revenue was mainly due to higher Customs receipts arising from larger duties imposed in February, 1927. At the end of the year the Island had a balance of assets over liabilities exclusive of the Reserve Fund and the depreciation account on investments of that Fund and the Savings Bank of £45,050 as compared with £45,990. Under the new arrangement which came into force this year H. M. Government takes over the whole of the Island's share of the Turkish Debt Charge while the Island will henceforth contribute £10,000 per annum towards Imperial Defence. This means an improvement in the Island's financial position to the extent of £32,800 per annum which places Cyprus in a favourable position with regard to the raising of the loan which is in contemplation.

Naturally special interest attaches to the section of the report dealing with agriculture, since this is the principal source of the Island's wealth. The crops were generally good in 1927 with the exception of the carob crop, the quality of which was poor, and cotton, of which less was sown owing to the insufficient rainfall. One of the features of the year was the extension of the area devoted to orange cultivation, and this development is likely to continue owing to the splendid quality of Cyprus oranges, which are meeting with increasing appreciation in the markets. Experiments in flax cultivation were continued with satisfactory results, and it is interesting to note that good prices were obtained for the flax shipped to the United Kingdom. Then there was a large extension of the area under tobacco and a considerable increase in production. The problem in regard to this important crop is the improvement of the quality, and endeavours are being made to attain this end. A serious difficulty in furthering the improvement of agriculture has been the reluctance of the farmers to adopt modern and scientific methods. For years the Agricultural Department has been demonstrating their necessity, and it is very satisfactory to learn from the report that these efforts "are now beginning to have a noticeable effect" and that "it may be affirmed that the area of agricultural stagnation in Cyprus is approaching its end." Signs of this are the rapid increase in the use of chemical fertilisers and up-to-

date machinery and the growing demand for expert advice on the cultivation of crops. The improvement of agriculture will naturally have the effect of increasing the wealth of the peasant class who form the bulk of the population, and that will, of course, mean an increased purchasing power, signs of which are already apparent in the improving trade returns.

Sericulture is one of the Island's important industries, and as a matter of fact, Cyprus ranks second among the silk-producing countries of the Empire. The Cyprus Silk Filature, which was established at Yeroskipos in 1925, has 80 reeling basins which can deal during a year with about 370,000 lb. of fresh cocoons. Reference must also be made to the important mining industry of the Island. In 1927 the Cyprus Mines Corporation mined approximately 200,176 tons of cupriferous iron pyrites and 208,122 tons were shipped for export. Then the Cyprus Asbestos Company greatly increased its output during the year, the amount of asbestos rock mined being nearly 1½ million tons, which represents an advance of more than ¾ million tons on the 1926 figures, while the production of finished asbestos was 11,200 tons, or 5,000 more than in the previous year. Thus the mining industry is keeping pace with the developments in agriculture and promises to play an important part in making the Island one of the prosperous regions of the Mediterranean.

NEWS FROM ALL SOURCES.

The Rt. Hon. Lord Meston, K.C.S.I., has joined the Board of the Rohilkund and Kumaon Railway Company, in place of Sir John S. Campbell, K.C.S.I., C.I.E., deceased.

Charles Roberts and Co., Horbury Junction, near Wakefield, have received a contract for two kerosene tank waggon for the Sudan Government Railways.

Roumanian exports of cereals during the first seven months of the year (in tons) were:—Wheat, 10,242; rye, 10,460; maize, 452,556; barley, 94,277; oats, 3,564; millet, 1,099; wheaten flour, 10,815; bran and other cereals, 20,700.

The directors of the Burma Railways Company have decided to make a final payment of 7½ per cent., less tax, on account of surplus profits for the year ended March 31, 1928. This will be distributed on December 31 with the guaranteed interest of 1½ per cent. in respect of the six months ended December 31, 1928, and makes a total return of 14 per cent. for 1927-28, as against 11 per cent. for the year preceding.

A sample of prunes has been prepared by the Cyprus Department of Agriculture and sent to the Cyprus Trade Commissioner in London for a report on their value on the London market. This is believed to be the first sample of prunes prepared in Cyprus. The fruit was grown at Prodromos, in the Marathasa district, and it would seem that there are good prospects of developing an important industry in the cultivation of this fruit for export.

TENDERS INVITED.

Tenders are invited for the following contracts, and must be made by the dates mentioned.

(Particulars of tenders marked D.O.T. are to be obtained from the Department of Overseas Trade, 55, Old Queen Street, S.W.1.)

EGYPT.

Canning Machinery.—The British Commercial Secretary at Cairo has forwarded to the Department of Overseas Trade a report by H.M. Vice-Consul at Suez regarding possible requirements of a local concern for their fish canning factory, which include: Canning machinery of all kinds; oil extraction plant, machinery for salting and smoking fish; steam trawlers and equipment and accessories for steam and sailing trawlers (canvas, ropes, anchors, chains, etc.); fishing hooks, trawl nets, barrels. (D.O.T.)

Syphons.—The Director of Projects and Resident Engineer, Naga Hamadi Barrage, Naga Hamadi, invites tenders for the construction of three syphons under the Foadia Canal. November 30.

Scientific Instruments, Etc.—The Director-General, Physical Department, Sharia El Insha, Dawawin Post Office, invites tenders for the supply of scientific instruments and clocks. December 3.

Copper Wire, Etc.—The Egyptian State Railways, Telegraphs and Telephones, invites tenders for copper line wire; mild steel; transformers and cables, etc.; armoured underground cables; watertight fuse board and unipolar fuses; lubricating pads; sale of second-hand drums.

TURKEY.

Saw Milling Plant.—A Constantinople concern is anxious to acquire the following plant as soon as possible:—(1) steam power driving plant for driving saws, etc., for an annual output of 50,000 cubic metres which it is proposed to increase later to 100,000 cubic metres. Only wood will be consumed as fuel in the factory; (2) two horizontal log saws; (3) one vertical log frame saw; (4) two circular swing saws, for logs. (D.O.T.)

Motor Lorries, Buses, Etc.—The Ministry of National Defence is in the market for motor lorries, buses, and motor tank wagons. (D.O.T.)

FORTHCOMING SAILINGS.

The following are the sailings for the Near East and India, the ports of departure and closing dates for cargo being given in parentheses:—

Anchor Line.—S.s. Elysia for Bombay (Birkenhead, November 3). (For passenger sailings and dates see advertisement.)

Anchor Brocklebank Line.—S.s. Maihar for Calcutta (Birkenhead, October 30); s.s. Magdapur for Calcutta (Birkenhead, November 8).

Biby Line.—S.s. Shropshire for Port Said, Port Sudan, Colombo, and Rangoon (Birkenhead, October 31).

British India Line.—S.s. Manela for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, November 3); s.s. Mundra for Bombay and Karachi (London, November 10); s.s. Merkara for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, November 17); s.s. Hatimura for Bombay and Karachi (London, December 1).

Cunard Line.—S.s. Bothnia for Patras, Piræus, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, and Constantza (Liverpool, Glasgow and Swansea, November 10); s.s. Bosnia for Casablanca, Gibraltar, Genoa, Leghorn, Naples, Palermo, Messina, Catania, Corfu, Bari, Venice, Trieste, and Fiume, also at Gruz if inducement (Liverpool November 12, and Swansea November 27).

Johnston Line.—S.s. Dromore for Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, November 3). (This steamer will be the last sailing of the season to the Danube ports.)

P. and O. Line.—S.s. Ranpura for Bombay (London, October 26); s.s. Nankin for Calcutta (London, October 27); s.s. Kaiser-i-Hind for Bombay (London, November 9); s.s. Perim for Calcutta (London, November 10).

Prince Line.—S.s. Lancastrian Prince for Tunis, Malta, Alexandria, Jaffa, Haifa, Beyrout, Tripoli, Alexandretta, Mersina, and Cyprus (London, November 3); s.s. Egyptian Prince for Tunis, Malta, Alexandria, and Cyprus (Manchester, November 3).

Ellerman and Papayanni Lines.—S.s. Roumelian for Gibraltar, Malta, Alexandria, Jaffa, and Haifa* (Liverpool, October 27); s.s. Manchurian for Algiers, Patras, Piræus, Volo*, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, and Constantza (Liverpool October 27, Swansea October 27); s.s. Polo for Genoa, Leghorn, Naples, Palermo, Messina, Catania, Bari, Gruz*, Ancona*, Venice, Trieste, and Fiume (Liverpool November 7, Swansea November 10); A steamer for Malta, Alexandria, Jaffa*, and Haifa* (Glasgow, November 8); s.s. Egyptian for Malta, Alexandria, Jaffa*, and Haifa* (Glasgow, November 8); s.s. Egyptian for Malta, Alexandria, Jaffa*, and Haifa* (Liverpool, November 10); s.s. Mardinian for Piræus, Volo*, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, and Constantza (Liverpool October 27, Swansea October 27).

*Subject to sufficient inducement. Cargo taken on through Bill of Lading to:—Algerian ports via Algiers; Moroccan ports via Gibraltar; Tripoli (Barbary) via Malta; Syria and Cyprus via Alexandria; Greek outports via Piræus or other convenient port.

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THE WEEK'S FINANCE.

(By Our Financial Expert.)

London, October 23.

Another week of pronounced activity in the more speculative sections of the Stock Exchange ends on a strong note, New York coming in as a buyer of several of its favourites, and in spite of the approach of the settlement and the arrangements in connexion therewith business continues on a large scale. Concurrently with the activity in the industrial section there has been a continued firmness in the gilt edged group, on which the heavy flow of company prospectuses of all classes appears to have had no effect. The public's appetite for new issues shows no signs of abatement and many have been heavily oversubscribed, a notable success being scored by the Birmingham Corporation Loan. Two or three foreign loans are known to be in the offing, including a loan for Peru, which is to be issued partly in New York and partly in Europe, London being expected to get about £2 millions. The loan is expected to be on a basis to yield about 6½ per cent. and to run for thirty years.

Protecting the Investor.

In these days, when there is a vast body of inexperienced investors, it is more than ever necessary to take every step to make investing as safe as possible. We therefore welcome the most recent action of the Stock Exchange Committee, which has revised certain rules in order to afford the investing public greater protection. These rules relate to the circumstances in which permission is given to deal in a share. It sometimes happens that a company's position is such that it is not anxious to stand in the light shed by a prospectus. In this case it might at first arrange for capital to be subscribed privately and then introduce the securities on the Stock Exchange and so pass them on to the general investor. Before the shares can be introduced on the Stock Exchange, however, it is necessary to publish a statement in lieu of a prospectus. This is something like a prospectus, but generally less informative than the average prospectus. The result is that the investor sometimes takes up a security under the impression that the company's position is different from what it actually is. The latest revision of rules undertaken by the Stock Exchange Com-

mittee will lessen this danger, for the information to be given in a statement in lieu of a prospectus will make it little inferior to a prospectus. For instance, the dividend, if any, paid on each class of shares during each of the last three financial years is to be disclosed and if no dividend has been paid this is to be stated. The Stock Exchange Committee's action is a step in the right direction.

The Tea and Rubber Outlook.

The activities of Harrisons and Crosfield bring the company into intimate contact with a substantial section of the tea and rubber industries. The views of the chairman, Mr. Eric Miller, are therefore regarded as noteworthy. Speaking at this week's meeting of the company he made his customary survey of the tea and rubber industries and on the whole was reassuring. The producers of poor common teas, he said, will be faced with prices which do not cover the cost of production, but attractive good medium and fine to finest teas are in strong demand at remunerative prices and provided care is exercised there is a certain prospect of satisfactory prices. There will be few who question this diagnosis, but possibly some observers may consider his views on the rubber outlook as somewhat erring on the side of optimism. Discussing the outlook for next year, he said that "the quantities to be taken by manufacturers during 1929 will about equal the unrestricted production both being estimated in the neighbourhood of 700,000 tons." At any rate, he was in no doubt regarding the ultimate future. All industries swing like a pendulum, he said "and as we are now on the up swing we may look to the future in confident assurance that the producers of this wonderful material so essential to modern life are to receive an adequate return for their enterprise."

Further Oil Industry Developments.

We recently discussed important developments in the oil industry, alluding in particular to the purchase by the Burmah Company (which holds a large number of Anglo-Persian Oil Company's shares) of a substantial block of the "Shell" Company's shares. We stated that any further development would be awaited with interest; and further noteworthy developments have now been announced. There is to be formed a new company by the Anglo-Persian Oil Company and the Asiatic Petroleum Company (which belongs to the "Shell" group), which will take over the whole of the distributing organisation of both companies in South and East Africa, Egypt, Sudan, Palestine and Syria, the Red Sea, and Ceylon. This new company will acquire all the installations and other distributing facilities which are owned by these companies in these areas, and it will distribute their products for their joint account. The new company will have the title of Consolidated Petroleum Company, and the Anglo-Persian Company and the Asiatic Company will hold an equal number of shares in it, and have equal representation on the board. There is no doubt that this association of interests will result in substantial economies which should benefit both shareholders and consumers. Clearly co-operation is making considerable headway in the oil industry and in so far as it is in keeping with the principles of round "rationalisation" its advantages cannot be in question. In view of these and other possible developments, we repeat that the holder of good shares should retain his securities.

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Yugoslavia's receipts from direct taxes for the financial year 1927-28 amounted to 1,717 million dinars, or 11 millions more than the estimates. Indirect taxes, amounting to 3,292 millions, show a deficit of 213.5 millions from the amount estimated. Receipts from monopolies reach 2,372 million dinars, instead of 2,296 millions, as estimated. The railways brought in 1,873 millions instead of 2,700 millions. The total receipts were 10,504, against an estimate of 11,477 million dinars, leaving a shortage of 973 millions. Expenditure was 10,767, against an estimate of 12,282 millions. The deficit, therefore, amounts to 263 millions, as against an estimate of 906 million dinars.

GROWTH OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES FAIR.

An Outside Section at Birmingham.

The Birmingham Chamber of Commerce (Inc.), who control the Heavy Section of the British Industries Fair held in that city each spring, have been much exercised in deciding how to deal with the numerous applications for space, next February, which have been received since the recent announcement that the whole of the new 11-acre exhibition building was booked up six months in advance. It was clearly recognised, at the meetings which have taken place on the subject, that no further structural extensions, beyond those now in hand, could be completed in time for the 1929 display, even if the Chamber were prepared to accept the additional strain on their resources.

As the only alternative to the continued refusal of space, it has now been decided to create an Outside Section, which will accordingly be held, immediately adjoining the Fair Building, for the first time next February. This adds an area of no less than 50,000 sq. feet to the Heavy Section of the Fair. The ground, which is now being specially prepared for the purpose, is bounded by the L.M. and S. Railway siding and by the passenger approach to the Fair from Castle Bromwich railway station.

An official circular to this effect, issued within the last week, has met with instant response on the part of prospective exhibitors, who in many cases intimate that the new section in the open will, in practice, be more suitable for the demonstration of their products than space within the Exhibition if it were available.

Space is already being allowed to manufacturers of concrete-mixing machines, which will be shown in operation, with other apparatus in relation to road-making and building construction. Horticultural and agricultural buildings; enclosures of ground by different systems of cattle and vermin-proof partitioning; temporary structures on contract jobs, cattle shelters, and the like are other products for which outside display is appropriate.

Other applications have been received from firms who wish to give working demonstrations of mobile traction in tractors, gantries, telpherage, and escalator ladders.

Hard tennis court, drainage systems, and preservative and weather-proof materials are particularly suitable for outside stands, while railway apparatus will probably be demonstrated on some miles of private sidings between the Fair Building and the L.M. and S. main line.

The 1929 Outside Section at Birmingham is likely to prove one of the most active and interesting portions of the Fair, rivalling the clamour and whirl of machinery of the engineering section within. Having its origin, in the main, as a means of meeting an emergency, this new development is receiving such strong support that it may be accepted as a permanent feature of the Birmingham Section of the Fair.

The necessity of providing ever increasing accommodation, which has led to the introduction of the Outside Section, brings more acutely before the Birmingham Chamber the urgency of planning further extensions for the future. It appears inevitable that for 1930 all land available to the northern boundary of the Exhibition area of 25 acres, secured for a period of fifteen years, must be occupied by permanent buildings. This will mean further outward diversion of the new circular road which, in readiness for next February, has lately been extended to the utmost limit of territory for half its length.

Carrying the stands to the northern boundary for the whole length, thus earmarked as part of the development for 1930, will bring the total display space to the enormous area of 540,000 sq. feet. Beyond this enlargement, the only other method of expansion that is possible under the present lease is to continue the Fair Building over the East Car Park of 6 acres, making other arrangements for cars now using this park.

The first step here will be the continuation of the Fair Building east for a further 120 ft. by three spans of 110 ft. each, making a width of 330 ft. This extension of 39,600 sq. feet, in addition to the 62,000 sq. feet expansion to the north, is already contemplated as being necessary for 1930, giving extra space for that year of 101,600 sq. feet.

CYPRUS CROPS.

The Trade Commissioner for Cyprus has issued the following crop report for September:—

Threshing of wheat is now completed throughout the Island. As foreshadowed in previous reports, the crop is much below the average. Prices are firm at 7s. to 8s. per bushel. There is a great demand in Asia Minor for Cyprus wheat for seed purposes. Barley is a fair crop. Prices are steady at 3s. 4d. per bushel. The demand is good, but sellers are holding back in anticipation of higher prices. The price of oats is steady at 3s. per bushel, but although there is a fair demand, offers are few. The new crop of carobs is gathered. Prices are 93s. to 111s. per ton. Overseas prices are low.

The planting of the new crop of potatoes is completed. Lita solanella is still causing damage to stored tubers and to plants in the fields. This insect caused heavy losses to the seed tubers in certain localities, and the farmers were obliged to replant a second and in some cases a third time. Prices are £7 10s. per ton. The demand is good but offers are poor. Stocks are nearly depleted. Onions are a good crop. Prices are £5 10s. per ton, falling. Offers are good but the demand is poor. Cotton picking is now in full swing. Production is less than last year. The price is 3s. 4d. per stone, and the market is unsettled. The new crop of tobacco is stored. Much improvement is reported in the quality over that of last year. The market is unsteady and prices are not firm.

The crop of oranges will be much below the average. Lack of water supply and a heat wave at the flowering season are the two chief causes. Prices will be higher than in previous years. The export of grapes is continuing. The raisin crop is below the average owing to the increased demand for grapes. The price is 1s. 6d. per stone. The crop of pomegranates is slightly over last year's production. Prices are £4 per ton, falling. There is a poor demand. The gathering of the olive crop commenced in August. The production is slow. The new crop of sesame is now on the threshing floors. The production is low. The price is rather high, at £30 per ton. The demand is good, but offers are poor. This year's wine is a good vintage; there is a good demand from France. There is a good offer of cumin and a corresponding demand. The price is comparatively low, at £45 per ton. The stock of aniseed is exhausted. The demand is still firm. The production of lemons is below the average. There is a good demand; offers are poor, and prices are 15s. to 20s. per 1,000. The production of almonds is poor. There is a good demand; the price is £26 per ton.

An Athens message states that the convention between the Greek Government and the American firms of Ulen and Monks for irrigation works in the Struma Valley was signed on October 21 and will be submitted to Parliament at an early date.

It is reported that the rose crop in Bulgaria has been an unusually poor one, and the production of attar of roses is estimated to amount to not more than 900 kilograms as compared with 1,150 kilograms last year.

The Anglo-Danubian Transport Company has been registered as a private company with a nominal capital of £30,000 in £1 shares, to carry on the business of shipowners, etc. The directors are: Mr. L. Hamilton, Mr. D. Finnie, MM. Nachmias and G. Bischoff.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

Country.	Method of Quoting	Parity of Exchange.	Latest Quotations.
Alexandria.....	Piastre to £	97½	97½
Amsterdam ...	Florins to £	12.107	12.09½
Athens	Drachmas to £ ..	25.22½	375
Belgrade.....	Dinars to £	25.22½	276
Berlin	Marks to £	20.43	20.35½
Berne	Francs to £.....	25.22½	25.20½
Bombay	Sterling to Rupee	18d.	18 1/16—3/32
Brussels	Belga to £.....	35	34.89½
Bucharest	Lei to £	25.22½	802½
Budapest	Pen to £	27.82	27.83½
Calcutta	Sterling to Rupee	18d.	18 1/16—3/32
Constantinople	Piastres to £	110	957½
New York	Dollars to £	4.86 2-3	4 85
Paris	Francs to £.....	25.22½	124.20
Prague	Kronen to £.....	24.02	163½
Rome	Lire to £	25.22½	92.60
Sofia	Leva to £	25.22½	670
Teheran	Krans to £	48	48½
Vienna	Sch to £	34.58	34.50
Warsaw	Zloty to £	25.22½	43 3/16—7/16

Engineering Topics.

By G. B. B.

Specifications.

The subject of specifications has just been raised by a journal representing the interests of contractors, the claims being made that specifications as issued to-day are sometimes far from clear, and that they actually contain pitfalls into which the unwary may slip, and so incur pains and penalties. The view taken is rather that there has grown up a tendency to use inflated rather than simple language; to include many clauses that are not needed and, that, in short, modern specifications should not be more or less copies of other and older specifications but should be freshly made, like the advertised cups of tea for each customer.

Engineers should remember that a specification should be terse. The average engineer or architect is neither a lawyer nor an essayist and he should not try to imitate either the subtleties and legal phraseology of the one nor the rhetorical fireworks of the other. If he does some point or other will surely be lost in the sea of words. A specification should be clear and it should say only what is relevant and intended. If it contains any references to standard specifications these should be clear and unmistakable. Works to be done by one sub-contractor should be kept together and not dotted about the specification, and, further, different classes of work should be segregated in sections under section headings. Enough definitions should be given in the sections of "general conditions" so that there can be no question as to the meaning of the terms used.

Also a specification should be complete. It should be checked with the plans so that there will be no need of specifying that the contractors should supply omissions not called for on the plans or in the specifications. It would seem high time that every professional institution or society should draw up standard specifications. Some of them have already done so and they have been of great help and value but much more might be done in that direction.

A New Association.

An association is to be formed of manufacturers of road surfacing emulsions, and I understand one of the first things intended to be done is to draw up standards and do all that can be done towards securing uniformity in this matter. No intimation as to the formation of this association has hitherto been allowed to leak out and it may be somewhat in the nature of a surprise to the firms concerned when they see their intentions made public in *THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA*. But I would say to this association that no good purpose whatever can be served

by keeping their light under a bushel. They must get into the light of day for the association they are forming is one of the most wanted to-day. They will be received with open arms by all connected with road and transport work.

Gas Transmission.

The world Fuel Conference in London has been productive of a good deal of useful information collected by the bodies represented and made public. Lt.-Col. Bristow, who has had a great deal to do with low temperature combustion and who is an authority on the subject, said that in his view the proposed gas-grid scheme for the long distance transmission of gas, if properly worked out from a technical point of view, would undoubtedly be of great value to the low temperature carbonisation industry, as it would afford a ready and profitable means of utilising large quantities of low temperature carbonisation gas, but he felt that in any such development, the interests of all parties should be properly considered. It had come, he said, to his notice that a certain housing estate, consisting of about 2,000 houses, erected by a certain London Borough Council, was excluded by a recent Act of Parliament, from the area served by a large London gas undertaking. The facts were that tenants, by an agreement which they had to accept, were forbidden to use gas for lighting purposes, notwithstanding the offer of the gas company to lay mains, connect up the houses, fix and supply gas fittings and cooking and heating equipment, free of cost to the borough and to concede to the tenant freedom to use either gas or electricity as he preferred.

Later, it appears that the tenants presented a extensively signed petition asking for equal rights with other ratepayers in the choice of gas or electricity, and the Ministry of Health gave notice to the Council that the cost of electric wiring must not be included in the amount chargeable against the housing scheme. Presumably, the cost of wiring had to be paid by some one and the only "someone" available appears to be the unhappy ratepayer. Incidentally, it is a curious fact that in spite of the installation of electricity already provided in each house on the estate, the majority of tenants are using oil cookers and the estate is now one of the best centres in London for the sale of oil for lighting and cooking purposes.

A Concrete Competition.

It is seldom that architects have an opportunity of winning £500 for a design for a house. That amount, however, is now being offered in prizes, for designs for a concrete house by the directors of Portland Cement

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Selling and Distributing Co., Ltd. The competition is being held in co-operation with the Ideal Home Exhibition at Olympia next year. The suitability of concrete for domestic architecture, for reasons of durability, rapidity of construction, cost and beauty is being much more widely recognised to-day than was formerly the case. There is, however, still a wide field for further educational work in that direction, and it is believed that the competition now inaugurated will mark a great advance.

Company Meeting.

H.E.H. THE NIZAM'S GUARANTEED STATE RAILWAYS.

Increased Passenger Traffic.

The seventy-fifth general meeting of H.E.H. the Nizam's Guaranteed State Railways Company, Limited, was held on October 23, at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, E.C. In the absence, through indisposition, of the Chairman (Lieutenant-Colonel George Huddleston, C.I.E., V.D.), Sir Robert S. Highet (Managing Director) presided, and read the Chairman's speech, of which the following is a summary:—The figures in paragraphs 3 and 7 of the report show that, compared with the previous year, our net earnings in sterling were down on the broad gauge by nearly £15,000, and up on the metre gauge by nearly £20,000. What we lost on the swings was gained on the roundabouts. On the broad gauge the earnings are compared with the best year we have ever had. On the metre gauge they are the best we have ever had. The passenger traffic improved on both systems. As for the merchandise, there were variations under several heads, but none ascribable to causes other than what I may call seasonal.

Instead of drawing comparisons between the two years, I would prefer to invite attention to paragraphs 5 and 9 of the report. There the earnings and expenses are set out for the past ten years, and I think you will agree they are a striking testimony of progress, but I will supplement them by a few facts. In the first of the ten years the then customary annual distribution of a 5 per cent. dividend was supplemented by a bonus of 1 per cent. We paid for the first time in our history as much as 6 per cent. In the last of this decennial period your Board propose, with the assistance of the surcharge refund, to distribute 18 per cent.

At the beginning of the ten years your surplus earnings fund—the largest of our reserves—was valued at £230,000; at their close it stands at more than a million. But that is not all: the market value of the reserve fund, No. 5 on page 8 of the report, has in the same period risen in value from £266,000 to £642,000. I ascribe these magnificent results to your confidence in the Board's policy; to the generous support I invariably receive from my colleagues; and last, but not least, to the responsible staff in India, whose good work, often performed in trying conditions, has, under the leadership of Mr. Lloyd Jones, our agent, been such that I cannot speak too highly of it.

Your Board have always done everything in their power to assist the Government of the Nizam in developing His Exalted Highness's Dominions. From time to time I have told you of various railway extensions sanctioned. It is gratifying to notice that, owing to the enterprising policy of His Exalted Highness's Government, a programme of fresh construction was designed some years ago on what I think may be called a very generous scale, and some highly significant additions to His Exalted Highness's railway system are the outcome.

If you will look once more at the map in the report, you will see that two new through routes have come into being. The first of these, and I believe it will prove the more important of the two, is the broad gauge railway from Kazipet to Belharshah. This line is nearly 150 miles long and forms a new link between certain parts of Southern India and a large portion of Northern India, far shorter than any previously existing railway route.

The other railway I refer to is a metre gauge line, part of which has been open for several years. It runs from Secunderabad to Kurnool, a distance of 153 miles. This line now forms a new and more direct route between the heart of His Exalted Highness's Dominions and numerous places in Southern India.

The Board have long felt the necessity for keeping pace with modern requirements. The locomotive and carriage shops are under conversion from steam to electric drive and much of the older machinery, which had become out of date and uneconomical to run, is being replaced. We are going ahead with the improvement of our rolling stock, especially the lighting of passenger vehicles, which is being changed from gas to electricity; the use of the vacuum brake is being extended on goods vehicles. On the broad gauge most of the stock has already been fitted with the vacuum brake; on the metre gauge it remains to be done. We are also progressing in other directions. Briefly put, your Board desire to see His Exalted Highness's Railways equipped in a manner second to none in India.

Sir Robert Highet said:—You have heard the Chairman's interesting account of the working of the railway during the year ended March 31 last. You will, no doubt, have noticed that, while giving credit to others for the good results obtained, he carefully avoids anything in the nature of self-praise. I can, however, assure you that much of the excellent results achieved, not only during the period referred to, but also during the last ten years, are due to Colonel Huddleston's keen foresight and indefatigable energy in the direction of the company's affairs. We, on this side of the table, sincerely hope that he will long be able to continue the useful work which he has already done, and I feel sure in saying so I am expressing the wish of everyone who has an interest in the undertaking.

I spent five weeks last cold weather going over the different lines which comprise our railway system and was well satisfied with the condition of things. The lines are being maintained in a high state of efficiency and the train services were being well run and meeting all necessary requirements.

Work in connexion with the additions and alterations in our locomotive workshops had made good progress, and this, with the introduction of modern plant and machinery, in supersession of obsolete types, coupled with the substitution of electric for steam drive, will greatly facilitate work and should result in considerable economy.

Progress in industrial development is not very rapid in H.E.H.'s Dominions, but during recent years a few cotton spinning and weaving mills have come into being. It is rather surprising that there should not be greater enterprise in this direction, seeing that good long staple cotton is available on the spot and labour is cheap. I had an opportunity of going through a new up-to-date mill at Nanded and was much interested in watching the whole process of manufacture—the cotton having been grown within a short distance of the factory, and the finished materials which were being turned out appeared to be of excellent quality.

The report and accounts were unanimously adopted.

THE SMYRNA FRUIT MARKET.

Messrs. C. J. Giraud and Co., of Smyrna, report as follows for the week ended October 13:—

Sultanas.

The estimated sales to date are 26,400 tons, against 30,600 tons for the corresponding period of the previous year.

Closing prices Smyrna, per cwt. c.i.f. London, for types 12 to 18 and 1, 3, and 5 are: 32s. 6d.; 34s. 6d.; 36s. 6d.; 40s.; 44s.; 48s. 6d.; 58s.; 68s.; 36s. 6d.; 35s.

Market Conditions.—The market is strong for the low grades and steady for the better qualities. Business has been active throughout the week and the volume of sales again constitutes a record figure for any one week's turnover this season. The demand is running mainly on inferior sorts.

Forward sellers have been covering their engagements for later shipment, which has contributed largely towards a semblance of greater activity than is really the case if the situation be judged solely on the volume of new business coming in.

The Alcohol Monopoly continues a regular and serious buyer of the lowest grades. A feature on the market this week has been an improved demand from the United Kingdom.

Figs.

The estimated arrivals on the Smyrna market since the opening of the season total 22,100 tons, against 21,080 tons for the corresponding period of the previous year; estimated sales to date total 19,710 tons, against 18,685 tons.

Market Conditions.—The market continues active and very strong. Notwithstanding that the majority of packing houses have now closed down all arrivals are being absorbed as they come forward, and the demand seems in excess of available supplies. It is likely that the balance of the crop will be marketed at the highest prices for the season.

The issue of £4,000,000 Five-and-a-Half per Cent. Secured Debiture stock by the Burmah Oil Company was over-subscribed.

The value of Yugoslavia's imports in August was 645 million dinars, making the total imports for the first eight months of the year 5,087 million dinars. The value of the exports for this period was 3,875 millions, so that there is an adverse balance of trade of 1,212 million dinars. For the same period last year the value of the imports was 4,543 million dinars and that of the exports 4,021 million dinars, the adverse balance being 522 million dinars.

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British Consular Reports

VIII.—GREECE.

(Continued from page 470).

To summarise the situation, one may say that money was slightly less tight during 1927; imports were larger and exports considerably increased; while there was some improvement in the cereal crops, and only a comparatively small decrease in the other crops, for the majority of which, however, there were rising prices on the export markets. Moreover, prospects for the coming harvest are said to be good. The settlement of the refugees continues satisfactorily, and the efforts of the Government towards the re-establishment of Greek finances have resulted in the legal stabilisation of the drachma, and a marked improvement in the estimation in which Greece is held abroad. On the other hand, there was a steady and noticeable rise in the cost of living, with resultant dissatisfaction and reduced power of consumption among a large section of the populace. Stocks in hand are said to be large, and during the current year shortage of money has again become acute, while the high import duties are felt by the commercial community as a hindrance to trade. Moreover, despite the various signs of an improvement in the general situation and the anticipation of the issue of various important foreign loans during the current year, the stabilisation of the drachma and a reorganisation of the banking system, there is, probably as an inheritance from the disturbed conditions of the preceding decade and a half, an intangible and covertly expressed anxiety which, with the other factors above alluded to, is doubtless influencing the dispositions of the more far-sighted Greek business men.

As was the case last year, the main desideratum for Greece is continued political stability. Much, indeed, very much, has been achieved during the past eighteen months, and although at the present moment (May, 1928) the shortage of money, reduced buying capacity, and possibly, to some extent, overstocking, have produced a situation that in some quarters is described as amounting to a crisis, yet in well-informed circles it is firmly believed that Greece, if left undisturbed, will successfully overcome the difficulties and hardships she is now facing. When one considers the resources of the country and the courage, intelligence, and industry of the people, one can but admit that those prophets have more than a little reason who foretell for her a period of economic prosperity—not too far distant—if only the ever-present nervousness of political disturbance could be definitely banished.

Refugee Settlement.

In considering the re-organisation of the economic life of the country, it is necessary to regard, if only cursorily, the factor that, perhaps more than anything else, has rendered the position of Greece unique among the other suffering countries of Europe.

While during the period 1919-1924 some 430 Turks and Bulgars resident in Greece returned to their country of origin, not less than 1,400,000 Greek refugees, the majority entirely destitute, returned to the mother country from Turkey, Russia and Bulgaria. Of these, it is estimated that 650,000 are agriculturists and 750,000 town dwellers.

The task of settling these unfortunate people has been a great one, and the progress made redounds to the credit of the Greek Government and people, the Refugee Settle-

ment Commission, and the refugees themselves. Details of the work accomplished can be ascertained from the publications of the League of Nations. Suffice it to say here that the rural settlement has necessitated a complete change in the Greek agrarian system from large properties to small holdings: few farms to-day are larger than 100 hectares, and the average is 10 hectares. Further, large areas, hitherto untilled, have been taken into cultivation, particularly in Macedonia and Epirus. Not only has the area under cultivation been increased, but the refugees have introduced new methods; notably the cultivation of tobacco has made very great strides since their advent.

The urban refugees have presented an even more difficult problem, and the congestion in some towns is still very serious. Thus, compared with 1920, before the arrival of the refugees, it is computed that the population of Athens and Piræus has increased by 77 per cent., of Volo by 116 per cent., of Salonika by 186 per cent., and of Kavalla by 205 per cent. It is hoped that the drainage and reclamation schemes will yield very considerable new areas of agricultural land to which rural refugees now in towns can be transferred. These efforts being made in support of industry by the Greek authorities may also be regarded as being to some extent for the assistance of the refugees, many of whom are skilled workers, as is shown by the rapid growth of the Greek carpet industry, and the growing ceramic industry. In the already existing industries, as in trade and various handicrafts, refugees are finding employment and are proving cheap and efficient workers.

Thus the augmentation of the population, while hitherto a burden, should in the end, by the intelligence and industry of the refugees, prove an asset to the country.

Trade and Industry.

The statistics for 1927 show that there was considerably increased activity both in foreign trade of Greece and in the home industrial production.

According to the statistics published by the Greek Statistical Department, the imports during the year amounted to 2,275,213 tons, valued at Drs.12,601,948,000, and the exports to 632,461 tons, valued at Drs.6,037,411,000. The comparative figures for 1926 were:—Imports 1,870,230 tons, valued at Drs.10,004,939,000; exports 534,035 tons, valued at Drs.5,429,751,000. It will thus be seen that the Greek adverse trade balance increased from Drs.4,575,188,000 in 1926 to Drs.6,564,537,000 in 1927.

The most noticeable feature of these figures is perhaps the increase in the value of the Greek exports. While this was in great measure due to the increase in the value of the exports of tobacco, of which Germany and the United States are the largest customers, some importance must undoubtedly be attached to the value of the Greek industrial exports, among which attention may be drawn to artificial manures and cements.

During 1927 the extension noticeable during the two or three preceding years in Greek industries was maintained. No less than 340 Greek industrial enterprises improved or developed their installations or motive power, as compared with 160 in 1926. Moreover, during the year 214 new industrial undertakings were started, with a total motive power of 6,105 h.p. Both among those enterprises that improved their existing installations, as among those that were newly created, textile factories were the most important. Of the former there were 36, while, of the new enterprises, may be mentioned ten cotton weaving yarns and materials, one cotton weaving mill of 160 h.p., and two silk factories of 32 h.p. Further, six factories of 126 h.p. were started during the year for making "tricotage" (knitted goods), and four of 88 h.p. for cotton ginning.

While the majority of other factories that improved their installations during the year were devoted to the production of articles of consumption, such as flour mills, oil mills, etc., mention may be made of a new factory of 25 h.p. for rubber articles, one of 175 h.p. for cellulose goods, and three nail factories of 207 h.p.

Throughout the country of recent years there has been no increase in the erection of plant for the production of electric current, and it is stated that during the last two years the number of new plants so installed amounts to about 50. While in 1926 the number of kilowatt hours produced was estimated at 40 million, the estimate for 1927 places the figure at 48 million. To some extent recently water power has been harnessed with this object, and certain other schemes are under consideration, some of which are in connexion with the drainage and reclamation plans. The requisite power is, however, in the majority of cases developed either by steam or by internal combustion engines.

The Mercantile Marine.

At the end of the year the Greek mercantile marine consisted of 504 steamships of 1,111,000 tons. These figures show an increase during the year of 32 steamships of 181,430 tons, and a decrease in the case of sailing vessels. Besides the steamers above-mentioned, seven cargo vessels of 25,000 tons had only obtained provisional registration. The actual number of steamers was therefore 511, of a total of 1,136,000 tons. This figure is to be compared with the 205 vessels of 290,773 tons which remained of the Greek merchant fleet at the end of 1918.

Of the 504 vessels registered at the end of the year, 107 were between 100 and 500 tons, 64 between 500 and 1,000 tons, 67 between 1,000 and 2,000 tons, 50 between 2,000 and 3,000 tons, 113 between 3,000 and 4,000 tons, 62 between 4,000 and 5,000 tons, and 22 between 5,000 and 6,000 tons. In the next three classes there is only one vessel in each.

A notable feature of the Greek mercantile marine is the large proportion of old vessels. There has of late been a tendency to acquire more modern vessels, but nevertheless, there are only five Greek freight steamers that are less than five years old, while only 13 per cent. are under ten years. Of the remainder, 30 per cent. are between ten and twenty years, 44 per cent. between twenty and thirty years, while 13 per cent. are over thirty years old. There are, further, 13, mainly small freighters, that are more than fifty years old. In the case of passenger vessels, the ages are even more remarkable. Of a total of 119 steamers with a total tonnage of 74,349 tons, 83 per cent. are more than thirty years old, 13 per cent. from fifteen to thirty years old, while only 5 per cent. are from six to ten years old. It may be added that among these 119 passenger vessels, no fewer than 24 are over fifty years of age.

The fleet of sailing vessels continues to decrease. While in 1922 there were 1,089 Greek sailing vessels of a total of 132,600 tons, the figures at the end of 1927 were 726 vessels of 58,684 tons.

During the first nine months of 1927, 43 cargo vessels of 70,528 tons were laid up, either from lack of freights or for repairs. Passenger vessels to the number of 11 were laid up, of which six were for repairs.

Despite the general depression in shipping, Greek owners appear optimistic regarding the future, as is shown by the number of purchases made during the year. A tendency was observed during the year to bring back to Greek registration some of the vessels which have hitherto been registered under the British flag.

The net profits of Greek shipping in 1927 are estimated at £500,000, to which must be added salaries and wages to a total of £855,000, a large part of which presumably returns to be spent in the country.

As regards the coastal traffic, it may be noted that of the 122 Greek passenger steamers at the beginning of 1927 of 72,000 tons, only some 82 of 50,000 tons were in commission, owing to the shipping crisis. The great majority

of these were employed in the coastal traffic, serving 118 lines, mainly starting from Piræus, and calling at 153 places on the mainland and islands. The combined length of these lines is estimated at about 3,000 kilometres.

During the first six months of the year, these vessels carried (to the principal ports) about 320,000 tons of merchandise and 198,000 persons.

Conditions in the Piræus.

Circumstances in Greece have not allowed of the conditions of the Port of Piræus being improved proportionately to meet this expanding trade, and consequently complaints of damage to, and pilferage of, goods arriving at Piræus are frequent.

With the exception of vessels carrying wheat, all vessels moor end on at Piræus and discharge goods into lighters; many of these lighters are in bad condition, and owing to the lack of mechanical means for the landing of goods ex lighters, the discharge process is a very slow one since under the present conditions only two lighters containing general cargo can be dealt with at the Piræus Custom House at a time, and the others have to wait their turn. In case of heavy simultaneous arrivals of steamers the numbers of lighters containing general cargo accumulates, and during the period of waiting the goods are exposed to the risk of damage by sea water in case of leaky lighters, and by rain water in case of heavy rains, and always to the risk of theft and pilferage.

In the past few years the cases of theft and pilferage have been very numerous, but during the last few months there has been some improvement, due to the efforts of the steamship agents in Piræus, who, owing to repeated complaints, have been obliged to see that their stevedores take better care of the goods, and also to the efforts of the present Harbour Master of Piræus, who has been making every possible effort with the means at his disposal to put a stop to pilferage off lighters.

The conditions, however, in Piræus, are such that there can be no real improvement until the harbour improvement work, which is being carried out by a French Company under contract with the Piræus Harbour Committee, is completed. This work consists of the deepening of the harbour on the north side of the port and the construction of some 1,500 metres of quays. When this work is completed warehouses are to be constructed on that side of the harbour at the terminus of the Piræus-Larissa railway line, and the Customs House is to be removed there, and vessels will go alongside the quay and discharge goods direct into Customs House warehouses, or, in the case of goods from Athens and the interior, direct into railway trucks. A new and modern Customs House has already been constructed in Athens near the Railway Station, where goods for Athens will be cleared through customs house formalities instead of at Piræus, as at present. This will much relieve the congestion at the Piræus Customs House, and merchants will obtain possession of their goods with much less delay and in better condition than at present, as there will be no lighter risks, and the risk of pilferage will be very much reduced.

It is expected that the work of the French company will be completed in 1930, but parts of the new quay will be delivered to the Harbour Commission as and when completed. Some 450 metres of completed quay were delivered to the Harbour Commission in August last, and it is intended to deliver a further portion before the end of the current year. Whether these portions of quay space will be used before completion of the whole will depend on the erection on them of the necessary warehouses and cranes, some of which have already been ordered. The construction of Customs House Warehouses on the first portion of the quay has also been started, and it is expected that these will be ready in six months' time.

The cost of the work it is said will be about 200 million drachmæ, and when completed and in use, a very marked improvement in the general conditions of the Port of Piræus should be immediately apparent.

Cotton and Cotton Goods.

THE LIVERPOOL COTTON MARKET.

Messrs. Reynolds and Gibson report as follows for the week ended October 17:—

Egyptian Futures.—Sakel Contract.—Encouraged principally by increasing "bullish" sentiment in the American markets, a fair amount of speculative buying has been in progress in this contract during the past week, with the result that values have appreciated 76 to 80 points for near and 66 to 74 points for more distant months since we last wrote.

Throughout the week, trade support has only been of a lukewarm character, and, whilst other sections of the industry are enjoying a spell of activity, producers of fine counts still find conditions against them and have to contend, generally speaking, with undercutting competition and subsequently poor margins. As far as the local trade is concerned, there are abundant evidences that even those mills that have rigidly adhered to Sakel throughout past seasons, regardless of its difference in values with other cotton, are finding their policy too extravagant to follow further, and are now turning their attention to other qualities, which, whilst not producing such a high-class article, appear to meet satisfactorily a demand tied to price. Spinners' takings of Egypt's fine cotton decreased by some 40,000 to 50,000 bales last year, and, unless there is a sharp closing down in our premium with other varieties, a much greater reduction than this will be recorded at the end of the current statistical period. In addition, available stocks of Sudan are larger than twelve months ago, and if the increased acreage planted in that country is favoured with normal growing conditions, quite an appreciable gain in the visible supply will ensue.

The near positions in our market have been in demand throughout the week, with the result that November has closed up to 5 points under January. At one period our premium over the American contract (January/January positions) widened to nearly 775 points; since this it has closed in somewhat, and unless there is a radical change in trade conditions, we look for a further narrowing. Alexandria has shown a firm tendency throughout the week. Ginnings to the end of September are returned at 148,539 kantars, against 234,680 at the same date last season. In part, the falling off is due to the crop being late; the figures also show that the market will not have to face the full weight of the movement for some little time. On its own merits and under present trade conditions, our market appears overvalued. Fluctuations for the immediate future, however, will probably be influenced by the action of the American departments where, as mentioned previously, prevailing sentiment leans to the "long" side.

Upper Contract.—The advancing tendency recently in evidence in the American markets has been reflected by a moderate appreciation in values in this contract. Straddle buying against sales of American continues to be a feature, and the open interest under this heading is computed to be upwards of 50,000 bales. Contracts to fill the above operation have been supplied by spot houses against imports; thus large stocks will accumulate here during the next few months unless a heavy trade demand is experienced. It is reputed that the staple of the top grades is not as satisfactory as last season, and should this later prove to be the case, heavier tenders than usual may be experienced during the spring months. The upward tendency of the American markets may hold values for the time being, but we would hesitate to advise purchases till more of the crop has been placed.

Egyptian Spot.—On the whole, business has been rather disappointing this week; prices have fluctuated within narrow limits, but, contrary to general expectations, the trade demand showed an inclination to fall off after the publication of the latest Bureau figures. This state of affairs continued up to yesterday, the 16th inst., when strong American markets developed. As a result, we have to-day witnessed a very marked revival in the demand for Egyptian growths, and, on balance, prices now show a distinct advance on the week. Evidently an advance was the last thing expected (or wanted) by the trade. The market is difficult to read at the moment, but probably cotton bought at to-day's level will later average out at a reasonable level, even though a decline should occur during the next two months. There is little fresh to report in the inquiry; generally speaking, the finer grades have continued to be entirely neglected. In Sakel, there has been a fair business doing in cotton at from 50 to 200 on, and the customary offtake for 12d. to 16d. has continued.

Uppers have been in steady request at from 25 off to 50 on, and on one day the sales were reported at 1,000 bales, owing to a line of Uppers changing hands. Somewhat conflicting reports have been received lately regarding the character of the new season's Upper, and there appears to be a possibility that staple lots amongst the better qualities may be hard to find. Pillion has been in fair request at from 100 to 150 on, and this cotton looks like becoming popular this season, provided the price does not rise to prohibitive levels. White, Nahda, Maarad, etc., have met with minor interest only. In Sudan growths, a moderate business has taken place at steady rates. Low cotton of all descriptions, at from 4d. to 9d., has been in daily demand, but results have not been commensurate. The inquiry for forward cotton has continued on an encouraging scale, but actual business has proved more difficult to effect.

Forwardings to spinners last week were returned as 7,276 bales Egyptian and 538 bales Sudan. Estimated spot sales for the week, 2,400 bales Egyptian and 600 bales Sudan. Quotations of Sakel

show an advance of 65 points on the week, those of Uppers 40 points and Pillion 25 points. F.G.F. Sakel to-day, 18.20d. F.G.F. Upper to-day, 12.55d. F.G.F. Pillion to-day, 13.30d. nominal.

THE EGYPTIAN MARKET.

The Alexandria Commercial Company, in their report for the week ended October 11, state:—

The futures market since our last report has been fairly active, but fluctuations have been small. The week's summary of price movements is as follows:—Sakellaridis: November, 34.15 dollars, 0.23 dollars down; January, 34.72 dollars, 0.16 dollars down; March, 35.10 dollars, 0.17 dollars down. Ashmouni: October, 21.95 dollars, 0.18 dollars up; December, 22.23 dollars, 0.01 dollars up; February, 22.75 dollars, 0.10 dollars down; April, 23.24 dollars, 0.14 dollars down.

Sakel.—The feature of the week was the publication of the third American Bureau Report on the 8th inst., giving a crop condition figure of 54.4 per cent. with 13,993,000 bales as the probable crop; these figures compare with 60.3 per cent. and 14,439,000 bales given by the second Bureau Report issued on September 8. Last year's crop was estimated on October 8 at 12,678,000 bales, finally turning out 12,777,000 bales.

The figure of 13,993,000 bales was considered as bullish, and prices advanced more than half a dollar; the advance was, however, short-lived, hedge-selling against actual cotton and some speculative short selling, in a market devoid of substantial support, quickly putting prices down again. As we have mentioned in a previous report, local speculators are rather bearish of Sakel, but although the sentiment is against the market, the open positions on the short side are not large.

The demand from spinners shows a slight improvement, but it is not by any means sufficient to absorb the heavy daily arrivals, and while the offtake remains so poor we do not look for better prices. The Sakel/Ashmouni straddle (November/December) stands at 1,182 points against 1,206 last week and 820 points last year at this time; the tendency, at the moment, is for a further narrowing.

OVERSEAS AGENTS FOR THE SALE OF "THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA."

EGYPT.

Alexandria: M. Nacamulli and Co., 12, Rue Sesostris.

Cairo: M. Avatis, 1, Faggala.

Express Book and Stationery Store, P.O. Box 1113.

Port Said: English Agency, P.O. Box 240.

SUDAN.

Port Sudan: The Egyptian Library, Post Office Box No. 44.

PALESTINE.

Haifa: Newspapers Agency Steimatzky, Jaffa Street.

Jerusalem: B. Y. and W. A. Said, 23-24, Jaffa Road.

Newspapers Agency Steimatzky, Jaffa Road

SYRIA.

Beyrout: Sarrafian Bros.

IRAQ AND PERSIAN GULF.

Basrah: Jashanmal, Bridge Street, Ashar.

Bahrein: Kamalieh Bookshop.

BULGARIA.

Sofia: Librairie Francaise et Etrangere, 6, Bvd, Tsar Ostrovoditel.

CYPRUS.

Nicosia: Dick Soultanian, P.O. Box 6.

GREECE.

Athens: Messageries de Journaux et Publications Etrangers, 24, Rue du Stade.

ROUMANIA.

Bucharest: Mr. L. Hamilton, 21, Strada Regala.

TURKEY.

Constantinople: The Anglo-American Book and Newsagency, 18, Rue des Petits Champs, Pera.

YUGOSLAVIA.

Belgrade: Librairie Française, 17 and 22, Rue Prince Michel.

ALBANIA.

Tirana: Librairie Lumo Skendc.

AMERICA.

New York: Brentano's, Fifth Avenue and 27th Street.

Boston (Mass): Smith and McCance, Ashburton Place.

Uppers.—We have had a series of active markets without, however, any great change in prices. Demand from spinners is good, but the heavy arrivals from up-country, coupled with a disposition on the part of holders to sell their cotton, precludes, at least for the time being, any important rise in prices. The Ashmouni/American straddle (December/December) stands at 343 points against 327 points last week and 796 points at this time last year.

The week's receipts amount to 344,018 kantars, against exports 185,781 kantars; the stock in Alexandria stands at 1,850,432 kantars.

Spot.—During the week under review we have had another series of active markets, and a very good business has transpired. Sales for the five business days amounted to about 25,300 bales, of which we estimate 6,400 bales Sakellaridis, 17,000 bales Ashmouni and Zagora, 1,500 bales Pilon, and 400 bales other varieties. Ashmouni has once again absorbed the greater portion of the demand, but a little more interest is being shown in Sakel.

Sakellaridis: All styles have been dealt in and a moderate turnover has resulted. Extra cotton has changed hands at very good prices. Spot differences are without much change except for Fully Good and Extra, which have stiffened during the week.

Ashmouni and Zagora: Continue in good demand and all styles have changed hands, the medium grades attracting most attention. Spot differences are very firm and inclined to harden.

Pilon: Continues in good demand, mainly for the better grades. Spot differences are very steady with a hardening tendency.

Other Varieties: A fairly good business has been done in White. Nahda continues in good favour with buyers and is quickly bought up, especially the better grades, which command excellent premiums. A few bales of Fouadi have also changed hands.

Crop, 1928.—Climatic conditions in the Delta have not been very favourable this week, but the season is now so far advanced and the

quantity of cotton in the fields so much reduced that weather has ceased to be a very serious factor. The first picking is practically finished everywhere, and in many districts the second picking also is nearly completed. Up to now, the results of both first and second pickings, especially in the case of Sakel, have varied so much that it is nearly impossible to say whether this year's yield per feddan is better or worse than that of last year. In Upper Egypt, picking is practically completed, and results are, on the whole, excellent.

IVORY IN GOOD DEMAND.

Messrs. Hale and Son report that the quarterly ivory sales, held on October 16 and 17, comprised 38 tons (against 42½ tons at the same time last year and 32½ tons in July last), viz.: 14½ tons Zanzibar, Bombay, Mozambique, East African, and Siam, 1 ton Abyssinian, 7 tons Egyptian (Alexandrian description), 10½ tons Congo and West Coast African, and 5 tons land carriage; also 1 ton mammoth tusks, total, 39½ tons.

There was the usual attendance of buyers and good competition throughout. America and the Continent bought freely, the home trade taking their usual quantity. All kinds met a good demand and the bulk of the offerings were disposed of. Ball ivory, which comprised some exceptionally fine lots of centres, advanced in many instances £20 to £30 per cwt.

The Calcutta Electric Supply Corporation has declared an interim dividend on the ordinary shares of 5 per cent. actual, less tax, for the half-year ended June 30, payable November 15.

Stock and Share Markets.

LONDON EXCHANGE		Prices on Oct. 22	Railways.		Prices on Oct. 22	Banks		Prices on Oct. 3
Government Stocks.								
Egyptian 4 p.c. Unified Debt ...	...	87½	Assam-Bengal ...	...	93½	Imperial Bank of India ...	...	1,471½
Do. Pref. 3½ p.c. 1890 ...	...	47½	Bengal Nagpur ...	...	101½	Bank of India ...	...	91
Do. Turk 4 p.c. 1891 ...	...	90	Egypt Delta Light Riv. ...	...	315/16	Central Bank of India ...	...	24
Do. 3½ p.c. Eg. Trib. Bonds. '94 ...	...	84	Ottoman (Smy. t. Aid) ...	...	42/6	Coal.		
Bulgaria 7 p.c. ...	...	88	Southern Punjab ...	...	202	Baraboni ...	...	1
Greek 5 p.c. 1881 ...	...	64½	South Indian ...	...	123½	Bengal ...	...	400
Do. 5 p.c. 1884 ...	...	64½	Rubber.			Burrakur ...	...	11½
Do. 4 p.c. Rentes, 1889 ...	...	51	Ceylon Para Rubber Ord. ...	...	7/3	East Indian ...	...	17½
Do. 5 p.c. 1890 ...	...	64½	Doolgalla (Ceylon) Rub. Est. ...	...	19/-	Equitable ...	...	18½
Do. 5 p.c. Funding Loan, 1893 ...	...	64	Grand Cent. (Ceylon) Rubber ...	...	24/-	Pench Valley ...	...	25
Do. 4 p.c. Rails, Loan, 1902 ...	...	61	Hewagum Rubber Co. ...	...	10/9	Raneegunge ...	...	17½
Do. 4 p.c. Loan, 1910 ...	...	61½	Kepitigalla Rubber Estates ...	...	1/3	Standard ...	...	53
Do. 5 p.c. Loan, 1914 (l.on. issue) ...	...	76	Malayalam Rub. and Produce ...	...	30/3	Cotton.		
Do. 7 p.c. 1924 ...	...	103½	Shipping.			Bengal Nagpur ...	...	30½
Do. 6 p.c. St. Bds. ...	...	91½	Anchor 5½ p.c. Prf. ...	...	8½	Bombay Dyeing, etc. ...	...	853½
Palestine 5 p.c. ...	...	104½	Cunard ...	...	32/9	Bowrah ...	...	330
Persia 5 p.c. 1911 ...	...	89½	Furness Withy ...	...	39/-	Buckingham and Carnatic ...	...	185
Roumania 4 p.c. Ext. ...	...	73½	Khedivial Mail Ord. ...	...	54/6	Cawnpore Textiles ...	...	11
Do. 4 p.c. Consolidation ...	...	47½	P. and O. Deferred ...	...	54/6	Century ...	...	415
Sudan 5½ p.c. Guar. Bds. ...	...	107½	Tea.			Central India ...	...	508½
India 3½ p.c. ...	...	71½	Assam Co. ...	...	42/3	Elgin ...	...	91
Do. 3 p.c. ...	...	61 3/32	Bengal United Tea Ord. ...	...	2	Khatau Makanji ...	...	325
Do. 3½ p.c. ...	...	102 13/16	Brampootra ...	...	33	Muir ...	...	289
Do. 4½ p.c. ...	...	92½d	British Indian Tea Ord. ...	...	315/16	New Ring ...	...	380
Turkish 4 p.c. Unified ...	...	23½	Cachar and Doars Tea Ord. ...	...	24	Phonix ...	...	471½
			Carolina ...	...	34	Jute.		
Banks.			Ceylon Tea Plantations Ord. ...	...	31/16	Alliance ...	...	661
Agri. Bank of Egypt ...	...	7½	Consolidated Estates ...	...	225 3/2	Barnagore ...	...	323
Bank of British West Africa ...	...	4½	Darjeeling Co. ...	...	34½d	Budge Budge ...	...	690
Bank of Roumania ...	...	86.3	Dimbula Valley (Ceylon) Ord. ...	...	34	Clive ...	...	47½
Barclays Dom. Col. Pf. ...	...	28½	Doors Tea Ord. ...	...	13/32	Dalhousie ...	...	621½
Chartered Bank of India ...	...	21½	Dooloorgram Tea ...	...	41/16	Delta ...	...	683½
Eastern ...	...	7 1/16	Doom Dooma ...	...	43/16	Fort Gloster ...	...	1,000
Imperial Bank of Persia ...	...	11½	East Assam ...	...	210/32	Gourepore ...	...	61½
Land Bank of Egypt Ord. ...	...	18½	Empire of Ind. ...	...	24	Howrah ...	...	781
Lloyds ...	...	64/9	Haleam Tea ...	...	215 3/2	Kamarhaty ...	...	628½
Mercantile Bank of India A ...	...	34½	Imperial Ind. ...	...	53/16	Kankarnarra ...	...	704
National Bank of Egypt ...	...	35½	Ihazie Tea Association ...	...	31 1/16	Khardah ...	...	660
National Bank of India ...	...	53½	Jokai (Assam) Tea Ord. ...	...	44	Kinnison ...	...	1,225
Ottoman Bank ...	...	14	Jorehaut ...	...	21/32	National ...	...	55½
Westminster ...	...	20	Lanka Plantations Ord. ...	...	1	Standard ...	...	540
Land.			Lungia (Sylhet) Tea Ord. ...	...	6½d	Union ...	...	887½
Kassala Cotton ...	...	6/6	New Dimbula ...	...	5 5/16	Miscellaneous		
Sudan Plantations ...	...	17/32	Nuwara Eliya Tea Estates Ord. ...	...	21 1/16	British India Corporation ...	...	31
Mines.			Nedeem ...	...	35/16	Bengal Paper Mills ...	...	394
Balaghat Gold Mining ...	...	63	Ouvah ...	...	64	Bengal Timber-Trading ...	...	240
Burma Corp. ...	...	146	Pabbojan ...	...	6	Burn and Co. ...	...	387
Champion Reef Gold ...	...	106	Standard ...	...	2	Cawnpore Sugar ...	...	20½
Mysore ...	...	163	Scottish Assam ...	...	3½	Champarn Sugar ...	...	124
Nundydroog ...	...	15/9	Scottish Tea and Lands ...	...	21	Howrah Oil Mills ...	...	84
Oaregum Gold Mining Ord. ...	...	13/9	Insurance.			ALEXANDRIA		
Oil.			General Accident Fire and Life (£5, £1½ paid) ...	...	14½	Prices on Oct. 12, supplied by G. L. Morten, Alexandria & Castro.		
Anglo-Egyptian B ...	...	213/32	London & Lancs (£5, £1 paid) ...	...	32	Agricultural Bank of Egypt ...	...	27½
Anglo-Persian Ord. ...	...	423/32	Royal Exchange (£1) ...	...	41½	" " " " " Fond. ...	...	£810
Do. 8 p.c. Cum. 1st Pf. ...	...	266	Sun Fire £10 (£2 paid) ...	...	16½	Alexandria Water Co. ...	...	£17 15/22
Do. 9 p.c. Cum. 2nd Pf. ...	...	293	Trade Indemnity (£10) ...	...		Assoc. Cotton Ginners ...	...	£7 23/32
Do. 5 p.c. Debs. ...	...	73	Miscellaneous.			Behra Ord. ...	...	££204
Brit. Burmah ...	...	51/16	Alexandria Water Co. ...	...	17½d	Ciments d'Egypte ...	...	Fr. 128
Burmah Oil Co. Ord. ...	...	27/6	Associated Cotton Ginners ...	...	23/32	" " " " " Div. ...	...	184
Do. 8% Cum. Pref. ...	...	149	Egyptian Hotels ...	...	7	Comptoir Fin. & Com. d'Egypte ...	...	£ 5/16
Phonix Oil and Transport ...	...	12 1/1	Do. Markets Ord. ...	...	25/3	Credit Foncier Egyptien ...	...	Fr. 1,163
Steaua Romana ...	...		Do. Salt and Soda ...	...	28/6	" " " " " Fondateur ...	...	Fr. 2,820
INDIAN EXCHANGES.			Mortgage Co. of Egypt 5 p.c. Pref. ...	...	84	Crown Brewery Priv. ...	...	Fr. 164
Government Loans.			Prices on Oct. 3			Filature Nationale d'Egypte ...	...	£3 3/16
3½% Government Paper ...	...		Rs. ...	...	73½	Frigoir d'Egypte ...	...	£7 25/32
						Immeubles d'Egypte Soc. An. des. ...	...	£169/16
						Land Bank of Egypt Actions ...	...	£184
						" " " " " Parts de Fond ...	...	£253
						Menzaleh Canal Navigation ...	...	Pt. 184

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bd City of Canterbury	8,421	Nov. 2	Bombay & Karachi
e City of Benares	6,984	Nov. 3	Colombo & Calcutta
cd Trafford Hall	5,321	Nov. 24	Bombay & Karachi
fe City of Calcutta	7,679	Nov. 26	Bombay & Calcutta
e City of Sparta	5,415	Dec. 4	Colombo & Calcutta
City of Poona	7,485	Dec. 15	Bombay & Karachi
f City of Baroda	7,129	Dec. 22	Bombay & Colombo

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City of Baroda	9,670	Dec. 22	Hongkong, Shanghai

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City of Karachi	5,573	Nov. 10	Cape Town, Algoa Bay, East London and Natal
City of Valencia	7,329	Dec. 22	

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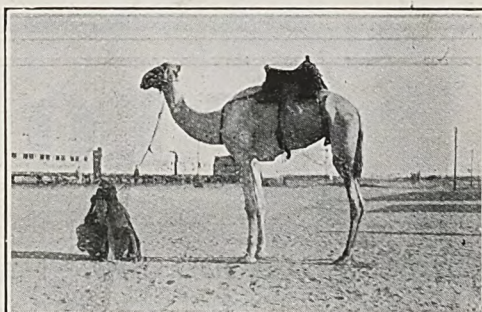
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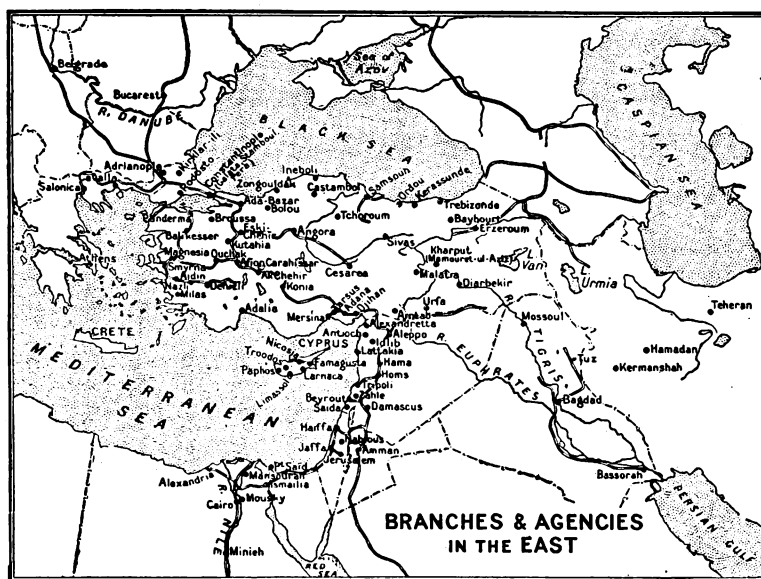
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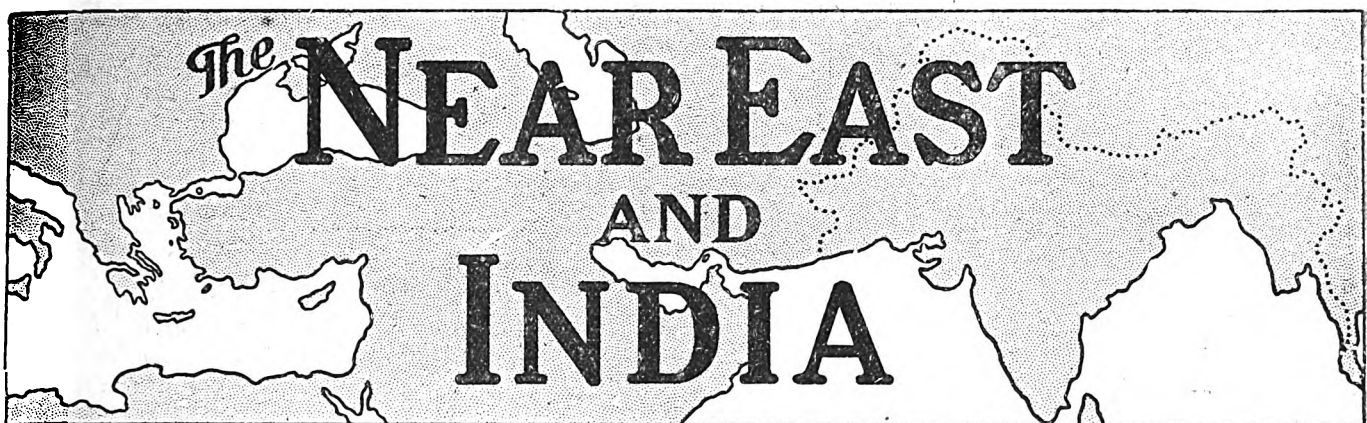
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No. 911.—VOL. XXXIV.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 1928.

Editorial Offices : "THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA," 170, Strand, London, W.C.2.

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Notes of the Week.

The Deadlock in Yugoslavia.

No improvement, unfortunately, has been reported during the past week in the relations between the Croats and Serbs. The big mass meeting of the Peasant-Democrat Coalition held at Sishak in Croatia on October 21 passed off without incident; the speeches, though couched in strong terms, were not more "incendiary" than was to be expected in the circumstances. M. Pribitchevitch, leader of the Democrat section of the Coalition, seems to be qualifying for the rôle of firebrand-in-chief; but, as he has been, the despair of most parties, until he made his peace with his old enemy Raditch, his utterances are as a rule to be largely discounted. For this reason it is to be regretted that the Yugoslav Government should resort to the extreme measure of seizing Belgrade newspapers merely for the offence of publishing M. Pribitchevitch's statements. The Radicals went out of their way to exasperate the Croats by electing M. Vukitchevitch as President of the Radical Club and M. Mihailovitch, of the same section of the Party, as President of the Skupshtina, and inevitably there had to be some retort from the Peasant-Democrat Coalition, which M. Pribitchevitch has taken upon himself to supply. For the Government to fire a further shot in this long-range duel merely confirms its inadequacy in the crisis through which the country is passing. If there are valid administrative reasons why the "bloodstained" Skupshtina should continue to sit, despite the Croats' resolve to boycott it, the least that the Belgrade Government can do is to avoid adding fuel to the fire of Croat wrath and to proceed as rapidly as possible with the reforms for which not only the Croats, but the other units of the Kingdom also have long waited. Unless some constructive statesmanship is evolved in Belgrade, the danger of an explosion appears to be becoming more and more imminent. As the ordinary politicians have proved themselves bankrupt of ideas, it would be expected that Yugoslavia could produce at least one man to serve the country in time of need.

Progress in Greece.

After many vicissitudes Greece is to return to a Parliament of two Houses. Previous ventures in this direction have not proved successful. The first Senate in Greece was abolished after eleven years of stormy existence, but in 1821 it was the Senate that formed itself and left the country without a national assembly. The Constitution of 1844 also gave Greece a Senate; but as membership was reserved for those who had occupied certain offices, had been deputies during two Parliaments, or had held municipal positions over which the Government then exercised control, the Senate became merely a servile instrument of King Otho's administrative system, and was abolished by the revolution which dethroned him. The Constitution promulgated by General Kondylis's Government in 1926 provided for the creation of a Senate; but owing to a variety of circumstances two years have elapsed before effect has been given to this provision. The new Senate Bill, moreover, introduces certain modifications in the original scheme. The number of Senators remains at 120; of these 97 will be elected by a majority vote in constituencies, eleven will be elected by various commercial, agricultural, scientific, technical and Labour organizations; ten will be elected by the Senate and the Chamber in joint session, and two will represent the Orthodox Church. As Roumania alone of the Balkan States has a Senate at the present time, Greece will be the second to indulge in an Upper House. Writing in 1866 George Finlay, the critical historian of Greece, who was conscious that contemporary events had tended "to cast dark shadows around him and, perhaps, to obscure his view," held that the question of a Senate was not so much whether one were necessary, as whether it were possible, from the state of society, to form one. "No class exists," he wrote, "from which unpaid senators can be taken, and experience has proved that a paid Senate, composed of servile notabilities or superannuated officials, can only become a house of retreat for corrupt politicians." Greece has progressed a long way since those

days. The new Senate will not reproduce the British House of Lords, but it will aim, by means of the representation of various interests, at the formation of a revisionary Chamber, whose existence, it is to be hoped, will act as a deterrent to hasty legislation and as an element of political stability.

The Reform of Al Azhar.

The acceptance by the University itself of the scheme of reform drawn up by the Commission presided over by the Rector of Al Azhar, Shaikh Mustapha al Maraghi, is a great triumph for Egypt. The problem presented by the unprogressive character of Al Azhar, which, in view of its prestige in the intellectual and cultural headquarters of the Muslim world, ought to have kept pace with the advance of knowledge, has long exercised the minds of enlightened Egyptians. All proposals for reform, however, have been resisted from within, until the appointment of the present Rector. Even when he was selected to preside over the Commission charged to investigate the question of reforms, it was feared that the problem would still be shelved indefinitely. The existence of the new Government, however, has given encouragement to all Egyptians with progressive ideas, and would seem to have availed to break down even the reactionary barriers that Al Azhar has so successfully raised in the past at the first suggestion of reform. A Grand Alim, Shaikh Olaish by name, was found to hold the last ditch in the approved style by seeking to arouse Muslim fanaticism against the new Rector, but his attempt failed. Already the position of the University as a training centre had been threatened by the establishment under the Ministry of Education of the Dar ul Ulum, or Teachers' Training College, and the more intelligent Ulama realised that, unreformed, Al Azhar would gradually lose its pre-eminence. Under the system now to be introduced the graduate course at Al Azhar will include a grounding in modern science, and when the primary and secondary courses have been re-organised it is proposed to close the Dar al Ulum, and to accept the diploma of Al Azhar for Government teachers. The University will retain its status as a theological institution, but its graduates are to have a general training in addition to a grounding in religion.

The Roumanian Railway Accident.

The accident to the Simplon Express in Roumania is a tragedy of the first order. The international character of the train gains for it more notoriety than would normally attach to a similar disaster to an ordinary train in any country, and the accident happens at the very moment when the Roumanian State Railways have started to accelerate their services. In the face of an unprecedented number of railway accidents in Great Britain it is clear that no country can count upon immunity, but it is equally the duty of all railway systems to see that accidents which can be attributed to any remediable cause do not continue to be prevalent. Railway accidents, not necessarily of a very serious kind, were at one time of too frequent occurrence in Roumania, and it was the custom to attribute them to defective equipment. Then came, apparently, an improvement of the administrative machinery, and, instead of the Roumanian Press having to record mishaps, it was able to point with pride, almost as frequently, to an accident's having been averted. The Roumanian railway system has been terribly handicapped by lack of funds to enable it to replace old rolling stock and old rails, and to double its tracks to enable them to meet the additional demands made upon them. Now, on the eve of the flotation of a big loan for Roumania, the Railway Administration has inaugurated a far-reaching improvement in all its main line services, which inevitably raised the question how it could be done before the loan had materialized. It is true that there has been a steady improvement all the time in the railway system, but the lesson of the Recea accident would seem to be that there should be no attempt at a rapid and general amelioration

unless both plant and personnel have been made ready for it.

The Wailing Wall Incidents.

The recent intervention by the Palestine authorities in the Jewish plans for conducting worship at the Wailing Wall has sadly disturbed the hitherto comparatively placid appearance of Arab-Jewish relations in Jerusalem. No good, however, can be done by glossing over the facts; and still less good can be done by rushing in to adopt a violently pro- or anti-Jewish or Zionist attitude. The circumstances, as we see them, and as we have already commented upon them, make it abundantly clear that, had not the Jews bethought themselves of bringing on this Day of Atonement certain articles—such as the partition, lamps, and so on—there would have been no complaint by Muslim authorities, and no action by the Police. But examination of the problem must go deeper than this. For quite obviously the Jews feel that their *rights* have been violated by the Palestine Government, and equally obviously the Muslims feel that their *rights* are in jeopardy. The transition of this quarrel from the religious sphere to the political sphere was, unhappily, the work of but a moment; in a twinkling the old, horrid head of Arab-Zionist suspicion has been raised. The Jews, who have organised meetings of protest against the action of the Government of Palestine throughout the world, insist that not even in Turkish times have they received such insults—the inference being that, now the Balfour Declaration has been made, their privileges at the Wailing Wall should, if anything, be more; not less, than they were before the Great War. And the Muslims, who until the year 1912 allowed freedom of worship to the Orthodox Jews in Jerusalem, have taken alarm that their own rights in the area of the Wailing Wall may be menaced by concession on the part of the Government which issued the Balfour Declaration. Through whatever cause, religious or political, alarm in both the Arab and the Jewish camp is genuine and persistent.

The Jewish Claims.

Now the Jewish claims, stripped of all verbiage, are, first, that the Wailing Wall is the one place in the whole world where they may worship at their own property, and secondly, that they have, therefore, absolute right to worship there in whatever manner they choose. The Jewish people themselves are, in their own estimation, the one lawful judge of what shall and what shall not take place at the Wailing Wall. If this freedom be not accorded to them, what becomes of the boast of the British Empire that under its ægis complete liberty of religious worship is allowed? Is the fact of the promulgation of the Balfour Declaration to be made a reason for actually curtailing Jewish liberties in Jerusalem? Nor is it necessary, in the opinion of at least of certain Jewish leaders, in so according perfect freedom of worship, to infringe upon any Muslim rights. But upon the practicability of that there is no unanimity among those best qualified to judge. For the unfortunate fact is that, although the Wailing Wall be Jewish, the area of the Wall is the property of a Muslim "Wakf." The question that the impartial outsider is bound to ask (deny the religious Jew how he will the right of an outsider so to ask) is: Why were innovations introduced at the Wailing Wall? To the Muslim Arab answer is simple: to mark privileges which existed not before the War, but to which the Balfour Declaration has induced the Jews to think themselves entitled. The Arab mind makes little of the difference between a partition attached to the area, and a permanent structure established to signify peculiar rights.

Political Repercussions.

The manifest path of wisdom, in commenting upon this unfortunate affair, is to refrain from stirring up the muddled waters of political strife and discontent. On another page we print a portion of a letter which we have received from a member of the eminent Nashashibi family

of Jerusalem; we have suppressed that section of it which showed alarm at the eagerness with which Zionists who do not profess the Jewish religion have cried out in support of their Orthodox brethren. For it is our wish that the matter be removed from the sordid atmosphere of politics, where claim and counter-claim can result only in the fanning of old and profitless animosities. When politics merge in the stream of religion that stream is always apt to be defiled. It is urgent, however, that a workable solution of this problem be found, and we cannot see why a Commission consisting of representatives of the Arab community, of the Jewish community, and of the Government in Palestine should not immediately be convoked to attempt to come to an arrangement. It might be found possible, as the Chief Rabbi of the British Empire has suggested, to hold up the traffic through the thoroughfare by the Wailing Wall on certain occasions, and at the same time it might be found possible for the Jews, on their side, to promise to worship in no different way from their method in Turkish times. Where legal rights appear to be wholly on the Muslim side, it is no part of the duty of the Mandatory Power to attempt to diminish them, for in Palestine nothing can rightly be done against either the Arabs or the Jews as if in the interests of the other. With arrogance on either side we have little sympathy, for mutual good will should be sufficient to solve a problem which at the moment looks like being a festering sore.

INDIAN NOTES.

Unity and Discord.

As in the matter of the problem of the Indian States, the attitude of the sponsors of the Nehru draft constitution towards the communal question was virtually to ignore it. Unfortunately, although this attempt to burke the most important issue of all was sufficiently cleverly contrived to pass muster so long as panegyrics took the place of reasoned criticism, from the beginning there were not wanting discordant notes which, with the passage of time, are developing into a crescendo of sound vibrating all over the country. That the opposition of the minority communities to an essentially Hindu agreement is beginning to gather force and volume is becoming increasingly evident. The meeting held last week in Bombay, in response to a circular appeal by seventy leading Muhammadans, and presided over by Maulvi Muhammad Yakub, the popular Deputy President of the Legislative, is only one of many similar gatherings which have been held throughout the length and breadth of the country in recent weeks. At the Bombay meeting the speakers roundly declared that the Nehru Report constituted a denial of the rights of the Muslim community respecting constitutional guarantees, the reservation of seats and quotas in the public services and the redistribution of the provinces. How wide is the gulf to be bridged is indicated, as our Calcutta correspondent mentions, by the main points of the Muslim case as embodied in the memorandum presented by the All-India Muslim League to the Statutory Commission. Meanwhile the breach in the Congress party itself over the respective merits of complete independence and Dominion Status continues steadily to widen. According to advices by the mail Pandit Motilal Nehru is in open conflict with Mr. S. Srinivasa Iyengar, the deputy leader and secretary of the party, who with Mr. C. S. Ranga Iyer, has joined the younger Nehru's Independence League, thereby deliberately setting the clock back to 1920, when the Congress creed was so modified as to include the idea of severance of the British connexion as an alternative to self-government within the Commonwealth. That this unhappy outcome of the much heralded Unity Conference was not unexpected, even in quarters most anxious for its success, is evident from the editorial comment in the leading Liberal newspapers.

The Lloyd Dam.

After a week largely devoted to hearing the divergent claims of the minority communities to political representation in the new order of things, the Statutory Commission has concluded its examination of witnesses in the Bombay Presidency and is now in session at Lahore. Unfortunately, with the exception of the views, characteristically direct and sound, of Mr. F. C. Griffith, the retiring Inspector-General of Police, and, albeit a policeman, one of the most popular and able incumbents of an office formerly reserved entirely for the I.C.S., the most instructive evidence appears to have been taken *in camera*. At the same time the Commissioners were able before their departure to take part in an event which carried a message more eloquent than any words or written memoranda could convey. We refer to the completion of the great Lloyd Dam, at Bhatgar, which has taken nearly fifteen years to build and marks the last stage of the series of gigantic protective works carried out in the Bombay Presidency and elsewhere in pursuance of the recommendations of the Irrigation Commission of 1923. The Lloyd Dam is a vital part of the irrigation system of Bombay and the Deccan and designed, as Sir Leslie Wilson, who performed the opening ceremony, observed, to banish the spectre of famine from a region too often visited in the past by that dreaded scourge. When the whole of the scheme for this region has been carried out, the Governor recalled, the total irrigated area will exceed 400,000 acres. Not merely have the economic conditions of the famine tract been greatly improved, but the people generally are not only more secure against famine, but more prosperous. It was estimated that there would be an increased yield of crops to the value of some £4,000,000 yearly, against which had to be set a capital expenditure of no more than twice that sum. Regarded simply as a feat of engineering, the Lloyd Dam is a triumph for its designer, Mr. C. B. Pooley, whom the Governor fittingly invested at the ceremony with the Commandership of the Order of the Indian Empire. As he stated, the dam exceeds greatly in size the famous Assuan Dam on the Nile and has been built at far less cost; it is indeed the largest work of its kind in existence. And Mr. W. T. Harrison, the chief engineer of the project, was able to observe, with professional and national pride intermingled, that its builders have now "gone one better" than the American Exchequer dam, which for a brief period held that pride of place.

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YUGOSLAVIA: A HOUSE DIVIDED.

Although a better atmosphere appeared to have been introduced into Yugoslavia by the negotiations which M. Savtchitch inaugurated at the bidding, or at least with the approval, of King Alexander, the general situation in the country has so far shown no improvement. It is not enough for one or both parties to profess a desire for reconciliation, if neither is capable of putting forward a concrete proposal for a common understanding. Not only are Croats and Serbs at daggers drawn, but both would also seem to be bankrupt of ideas, when it comes to the formulating of a reasonable *modus vivendi* for the future. As it is the Croats who complain of the existing Government, the Serbs are within their rights in calling upon them to elaborate the scheme for its betterment. The Croats, however, up to the present have confined themselves to denouncing the Serbs and all their ways, and have taken no steps to draw up the Constitution that would satisfy them. They refuse to have anything to do with the present Parliament in Belgrade and demand fresh elections; but they have not, as far as is known, produced the programme on which they would have an appeal made to the country. Federalism and decentralisation may be convenient slogans, but if the electorate is to give an intelligent reply, it must have more information on the subject. There can be little doubt that federalism in some form or another is indicated as the best way out of Yugoslavia's difficulties; but it behoves the *Prechanski* Yugoslavs to make up their minds at once as to what form federation should take, and what the federal units should be. If their views find acceptance with the Serbs, the future course of events should present no serious difficulties; if, on the other hand, the Croat version of federation rests on principles which the Serbs will on no account accept, the two parties are no nearer to a solution, unless they take steps to reach a compromise. At present, as far as the distant observer can judge, the Croats are content to say, "no, no, never," while the Serbs protest a desire to be reconciled to their Croat brothers, but are not minded to surrender any of the privileges or advantages of position enjoyed by them hitherto, which form the bedrock of the Croat grievances. Although we believe that appreciation of the need for the maintenance of national unity will prevent the two sides from drifting farther apart, it would be idle to attempt to minimise the potential dangers of the situation, in view of the inflammable material that exists on each side.

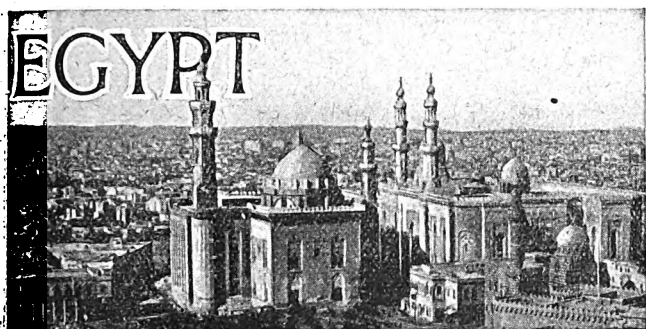
It is not difficult to realize now that a grave mistake was made when the Serbs pressed on with their highly centralised Constitution, in spite of Croat objections. The Croats are not without responsibility in the matter,

as they had no constructive views to put forward when the new State was brought into being. At the time it sounded well—even magnanimous—to say that, as the Serbs had borne the heat and burden of the day in establishing the Triune Kingdom, they were entitled to play the leading part. In the light of subsequent events, however, it is seen that this attitude merely served as a cloak for Croat supineness or lack of constructive ability. The one leader who might have provided them with a definite policy—Dr. Ante Trumbitch—they rejected in favour of a demagogue, who at no time showed any of the qualities of statesmanship. While the Serbs set to work to mould the State to their own way of thinking, Raditch was coquetting with republicanism and communism, with the result that the Croats were deprived of all voice in the framing of the Constitution. Even when he formally accepted the system of government and entered the Cabinet, it was only to insert a spoke in the wheels of the Administration, without making any constructive contribution to the problems that confronted the State. When the tragedy of June 20 came the Croats could well give rein to their indignation and cast the dust of Belgrade from off their feet; but it became the more incumbent upon them to take control of the situation and produce their scheme of government. For all practical purposes they had a clean sheet of paper in their hands and could have written on it what they willed. Four months have passed, and nothing has been written on it. The dissolution of the Skupshtina and fresh elections offered little hope of introducing a new situation in the State, unless the Croats had definite proposals to submit to the electorate. It may be doubted, indeed, whether the Peasant-Democrat Coalition is even to-day agreed upon the basis on which they would substitute a federal for the strongly centralised system of government that exists. Yet it would be useless to expect any material chance in the territorial complexion of political parties as a result of elections so long as the various units of the State—Bosnia, Herzegovina, Voivodina, Slovenia, Montenegro, Dalmatia, Banat, Batchka—are in ignorance of the fate awaiting them, whether they are to be separate entities in a federated Kingdom or are to be merged in some combination which might be anathema to them.

Until, therefore, agreement has been reached regarding the essential character of the federation that it is proposed to substitute for the present form of government, there is force in the contention of the Serbian Radicals that they must carry on the administration of the country on existing lines. They would be in a stronger position, if they could introduce some improvements where so many are needed. It is hoped to abolish at the end of the year certain inequalities in taxation from which the Croats have suffered; but whether the reform will go far to meet the complaint of the Croats that they provide the major part of the revenue of the country, while only an insignificant portion of it is spent in Croatia, remains to be seen. That there should be delay in unifying the various systems of government that had been in force in the different units of the new Kingdom was inevitable; that so little in this direction should have been accomplished in ten years is eloquent of the political deadlock that has held up the machinery of government so long. Yet it should have been possible to smooth over some of the difficulties in other ways. The outside world learns with surprise that King Alexander is to pay in December what is virtually his first official visit to Zagreb. In view of the peculiar position occupied by the second capital, to which in some respects Belgrade cannot hold a candle, it seems more than an anomaly that the Throne should have been use to such little advantage in cementing good will between the component parts of the State. Next month's visit, it is to be hoped, will inaugurate a new era, in which the Crown will be found to be fulfilling its proper rôle in the Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes, and will not be content to be a monopoly of the Radical Party.

*The Near and Middle East

From Our Own Correspondents.



Cairo, October, 20.

King Fuad's Desert Trip.

King Fuad's visit to the Western Desert, from which he returned yesterday, appears to have been a splendid success from start to finish. All arrangements were carried out without a hitch—even to the transport of vast quantities of food and presents for the people and the provision of kiosks erected in the middle of the desert, a hundred and fifty miles away from anywhere, with electric light and hot and cold water installations. The scenes at Siwa, which was the objective of the trip, as it is the main centre of this area, were, according to eye-witnesses, beyond description in their interest, picturesqueness and enthusiasm. It was an excellent idea for King Fuad to make this visit to a vast region, which has not seen the sovereign to which it owes nowadays fealty for over fifteen years, and which is likely to play in the future a more important part in the life and development of Egypt's desert territory than it has done in the past. It was, moreover, a happy inspiration which prompted the equipping of the expedition with wonders of the West, such as fireworks, cinematograph and radiograph apparatus, which literally left the unsophisticated people of the desert open-mouthed and will cause the visit of King Fuad to remain as a graphic part of desert-history for generations. Indeed, it would not be surprising if in years to come, when investigations are made in the Western Desert, the people testify to the occurrence of certain events or the birth of children as having happened so many years after the visit of King Fuad, just as at one time the oldest inhabitants of Egypt measured their ages and their date of old events by the number of years since they had seen Napoleon.

For King Fuad this visit has been another personal success, and the fact that they have now been in direct contact with their ruler in such festive and generous circumstances will undoubtedly bring the tribes closer to the Egyptian throne. For the Frontier Districts Administration and the Royal Khassa, who were responsible for the arrangements, the smooth running of the programme has been an undeniable triumph over what were regarded as insuperable difficulties. Both the Sovereign and the Egyptian Government should receive the reward for their initiative and enterprise in the greater facility which should henceforward characterise the administration of this vast and wild area, and in the development which it will undergo, owing to the attention this visit has drawn to it and the facilities of communication which it will have brought into existence.

The Native Court of Appeal.

While the decision of the Council of Ministers entailing the simultaneous retirement of thirteen counsellors of the Native Court of Appeal, including the President, created discussion, it has nevertheless not aroused the amount of

controversy which experience of the past would have led one to expect. The note of the Minister of Justice on the legal point in regard to the reduction of the age limit from sixty-five, at which it had been temporarily fixed in 1916 to meet special eventualities which never materialised, to the normal one of sixty, was so clear and conclusive that the general public accepted the decision without any criticism. What assisted it in this attitude was the talk that had been going on for some time with regard to the higher court of the native jurisdiction, which clearly indicated the need for a fairly thorough overhauling. Finally, the scheme had originated in the Nahas Cabinet and affecting, as it did, counsellors most of whom were liberal in their tendencies, it was obviously not a partisan measure, and the Mahmoud Cabinet in executing the project was clearly only actuated by a desire to see re-established the old reputation for efficiency and integrity of the Native Court of Appeal.

It is stated that the counsellors affected by the decision are consulting with a view to taking legal action against the Government. It is to be hoped that wiser and more prudent counsels will prevail, for apart from the fact that it is in the highest degree undesirable that such a dispute should have to be referred to the court, the hearing of such a case can only give rise to the washing in public of dirty linen, the revelation of which cannot in any way be to the advantage of the national reputation.

There is general approval of the choice made by the Government of a President for the Court of Appeal in succession to Talaat Pasha. Abdel Aziz Pasha Fahmy has always enjoyed a great reputation as a lawyer of high ability and unquestionable integrity. He was on two occasions leader of the Native Bar, and if anyone can raise again the prestige of the Native Court of Appeal to what it was when Judges Bond and Percival were its Vice-Presidents, it is he, for, added to his technical qualifications and experience, there is the fact that he enjoys the respect and esteem of all parties, even of the Wafd whose bitter political opponent he has been for many years.

The Desert Rescue.

The recent miraculous rescue of a lost party in the desert has afforded the authorities an opportunity of drawing attention to regulations which have so far been ignored or deliberately disregarded by the public. The party in question, in fact, disobeyed almost every rule laid down by experience and certainly violated the law. No one who has his senses about him ever dreams of going out into the desert with one car, nor, if he is going any distance, does he go without taking a reliable guide and an adequate supply of petrol and water. In this instance the party had only one car, the petrol and water gave out before the first evening had passed—they admit they had intended to be absent two days—and the Badu whom they took with them was no guide at all. In addition, in going out to shoot gazelle they violated the law, which, very rightly, forbids such sport.

By rights the party should be prosecuted for violation of the law and also should be sued for the cost of the large amount of petrol which the cars and the aeroplanes used

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in their search, an outlay which was entirely caused not only by their foolhardy venture, but also by the extraordinary lack of intelligence which they displayed when they missed their way. Whether this course will be taken by the authorities remains to be seen, but in the meanwhile they have issued a notice calling the attention of the public to the regulations under which entrance into the desert can be allowed by the Frontiers Districts Administration, which is responsible for the control of the desert areas of Egypt. It is pleasing to be able to record, in this connexion, the very graceful tribute paid by Mahamed Mahmoud Pasha, the Premier, in his letter of thanks addressed to Vice-Marshal Webb Brown, to the efforts of the R.A.F. and particularly to the aviators who found the missing party.

The Judicial Advisership.

Judge Booth, member of the Government Legal Department and prior to that a judge of the Mixed Courts of First Instance in Cairo, has now succeeded Sir Hope Percival as Judicial Adviser to the Egyptian Government. His appointment has been received with great satisfaction in all circles, for he has won a reputation for his ability as a lawyer and a conseller, and proved his fitness for this high post on the one or two occasions he has been called upon to act for the Judicial Adviser during his absence on leave.

GREECE.

Practical Works.

Salonika, October 21.

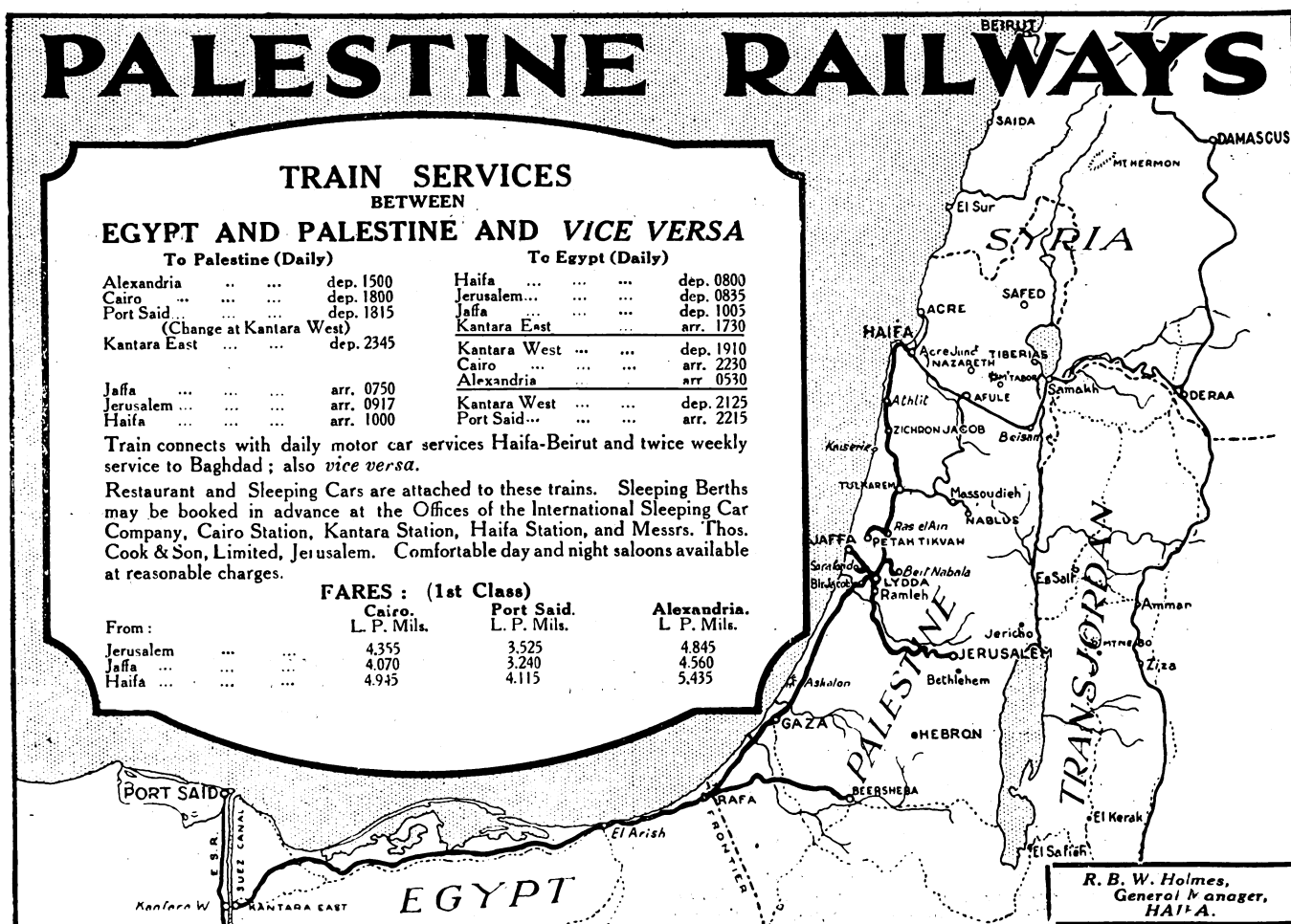
On his return from Europe, M. Venizelos immediately settled down to the solid work of governing, showing clearly that he does not regard his meteoric progress from capital to capital as more than a prelude to the less sensational task which lies before him. He has repeatedly warned his audiences that they must not expect a new heaven and a new earth (that pathetic illusion which

revives with every change of Government, and which invariably gives place within a few months to discontent).

In point of fact, within the last few weeks events have occurred in Greece which are of far greater value than any diplomatic triumphs. To mention only one, the beginning of work on the first new road to be constructed under the new convention has been inaugurated. This road will connect Naupactus, one of the most picturesque towns in Greece, hitherto accessible only by rare steamers and mule-tracks, with Missolonghi on the west, and will eventually be joined up with a road, also to be constructed, which will connect Lidoriki, Salona, and Delphi with Livadia, and so with the main road through Boeotia to Athens. Lidoriki stands at the junction of several routes (i.e., mule-tracks) radiating in all directions, and will become a place of great importance. The desolate and secluded Mornos valley will be opened up, a district of incomparable beauty will be made accessible, and, what is more important, immense benefits will be conferred on the sparse villages by the improvement in communications.

Another new road, the construction of which is about to be, if it has not already been, inaugurated, is that which will connect Yanina with Kalabaka and Thessaly by the famous Metsovo Pass. The railway from Verria to Kalabaka is already under construction, and when once Yanina and Grevena have been connected by another road the face of the whole region will be changed. Brigandage, it is true, will not cease automatically, as some people suppose. The worst acts of brigandage in recent years have taken place on existing motor-roads, but the tendency will be slowly in the direction of the extermination of brigands, who are actually at the moment receiving more attention than they like—another indication that M. Venizelos is not a man to promise what he will not try to fulfil.

Other signs of good augury for the future are the imminent conclusion of the contract for draining the Struma, and the proposed contract for draining the marshes of Thessaly and Epirus. All things considered,



and possible dangers taken into account, Greece stands, as perhaps never before, on the eve of momentous progress in material things. Within ten years' time, or even less, should no internal dissensions disturb the life of the country, Greece may be a changed land, which those who have known it in the past will hardly recognise. It remains to be seen what effect this material progress will have on the people themselves.

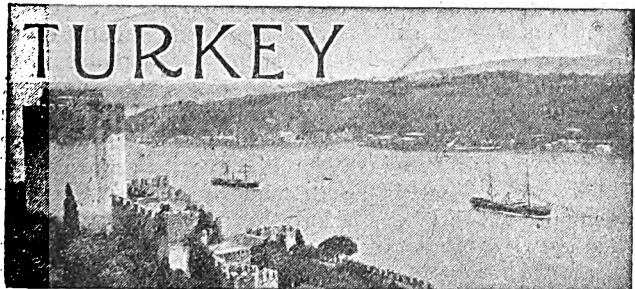
The Salonika Fair.

The Salonika Fair, the third of the series, has closed. It has been a qualified success, and this is attributed by some to the dengue fever, of which there have been about fifty cases a day here, and by others to the boycotting of the fair by the merchants and industrialists of Old Greece. The motive for this action is said to be jealousy, and it is suggested that these persons wish the Fair to be transferred to Athens—a suicidal proposal—seeing that Salonika is, from its position, the only suitable place in Greece for European exhibitors.

General News.

According to newspaper reports the new wharf at the Piræus is complete and foreign ships can now come alongside. The end of the tyranny of the Piræus boatmen, which has lasted too long, seems within sight, and these mischievous pests, who create such a bad impression on foreigners coming to Greece, will ere long be exterminated. Let us hope that other ports like Chalkis will follow suit, and that organised extortion from travellers will not adopt other forms.

It is good news that a definite scheme for improving the coastal traffic by removing over-competition, by organising itineraries and time-tables, and, it is to be hoped (though it is not stated), by securing reasonable comfort and cleanliness for the passengers, is being formulated.



Constantinople, October 24.

Turco-Albanian Relations.

Although there would appear to be no likelihood of anything like a formal rupture of diplomatic relations between Turkey and her former vassal, Albania, the modifications which are about to be introduced into the official relations between the two countries are nevertheless singularly symptomatic of the upheaval brought about in

this part of the world by the Great War and its aftermath. Not so many years have elapsed since Albania was no more than a Turkish Vilayet, administered by a Vali or Governor-General, while Turkey was an Empire governed by an Imperial Ruler. To-day Turkey is, on paper at all events, an ultra-democratic Republic run on strictly Constitutional lines, while Albania, after being apprenticed for many long years to a Vali, for a short spell to a Mpret and latterly to a Republican President, has, in the fulness of time attained to the rank of a Kingdom.

It is a little astonishing that, whereas official recognition of Albania's novel status by distant South-American States should already have reached Tirana, Turkey continues to hold back—and this in spite of the fact that a quite fair proportion of the Albanian *élite* and intelligentsia is allied by blood and faith to the upper classes in Turkey. It is more astonishing still that the Turkish Government have thought fit to recall their Ministers from Tirana, leaving a relatively junior diplomatist to act as Chargé d'Affaires. The Albanian Cabinet can, therefore, scarcely be laying themselves open to reproach by their avowed intention of withdrawing their Minister from Angora and replacing him also by a very junior Secretary. What exactly has given rise to this little storm in a teacup it is not easy to surmise. Geographical considerations, however, make it perfectly certain that, even if the two respective Legations were definitely closed down, anything in the shape of hostilities between these two independent countries must for ever be ruled out of practical politics.

The Rate of the Pound Sterling.

Although one must admit that the Turkish Cabinet have pursued a very sound policy and have exercised the greatest vigilance in the matter of the stability of the Turkish currency measured in terms of the foreign exchanges, there can be but little doubt that the forthcoming winter season will witness a further drop in the relatively stabilised value of the Turkish lira. While some of the financial and budgetary measures of the Turkish Government are open to criticism, it is only fair to remember that unfavourable atmospheric conditions in relation to the standing crops of 1928 have rendered the Turkish financial situation a somewhat precarious one. The drought in the highlands of Anatolia has not only killed off a large number of cattle, sheep and goats, but has also reduced the bulk of such exportable commodities as mohair, wool and hides.

This year's yield of Anatolian wheat has fallen so much below the average, that the importation of foreign grain and flour will have to be resorted to on an extensive scale. It is estimated that, in order to make good this shortage, foreign wheat to the value of 2 million liras will have to be imported before the end of this year.

The foreign exchange, principally Sterling Dollars, which annually comes on to the Turkish market in return for the exported part of the Smyrna fruit crop, has already been absorbed. It is, therefore, apprehended in banking and financial circles that the unforeseen increase

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in the import of foodstuffs, added to the commitments of the Government for foreign railway material, may create such a demand for foreign exchange that the value of the Turkish Lira is bound to be affected in the near future.

The National Assembly.

The next session of the National Assembly will be opened on November 1, when the President of the Republic will make his usual speech. Careful preparations are being made to broadcast this speech in the main thoroughfares, picture houses and theatres, both in Angora and Constantinople.

CALCUTTA LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Calcutta, October 11.

The Statutory Commission.

I wrote on August 30: "All eyes are turned to Lucknow, where the Report of the Committee of the All-Parties Conference is on the anvil. How much support the draft produced by the Nehru Committee commands, as the *Statesman* remarks this morning, it will not be possible to assess till we have the account of the final sessions at Lucknow. It may be argued that even then assessment will be impossible."

Events have borne that out. Here we have Sir Muhammad Shafi, President of the All-India Muslim League, issuing a statement to the Press in reply to the recent statement of the Maharaja of Mahmudabad. Sir Muhammad Shafi argues that it is not only desirable but absolutely essential in the interests of the seventy millions of Indian Mussulmans that the proposed All-India Muslim Conference, under the presidency of H. H. the Aga Khan, should be held to pronounce the final verdict of the community on the "grave and vital questions involved in the draft constitution adopted at the recent Lucknow meeting on the basis of the Nehru Report." A review of the salient facts, in the matter of separate representation, Sir Muhammad Shafi says, "makes it abundantly clear that for the last twenty-two years the Indian Mussulmans have consistently insisted upon their right to elect their representatives through their own separate electorates, and they have enjoyed that right for the last eighteen years. The constitution adopted by the Lucknow meeting on the basis of the Nehru Report seeks suddenly to put an end to this constitutional right of the Indian Mussulmans."

According to a Press report from New Delhi, H. H. the Aga Khan, who will reach India early in December, has accepted the invitation to preside over the All-India Muslim Conference.

Meanwhile, in the Memorandum to the Statutory Commission of the All-India Muslim League, which was published yesterday, there is some evidence of the line likely to be taken at the Conference over which it is hoped that H. H. the Aga Khan will preside. The main points urged in the Memorandum are (1) a widening of the franchise; (2) the retention of separate electorates; (3) an increase in the number of the members of the legislative councils; (4) the introduction of reforms in the North-West Frontier Province and Baluchistan; (5) the separation of Sind from the Bombay Presidency; (6) the abolition of the India Council; (7) a larger share for Muhammadans in the public services; (8) the separation of judicial and executive functions. All that makes a great deal.

The Bengal Ministry.

Report has it, but this has not been officially confirmed, that the Raja of Nashipur is to hold the vacant portfolio in the Bengal Ministry. Except to the person chosen and his friends, it is a matter of so little interest now, that it is hardly worth mentioning. No one would bother to mention who had been chosen as Games Secretary by

the passengers of a sinking ship. Diarchy is such a ship. All the rats have left her.

Indian Railways.

The railway men have been conferring in Simla since Saturday, when the Indian Railway Association Conference was opened by this year's President, Mr. Pearce, Agent, Eastern Bengal Railway. He said some interesting things. One was that the railways must get back as quickly as possible to the personal touch between employer and employee that used to characterise railway working in India. Mr. Pearce is convinced that at heart the staffs of all railways are loyal, and to foster this loyalty he suggested the appointment of "Personal Officers," whose duty would be to deal with the grievances of the workers. That might only lead to the manufacturing of new ones. To judge from a talk I had with a man in the East Indian Railway, one day in one of the wards of the Presidency General Hospital, there is a good deal of sore feeling among classes of railwaymen of lower rank. My interlocutor dwelt passionately upon the glaring disproportion of the pay of the highest officials, and the generosity of the Company in granting them leave, and the ungenerosity of his pay, and the rigour in applying the rules, when he had need of leave. "If it is — or — or any of that lot," he said, "if nothing else can be found to be the matter with them, they can always be said to be suffering from high blood pressure!" It certainly is an elastic term for ill-health, as the man in the street understands things, while the fact may be, indeed certainly is, that high blood pressure is as undeniable a fact as malaria or smallpox.

Mr. Pearce was followed by Sir Clement Hindley, the Chief Commissioner, for whom there is some post waiting in England, so that we shall shortly lose him. India will lose a good man. Sir Clement also laid stress on the need for a personal touch with labour, but his remedy is not the appointment of Personal Officers, but more recreation facilities, particularly for the workshop hands.

Mr. Pearce had said that State management of the railways would prove to have been only a phase in the history of their expansion, and that the machine would eventually become too big for one Railway Board or one Railway Association. As a possible solution, he suggested that each Province should have its separate railway finance. That is another proof of the separatist tendency to which I have before this called attention. The richer parts of India, on which the poorer districts are now a drag, want to shake off those districts, and forge ahead alone. A natural wish, but not one for a disinterested onlooker to approve too readily. You may lose money in helping the poor but they say there is a reward somewhere else. Sir Clement's view on the question of decentralisation is that it may be pushed to the fullest extent possible; there will still be need for a central body and its consideration of railway policy and its direction of effort.

ROYAL ASIATIC SOCIETY.

At a meeting of the Royal Asiatic Society on October 23, with Lord Ronaldshay in the Chair, Mr. A. Yusuf Ali, late I.C.S. and recently Principal of the Islamia College, Lahore, read a paper on "Education in India: The New Outlook."

The lecturer said that until quite modern times the Indian universities built up professional standards and provided the raw material for public services, though the graduates were only touched in their outer or professional lives, their homes and home habits remaining unaltered. But since the flood of numbers began to engulf the Indian universities from 1916 onwards even the modest claims that could be made for the Indian degrees at an earlier stage had to be modified.

The universities had in no way helped to solve the distressing problem of communalism; on the contrary, in many ways they had contributed to its accentuation and exacerbation. Nor had they built up a tradition of self-reliance, independent judgment, or unbiased criticism. He had the highest opinion of the Indian student, but he felt that he never got a chance in his own land.

The lecturer made a number of suggestions as to the best methods of overcoming these and other evils, and urged that the time was overdue for a complete and reasoned survey of education in all its branches in modern India.

CALCUTTA COMMUNICATIONS.

(From a Correspondent.)

Reference was made in a recent issue to the notable contrast presented between the progress made with the new Calcutta docks and the delays which appear to be inseparable from most large public works in India. The Howrah Bridge scheme is, of course, a classic example. Another project which has been under discussion for even longer than the rebuilding of the Howrah Bridge is that for the construction of a canal designed to provide an alternative, and shorter, route from Calcutta to Eastern Bengal. This so-called Grand Trunk canal would reduce the distance between Calcutta and Narayanganj, the centre of the Eastern Bengal jute growing districts, from 485 to 277 miles; and the distance from Calcutta to Goalundo, the most important junction for Assam, from 535 to 271 miles. It would also make correspondingly large reductions in the distances to other points in Eastern Bengal. It has been under consideration for the past twenty-five years. It has been investigated by numerous Committees, and reported upon by various experts; and there has been endless discussion about it in the press and elsewhere. Yet another Committee was appointed, in April of last year, by the Government of Bengal; but a few months later the Government announced that they had decided to abandon the scheme altogether. During the current year, however, this decision appears to have been reversed, the Government of Bengal having recently announced that, after consultation with the Government of India, they had decided to re-open the question. The reason for the change is, it would seem, that the Sunderbunds route—to which the canal would be an alternative—is deteriorating so rapidly that the possibility of maintaining it for steamer traffic is, at the best, only problematical. The Inland Steamer companies have accordingly again urged that the canal should be undertaken; and they have been supported by the Bengal Chamber of Commerce. Should the scheme go on the Government will not try to maintain the Sunderbunds route longer than is necessary; but if it is not proceeded with they will keep this route open as long as may be possible. Such is the position of the scheme at the moment, and no information as to when a final decision will be reached is available. So far public opinion in Bengal has not greatly favoured the canal, and the Provincial Legislative Council is unlikely to support it as the cost will undoubtedly be heavy. But if the Sunderbunds route cannot be kept open for steamers then the case for an alternative, and shorter, route becomes a very strong one. In any event it is greatly to be hoped that the final decision will not be further delayed.

A third important Calcutta public improvement which does not seem to be able to get beyond the discussion stage is the proposed electrification of the suburban railways. The original scheme, which was framed some time ago, was revised as a result of the decision to proceed with the construction of the Calcutta Chard Railway with a bridge across the Hooghly at Bally. One of the most urgent needs of the people of Calcutta is the provision of a system of rapid transit between the city and the suburbs. And the urgency is becoming greater every year as the clearing of the Calcutta slum areas by the Improvement Trust progresses; and the workers are consequently forced to live farther away from their work in the town. The tramways and the motor omnibuses are of course of great utility in this connexion. But a rapid suburban train service with a central station in or near the business quarter of Calcutta is greatly to be desired. This is exactly what the proposed electrification scheme is designed to supply, but unfortunately the scheme has not yet got beyond the Railway Board. For at a recent meeting of the Assembly the Railway representative said, in reply to a question, that the scheme was actively under the consideration of the Board. An electric service has been in operation at Bombay for more than three and a

half years, the line between Victoria terminus and Kurla—9½ miles—having been open to traffic since the beginning of 1925. A year later the Mahim chord—an addition of 2½ miles—was completed, and the whole of the Harbour Branch railway was electrified. Experience has shown that the Bombay electric services have a two-fold advantage. They make for a better distribution of the population, which is of course of the highest importance; and they also bring about a reduction in the operating costs of the railways. It does not seem to be unreasonable to hope that a similar result might follow from the electrification of the Calcutta suburban lines, and if there is a reasonable prospect of this then obviously the change should be pushed on with the minimum of delay.

THE MESTON SETTLEMENT.

The following announcement has been made in India by the Chairman of the Indian Statutory Commission:—

“In view of the importance and difficulty of the questions which are coming before the Indian Statutory Commission, relating to the Meston Settlement and other aspects of Indian public finance, which require expert and impartial consideration, the Commission has invited Mr. W. T. Layton to act as a Financial Assessor. Mr. Layton, who is Editor of the *Economist*, is making arrangements to leave London in December, and will be available to assist the Commission early in the New Year.”

A Fellow of Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge, Mr. Layton, who was University Lecturer in Economics in 1912, has undertaken somewhat similar duties on several previous occasions. In 1917 he represented the Ministry of Munitions in the Milner Mission to Russia and accompanied the Balfour Mission to the United States later in the same year. He has also been a Director of the Economic and Financial Section of the League of Nations and represented this country at several sessions of that organisation and other international conferences held under its ægis.

THE LATE MR. S. R. DAS.

THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA regrets to announce the death, which occurred suddenly on October 26, of Mr. S. R. Das, who succeeded Sir Tej Bahadur Sapru as Law Member of the Governor-General's Executive Council towards the end of 1925 and has filled a difficult post with marked ability and distinction. The loss is a severe one to the Government and to the country. With the outstanding features of Mr. Das' distinguished career, both at the Calcutta Bar and in the succession of high offices to which he was afterwards called, we shall deal more fully in a subsequent issue. A keen protagonist of the cause of the numerically small but very influential community of Reformed Hindus, Mr. Das was essentially a patriot, who realised clearly the need for mutual comprehension and good will not only between Englishmen and Indians, but also between all sections of the Hindu community and their Muslim neighbours.

The character, the attainments and the spirit of practical patriotism with which Mr. Das sought to serve India in the exacting life of high office, have evoked a striking tribute from Sir John Simon, which will command universal assent, even in the ranks of his keenest political opponents.

At an Investiture Durbar, held recently at Gwalior, Colonel Heale, Resident, presented, with due formality, to Her Highness the Maharani Sahiba Scindia, President of the Council of Regency, the insignia of the Imperial Order of the Crown of India. The Resident, having explained the inauguration and scope of the Order, said it had been bestowed by His Majesty on the Maharani in recognition of the assiduous and successful discharge of her duties during the Regency. The young Maharaja Scindia of Gwalior, on behalf of his mother, offered most cordial thanks to the King Emperor for his high honour and to the Viceroy for his constant personal interest in Gwalior State and himself.

CORRESPONDENCE.

The columns of THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA are open for the discussion of subjects of general interest to its readers. The publication of such letters must not be taken, however, as indicating that the views expressed by the writers are those of THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA.

THE WAILING WALL.

To the Editor of THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA.

Sir,—For the last few weeks Zionist organs and pro-Zionist papers have been making much ado over the recent Wailing Wall incident in Jerusalem.

Being deeply interested in the whole affair, I have followed closely and read attentively everything that has been said and published about it; but to my great surprise and indignation I have found that most of the papers and speakers, if not all, are either misled or misleading.

I have spent the last twenty years of my life in the heart of Jerusalem, and know exactly how things are; and I believe that it is only fair and just that the English peoples and the misled Jews all over the world should know the real facts and the whole truth.

The Wailing Wall is a small portion in the back of the western wall of the Mosque of Omar. This portion of the wall is on one side of a blind alley, hardly ten feet wide, surrounded by houses owned and inhabited by Muslims. There being no thoroughfare, the narrow strip of paved yard belongs to the surrounding houses. To this portion of the Wall, Orthodox Jews go on different occasions to weep, lament, and say their prayers. They were allowed to do so only by the generosity of the Turks, the then representative Muslim Government. And as the Chief Rabbi of England himself admitted (in his speech at Kingsway Hall on October 22) they could do that "peacefully and quietly for 395 years" only under the Turks.

Well, on the last Day of Atonement, known by the Jews as "Yom Kippur," the Jews installed a screen and some benches in that narrow strip to separate women worshippers from men. They were asked by the Police to remove these obstacles, and on their refusal to abide with the law, the Police removed the screen for the mere reason that its installation was absolutely illegal—being an audacious intrusion on private property. The act of the Police was absolutely essential to the maintenance of peace and public security. Had they done otherwise, the intrusion would inevitably have excited the indignation of the Muslims, and would have had unhappy consequences.

The Zionists, however, for purely political reasons, called it "outrageous interference with their religious performances," and described the simple act with all the offensive adjectives they could think of. There was certainly nothing of the sort, and the impartial report of the Jerusalem Government will repudiate their false statements.—I am, etc.,

A. B. NASHASHIBI.

London, October 24.

[It is only right to point out that the Jews' claim to worship at the Wailing Wall is anterior to the Turkish conquest of Palestine.—Ed.]

To the Editor of THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA.

Sir,—I shall be much obliged if you will allow me to comment on the leading article in your issue of October 25, as unfortunately the version that you have given of the recent incident at the Wailing Wall requires correction in several particulars.

(1) To represent the cause of the incident as the putting up of a screen in a public thoroughfare provides no justification for the resentment of the Arabs, even if—which I deny—it affords any justification for the interference of the police. The site near the Wailing Wall may be technically "a public thoroughfare," but anybody who is at all familiar with it knows quite well that it can be more accurately described as a semi-blind alley, as it is used for the most part only by the Jews who pray there,

by the tourists who go to watch them, and by the Arabs who live in the dilapidated dwellings opposite the Wall. The only persons who insist on using it as a thoroughfare are Arab donkey-drivers who wish to disturb the Jews at prayer.

(2) The screen was not a "structure," but a light portable screen, which had been used ten days before, on the New Year, without evoking any protest either from Arabs or police. It did not extend across the whole width of the alley, and anybody who wished to pass through could easily have done so. It was, therefore, not an "obstruction," as you term it.

(3) The police did not order "the responsible Jews" to remove the screen. It was their duty to have communicated with those responsible, if they wished to have the screen removed, but they failed to do so. Instead, they contented themselves with giving an order to the beadle, and interrupted the service at the most solemn moment without any previous notification to the Jewish authorities.

(4) The indignation felt by Jews outside Palestine at the incident is mild in comparison with that felt and expressed by Jews in Palestine itself. It surely cannot be said that Jews who have lived many years in Palestine or who were born there "display ignorance of local conditions and local feeling."

(5) To suggest that had the police not removed the screen there would have been bloodshed betrays both a wrong appreciation of the significance of the screen, so far as the Arabs are concerned, as well as a singular under-estimate of the ability of the British authorities to deal with the threat of some Arab agitators. The placing of the screen near the Wall did not constitute a violation of any Moslem sacred place. The site on which the Jews pray belongs to a Moslem Wakf, but there is absolutely nothing sacred attaching to it from the Moslem point of view. If there were, Moslem donkey-drivers would not persistently pollute it with the filth from their beasts.

(6) Even if the Jews had violated any *status quo* agreement by placing the screen near the Wall, that was surely not such a heinous offence as to justify the interruption of their worship on the most sacred day of the Jewish year at what has been and is venerated as the most holy place for the Jewish people since the destruction of the Temple. The District Commissioner should have informed the Supreme Moslem Council that there could be no interference with Jewish religious worship on such a day and that the matter in dispute must be held over until the conclusion of the Fast of Atonement. A resolute attitude on the part of the British authorities would have had the required effect, especially as, at most, there was only a formal and trivial infraction of the agreement. It is deplorable that the authorities allowed themselves to be cowed by the Arab threats into countenancing religious intolerance and aiding and abetting a gross act of desecration.

(7) According to Article 15 of the Palestine Mandate "The Mandatory shall see that complete freedom of conscience and the free exercise of all forms of worship, subject only to the maintenance of public order and morals, are ensured to all." If the Jews cannot be guaranteed the unrestricted right of public worship in accordance with their traditional rites and customs before the remnant of their ancient Temple in their own National Home, of what value is the Palestine Mandate? I have seen many a Salvation Army service in the streets of London causing far more obstruction than the Jewish service at the Wailing Wall could possibly have done; yet not even the most boorish policeman would have dared to interrupt it. Surely an attitude of intelligent respect is the least one can expect from the educated officers of the British Administration in Palestine.

I refrain from commenting on the last paragraph of your leader, in which you touch on questions of policy and principle, except to remark that your views as to what is possible in Palestine differ widely and deeply

from the views of Zionists, who are accustomed to a long range of vision and remain unperturbed by passing clouds.—I am, etc.,

ISRAEL COHEN.

October 26, The Zionist Organisation, London.

[The subject to which our Correspondent refers is dealt with in "Notes of the Week." The object of our remarks was to pour oil on troubled waters, by laying stress on the fact that no encroachment on Jewish rights and no new departure of policy had taken place. As our correspondent admits, an infraction of an agreement had been committed; the Jews were asked to remove the screen betimes and did not. *Hinc illæ lacrimæ*. All that followed, the intervention of the police and the interruption of the service, is regretted by everybody. What seems obvious is that the incident calls for local settlement by those concerned, and that there is no occasion for a world fuss. The position is not helped by quibbling over words. An obstruction is whatever the police choose to call one. If "public worship" is to be interpreted as "*alfresco* worship," it is necessarily conditioned by police regulations. A Salvation Army service with band would not be allowed to be held outside a Mosque. For a Government to take action on the strength of a Muslim protest does not imply that it endorses the protest. *Noblesse oblige*, and, as the Jews had good reason to suspect that sooner or later a protest would be lodged, it seems a pity that they did not disarm Muslim action by first obtaining permission for the use of the light portable screen.—ED.]

THE DODECANESE.

To the Editor of THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA.

Sir,—You say in your Notes with reference to my letter appearing in your number dated October 25: "The Dodecanesans, it is to be feared, share with other inhabitants of the East the habit of telling the inquirer what they imagine that he would like to hear." Quite so. You might well have added "the inhabitants of Ireland." In any case, I know the Near East sufficiently well to be able to visit the Dodecanese fore-armed, because fore-warned. I was, therefore, careful. Scarcely any of the many Greeks with whom I held converse had the slightest idea who I was, except that I was an English tourist; they did not even know I spoke Italian, since we conversed in French; so that how they could have intuited which way my sympathies lay, surpasses my comprehension. If anything, after an exchange of introductory remarks, they can only have known that I came from Athens, that I had many Greek friends, and sympathised with Greek nationalist aspirations in general. Had they done, therefore, as you suggest, they would certainly have inclined towards telling me what they are alleged to have told the Booths.

Moreover, as I stated in my letter, there were plenty of complaints; and of these I personally investigated quite a score. They all boiled down, apart from the general question of irredentism, to complaints of an individualist kind—that is, matters concerning vested interests disturbed or disappointments over what might have been. The only exception was the case of the removal of the ecclesiastical authorities from the control of the schools; and those who have any familiarity with the Greek Orthodox Church know that ecclesiastical control of the schools means nationalist—in the case of a country under foreign dominion, irredentist—control. Hence the reason, in accordance with the Italian principles of government, which I laid down, for the adoption of the measure complained of.

I might add that the Italian Government is more centralised, and, therefore, the local Demogerontia may have less scope for initiative. But, to judge from conditions in the Island before the Italians arrived, or the actual conditions of Cyprus, where the Demogerontia's scope has not in any way been restricted, their initiative

never amounted to much. Perhaps they had a *sense* of greater freedom than formerly. Perhaps. But, on the other hand, if anyone will take the trouble to read the manifestoes of the islanders published in condemnation of Turkish rule, he will find it difficult to believe this to be so. Besides, democratic government always gives a certain illusive sense of freedom, because democratic government constitutes the greatest confidence trick ever inflicted on the masses. It may or may not, according to circumstances, be a better or worse form of government than others; but that it means in reality greater freedom is extremely doubtful. In fact, it is just where Governments are more democratic in form that we find as a rule plutocracy more firmly installed.

I have read the Booths' book; and my last letter and this, if compared with the list of complaints registered by the authors of "Italy and her Ægean Islands," will be found to explain many of them. I can positively assert, however, that taxes have not been inordinately increased; but they have been enforced, and this may explain much. As for the alleged brutal treatment of the inhabitants by the Carabinieri, I can only say this is a libel which requires justification. It is not justified in the book. It is not justified by my observation, nor by my acquaintance of this admirable and disciplined force, nor by the knowledge of the Italian character. I can only protest, for it is useless to argue. The tone of the Booths' book, however, is so "demo-liberal," that it is not unnatural for the authors to seek to discredit anything which is Fascist. They can turn the tables in this respect on me, if they like. But the proof of the pudding is in the eating, after all. Let those in doubt go and spend a season in the Dodecanese and investigate for themselves. I can assure them in any case a perfectly delightful holiday.—I am, etc.,

Lausanne.

J. S. BARNES.

EGYPT, THE NILE, AND PALESTINE.

Messrs. Thos. Cook and Son have issued their 1928-9 Programme of Tours to Egypt and Palestine, the season beginning with the departure of the first of their luxurious steamers from Cairo on November 7. Thanks to the co-operation of the Wagons-Lits Company and the various French railways, travellers will now be able to proceed overland to Egypt or Palestine by the Simplon-Orient Express; an escorted tour occupying 32 days, at an inclusive fare of £200, proceeds by this route *via* Constantinople and Aleppo to Damascus, Palestine and Cairo, returning *via* Alexandria and Venice. An attractive booklet, well illustrated and containing over a hundred pages, gives the details of this and many other tours in Egypt and the Holy Land, may be obtained from any of Messrs. Cook's or the Wagons-Lits Offices.

Lieutenant-General Theodore Manettas has been appointed Under-Secretary for War in Greece.

King Zogu on October 27 received in audience at Tirana Sir Robert Hodgson, British Minister to Albania, who presented his Letters of Credence.

In consequence of the action taken by the Turks in seizing the property of Syrians in Cilicia, the French Administration is stated to have sequestered the estates of Turks in Syria.

The Geographical Society of Georgia and the Transcaucasian Communications Administration have sent a joint wireless expedition to carry out experiments in transmission and reception at various altitudes on the Kazbek Peak; which is 16,540 feet in height.

Two Persian students—Aga Riza Fallah and Ab'l Hasan Khan Raji—recently arrived in England under the ægis of the Anglo-Persian Oil Company to take the four years' course in petroleum technology at the Birmingham University.

By order of the Yugoslav Minister of the Interior, the Belgrade police on October 25 seized the newspapers *Politika* and *Vreme*, which on the previous day had published a statement of M. Pribitchevitch, Leader of the Peasant-Democrat Coalition, that was considered to be prejudicial to peace and order.

Sir Philip Sassoon, Under-Secretary for Air, on the conclusion of his tour of inspection in India, left for England in the flying boat *Iris* on October 24, with Sir Denys Brav, Foreign Secretary of the Government of India, as passenger. He arrived at Baghdad on October 27.

A JOURNEY IN UNKNOWN SOUTH ARABIA.

Discovery of Hamitic Tribes?

BY BERTRAM THOMAS.

[One of the most remarkable lectures delivered at the Seventeenth Orientalist Congress recently held in Oxford was that upon a notable piece of exploration by Mr. Bertram Thomas. We are privileged to print extracts from Mr. Thomas's paper, which aroused very considerable interest, both general and special. For the sake of those who would more fully pursue the paths which this young explorer has opened up, it may be mentioned that the anthropological material contained in his lecture is being published in the JOURNAL of the Royal Anthropological Society, that the geographical section forms the subject of a paper to be given to the Royal Geographical Society on December 3, and that the archæological and philological records are being given to the Royal Asiatic Society.—Ed.]

Non-Arab Tribes.

In January and February of this year I accomplished a journey by camel through the unknown South of Arabia. Fifteen camels and an escort of twelve Arabs constituted my caravan and the journey of six hundred and fifty miles from Suwaih to Dhufar occupied forty-eight days. This included two halts, one of seven days at Khaluf and the other of three days at the entrance of Wadi 'Ainain made for the purpose of changing camels; and this in effect divided the journey into three approximately equal stages. Time does not allow of a narrative of the whole of my journey, and I propose here to limit myself to a description of a group of non-Arab tribes, hitherto unvisited by a European, occupying a part of the second and the whole of the third stage of the journey, their customs and dialects, and the archæological remains found in their habitat.

The area in question stretches from Wadi Sarab lat. $20^{\circ} 10'$: long. $57^{\circ} 45'$ E. to Salalah the capital of Dhufar, lat. $17^{\circ} 00'$: long. $54^{\circ} 6'$ E. This region forms the habitat of a group of five tribes which are racially distinct from the Semitic Arab, and perhaps from one another; and they speak four separate dialects which are not understood by Arabs, and which have closer affinities with Ethiopic than with Arabic, though I think they are early Semitic and more closely associated with Himyaric. The names of these tribes in the order in which I passed through them from east to west are Harasis, Bautahara, Mahra, Qara and Shahara, and judging from head measurements I made, and from their appearance, traditions, language and customs, I think there can be little doubt that they constitute a *bloc* of non-Arab tribes of great local antiquity; and I shall further assume, in the light of anthropological evidence I collected, that with the possible exception of the Harasis, they are racially Hamitic. It would thus seem that their ethnological and linguistic affinities are at variance.

Before I describe these tribes in detail I should point out that there are two hostile political factions, Hinawi and Ghafari, to one or other of which every tribe in South Arabia, including these tribes, owes allegiance. Superficially the terms would appear to date from a dynastic squabble over succession in Oman in the early 18th century, but they are of much deeper significance, for, generally speaking, the Hinawi label coincides with the tribes of Yamani descent; and the Ghafari label with those of Nizari or Ma'adic (Ishmaelitish?) origin and all other

non-Yamani stock. Hence within limits the division is in all probability racial. It is not surprising then that this Hamitic group should all claim to be Ghafari, and this is the case except with the Harasis, who, notwithstanding, acknowledge their defection in times past to the Hinawi party through political expediency. Throughout Oman and south-east Arabia this Hinawi-Ghafari feud still smoulders, and no man dare travel through the country used by a tribe belonging to the rival faction without a *rafiq*. To do so would be to court attack and capture of his camels, if not his own death, except during the brief and intermittent periods of truce. To pass safely through a tribe it is not always essential to have as *rafiq* a member of that particular tribe, though that is preferable, but it is essential that a *rafiq* should be taken of that political faction, Hinawi or Ghafari, to which the tribe belongs. Only amongst the Qara is a slave acceptable as a *rafiq*. Elsewhere it is the custom to kill the free man and take captive the slave. In truth it would appear that the slave has a commercial value, and as such shares the privilege of the camel taken in the raid.

The Harasis.

The Harasis are a small dwindling nomad and pastoral tribe, perhaps numbering not more than 200 men, whose habitat is not regarded as their own exclusively, but belongs in name to the western Janabah tribe in the steppe land bordering the desert and extending from the hinterland of W. Sarab as far west as the 56th line of longitude. Although client to the Janabah they belong to the rival political faction of Hinawi but pay a nominal *sakat* to the Awamir tribe by which tribute they are brought in a slight measure and indirectly under the ægis of Ibn Saoud. Rude and primitive they appeared to me, as distinct from their Hamitic neighbours to the west as from their Arab neighbours to the east. They are generally speaking bilingual, though their Arabic has a slight accent, the noticeable feature of which is a flat *a* sound suggestive of that vowel as met with in Syria, but otherwise having no resemblance to the Syria Arabic, being a virile Bada-win dialect with a rather pleasing inflexion of voice. They have short broad faces, low sloping foreheads, large heavy aquiline noses and their cranial index is slightly dolichocephalic. The youths, unlike any others I have met, could almost be taken for a type of southern European. A tribe with noble traditions, they are now a scattered collection of seven sections, acknowledging only a nominal hereditary shaikh, by name Ibn Akis.

The Bautahara.

The Bautahara is a still smaller tribe primarily engaged in shark fishing, which they carry on in the primitive way of swimming on inflated skins. They have a few camels, and their habitat extends from Ras Sharbithat to Ras Nus. They are held by their neighbours, with whom they cannot marry, to be of ignoble origin, and until recently were so wild and disreputable that no traveller could pass in safety even accompanied though he might be by a *rafiq*. Ghafari in politics, the Bautahara are now subject to the western Janabah. The only Bautahari I could get hold of, passing as I did on the desert side of their habitat, was a fisherman from the coast. He appeared to be a very low type though his complexion was comparatively light brown for S.E. Arabia, he had comparatively straight hair and high cheek bones, and his cranial index was slightly brachycephalic. A greater local antiquity is allowed to the despised Bautahara, who were once largely pastoral, than to any other local tribe save the Shahara.

The Mahra.

The Mahra habitat extends through the desert westward of Jabal Zaulaul behind the Qara mountains. Of Ghafari persuasion, the Mahra do not claim descent from a single ancestor, as is usual with other tribes; the eastern elements claim descent from one Bir Bauki, and the Arabs refer to these Mahra neighbours as Hasarit. These

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purely nomadic Mahra had noses which might almost be regarded as European, round brown eyes, short under-lips, jaws wide at the base, tapering to pointed chins and long curly hair; and their cranial index was mesocephalic. The Mahra exercise suzerainty over a depressed tribe Bait Al Hafi, the exponents of a devil cult—a similar relationship to that subsisting between the Janabah and Bautahara.

The Qara.

The Qara are a numerous settled and prosperous mountain tribe occupying the J. Qara and J. Samhan, the most prosperous of all the Hamitic tribes possessing innumerable camels, herds of cattle and the richest frankincense country. They resemble the Bisharin tribe of the Nubian Desert, to judge from the photographs of the latter. Men of big bone, they have long faces, long narrow jaws, noses of a refined shape, long curly hair and dark brown skins; their cranial index is mesocephalic.

The Shahara.

The Shahara are a small and disunited tribe living in groups amongst their Qara overlords, for whom they are mere hewers of wood and drawers of water. They have comparatively fair brown skins, less curly hair, more noticeably high cheek bones; and their cranial index tends to be dolichocephalic. Weak and degraded to-day, they claim to have been possessors of the land before the Qara dispossessed them.

The entire group, brown in colour, non-Arab and non-negroid in appearance and occupying almost exclusively the Central South of Arabia, have an ancient tradition of a North African origin via Hadhramaut—an origin as regards those of Dhufar noted by the traveller Ibn Batuta.

Interesting Customs.

These Hamitic tribes—if such they be—have many interesting and in some cases unique customs. The women are not veiled except in the instance of those Badawin elements, e.g., Hasarit and Harasis who move amongst Arab tribes. They have a custom of tattooing the chin with a short vertical line and a dot on either side (still practised in Modern Egypt—*vide* Lane's "Modern Egyptians"), and one met instances of a bracelet-like design around the wrist. In Dhufar they paint their faces red, black, and green on occasions of religious and other festivals, marriages, circumcisions, and so forth, generally a line along the edge of the cheek, another under the cheek bone and one bridging the nose across the eyebrows. The pre- and proto-dynastic Egyptians—say from 4000 B.C. to 3000 B.C.—also used face paint of these three colours. The use of the green paint is by some authorities considered magical, that colour being regarded as a symbol of life. The Qara women of Dhufar have a custom when young and almost invariably before marrying, of having a half inch strip of hair with its attendant flesh shaved in the centre parting along the top of the head. The hair never grows again and sometimes the operation has fatal results. Shaving the hair around the forehead to show a large expanse of brow is another observance of feminine beauty. Throughout the whole of these tribes it is customary for a boy's hair to be cut short except for a strip an inch wide which is allowed to grow long down the centre of the head—suggestive of a certain Hindu caste, or perhaps of the Horus lock affected by young Egyptian princes in ancient times in honour of the god. Men either shave the upper lip wholly or leave the slightest suspicion of a moustache not more than an eighth of an inch wide; they shave the side face both downwards from the cheek bone and upwards from the throat, leaving a slight beard around the edge of the jaw, but they never shave their chin tuft; though sometimes it is trimmed with scissors. It would be shameful to shave it, for by it a man swears. The growth of face hair is not strong, but the chin tuft is coarse. Male head hair characteristically long and curly, particularly with the Mahra and Qara, is generally worn like bobbed hair, and in the case of the Qara it is some-

times bunched up and tied with a bun on top—in both cases generally presenting a greasy appearance from generous treatment with cocoanut oil. Men go bare-headed except for a narrow leather thong called a *Mahfif*, which is merely a coil wound round the widest part of the head nine times and resembles an Arab *Aqal*. Their body dress consists of a short black skirt to the knees with a leather girdle around the waist which is looped as a cartridge belt. They go at all times barefooted and barelegged, except that the Badawin element in summer, when travelling over hot roads, sometimes affect a woollen sock.

Shafi Shrines.

Steeped in superstition and clinging to many pagan customs, these Hamitic tribes of South Arabia are all avowedly Muslims of the Shafi sect. In diametrical opposition to Wahhabi tenets they have much veneration for the shrines of saints, which they periodically visit. That of Muhammad Bin Ali, known also as Mazar Al Wali, near Murbat is the most famous of them. The annual pilgrimage to it takes place on the 15th Shaaban, when pilgrims from the far mountains assemble at the Shrine, walk round it and salute it with the nose kiss, and hear read the Quran. Amont the credulous three consecutive journeys to this shrine are accounted to have the virtue of a pilgrimage to Mecca. Other shrines are Salih Bin Hud at Siddih, Haddad at Dahariz, and Bin Arbait at Raisut. Few of these tribesmen make the pilgrimage to Mecca, in fact no Harsusi, I was told, had ever made the Mecca pilgrimage, but on the death of a relative a Harsusi will often pay a large part of the expenses of an Arab pilgrim on behalf of the departed. Disputants of these tribes are not always most satisfied with an oath on the Quran. An oath upon a shrine is more acceptable. They have a special veneration for the Shurafa Saada and Sharifs, descendants of the Prophet, after shaking whose hands they will raise their own reverently to their nostrils and take a few sniffs, apparently inhaling virtue thereby.

Language Distribution.

The language distribution is as follows:—Shahari is spoken by the Qara and Shahara tribes; Mahri by the Mahra; and Harsusi and Bautahari are the dialects of the Harasis and Bautahara respectively. The region occupied by these tribes is to the Arabs of Ja'alan known directionally as Hadra; by them the Indian Ocean bordering these coasts is called Bahr Al Hadri; and finally the *bloc* of tribes occupying Central South Arabia, including all these Hamitic tribes except the Qara, is known as Ahl Al Hadara; I venture, therefore, to give to these dialects the name of Hadara group. The identity of the word with Hadoram of Genesis is suggested, also with the Adramitae of Pliny. During my sojourn amongst these tribes, I collected vocabularies of some five hundred words of each of these dialects (fewer in the case of Bautahara for lack of opportunity, passing as I did through the desert in their rear), and deduced a few simple grammatical rules.

From Shaikh to Shaikh.

Before turning to a slight sketch of the country passed through, I may say that I travelled under no auspices but my own. Government permission, even if it were sought and given, would avail nought in the prosecution of a journey through the previously unpenetrated S.E. Arabia, which for a major part owns no allegiance to any Government. Better is it to grow a beard, wear Arab dress,

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acquire the Badawin dialect and indulge a democratic communism with the Badawin.

South of the "Empty Quarter."

In contrast to the coastal plain and parched sands of the earlier part of my journey the terrain of the Hamitic tribes passed through consisted of bleak and arid limestone hill and rolling country crossed by Wadi beds, shallow in the early stages and trough-like as the greater altitudes in the later stages of the journey were reached. Here in these Wadi beds alone a sparse nourishment for man and beast was to be found in the water hole, the acacia and gum arabic trees, and the various camel thorns known as warikh, thurnad, haram, ghussab dha'a thi-diya, rimram, Al ithal (tamarisk) thamama and hamiyat. The course from Manadhif, lat. $20^{\circ} 00'$, long. $57^{\circ} 40'$ to Juwara in Sauqirah Bay lay over the plain of Al Dhahir, reaching a maximum elevation of 470 ft. Everywhere on our right hand the vast empty spaces of Jaddat Harasis spread out northwards, eventually to lose themselves in the sands of *Ruba Al Khali*. The term, *Ruba Al Khali*, incidentally, is nowhere used by the inhabitants of these Southern Borderlands to mean the entire desert in its geographical sense: when used by me in talking to them, however, it was sufficiently literal as to admit of no misunderstanding. Beyond Juwara we hugged the coast of Sauqirah Bay through the Jazir littoral below what appeared to be low igneous formation. Leaving it by way of Wadi 'Ainain, we ascended to the plain of Jaddat Arkad about 1,000 ft. in height, the Wadis throughout descending south eastwards towards the coast. From Wadi Muqarrad, the western limit of Arkad, we climbed again, threading our way through the northern fringes of Rakibit, the great steppe borderland of *Ruba Al Khali* coming into view on our right hand, as now and then our tortuous course took us towards the edge of the mountain system on the desert side: and hence we continued gradually climbing to 2,000 ft. in Wadi Dhaghaub, the deep troughs of the Wadi beds now trending everywhere to the north. For six days prior to reaching W. Andhaur the camels went unwatered, and we ourselves were reduced to the meagrest ration. The herbage was scant and our camels carrying loads for six or seven hours a day through this difficult mountainous country were in a sorry condition. The horse cannot live in such conditions, and I saw no horse west of Jaalan, and only a few dogs at Khaluf, throughout the whole of this journey through the southern borderland till reaching Dhufar. Goats will go longer without water than camels. Our camels, which were faltering on the sixth waterless day, could, I gathered, had they been without their loads, have gone ten days or more, and if grazing in the rains, would survive a month without watering. During the rainy season these Badawin wander with their flocks of sheep and goats for six weeks without bringing them to water. They take no water for themselves, subsisting on the milk of their flocks. The oryx gazelle and *rim* and sand lizards must, of course, be practically non-drinking animals. There are as many breeds of camels as there are tribes, each tribe specialising in its own breed. Thus the Yal Wahiba variety is called Banat Farhah, the Janabah, Baital-Khumais and so forth.

The order of tribal superiority in camel breeding in South East and South Arabia is as follows: Yal Wahiba, Janabah, Harasis, Mahra and Ma'araba—an almost geographical order, for as you travel west into more and more mountainous country, so the camel is bred less for raiding qualities, pace, stamina and the rest, and more for milk producing. More than "the ship of the desert" it is to the Badawin *Ata Allah*—"the Gift of God." A Harsusi told me that there is always water in its stomach, and when Badawin are in the desert and a water hole fails them and they are faced by death from thirst, they thrust a stick down the camel's throat and make it vomit water, and this they drink. If the camel has been watered within a day or two the water is tolerably drinkable, but if the beast has not been watered for some days, the escape from

death takes the form of a green and odorous liquid, "but it is better to drink it than to die." Several of my escort swore to having had such an experience. In case of the Badawin himself having stomach trouble, vomiting is encouraged first by an overdose of *samn* (butter) and but failing that drink a little urine of the cow camel.

The Magnificent South.

In the latter stages of our waterless trek, ascent and descent of steep passes strewn with massive boulders could only be made by dismounting, but the views presented from their summits were beautiful beyond description—to the south a magnificent panorama of the blue serried mountains of Rakibit stretching away out of sight and gorges two hundred or more feet below us, where the white ribbon of a pebble bed of Andhaur or Ara meandered northward into the great unknown *Ruba Al Khali*. Of bird life there was virtually none. In the early stages of Al Dhahir and Arkad we had crossed three inch tracks of the gazelle, with the ominous footmarks of an occasional wolf or panther or hyena. We saw some brightly coloured and mottled lizards, some with square tails and heard of two snakes, the red venomous *faiya* and the less dreaded *dab*. Gazelle were always with us and provided an occasional meal, but the hungry country gave us no other food save locusts—we had passed through a dense army, miles square, of a large red variety at the entrance to Wadi 'Ainain.

Wadi Dhaghaub and Wadi Dhikur, the approaches by which I made my way over the Qara Mountains from the *Ruba Al Khali* side, involve a quick ascent from 2,000 feet in the Wadi Dhaghaub, through 2,300 feet in Dhikur, to the Divide 3,000 feet. They are the centre of the frankincense country and part of the habitat of the Qara tribe. Between Wadi Afar—and Wadi Dhaghaub we crossed a large jungle of the frankincense tree, *mghur*, the most extensive of any on my route. It resembled an orchard of young three-year-old fruit trees. Hamuda, one of my escort, brought me a specimen of the sap on his dagger blade—of lard-like appearance and pleasant odour. The frankincense country owned chiefly by the Qara, is worked by the Mahra and Al Kathir, women as well as men, the owners' share being one-tenth of the produce. The tree has a silver bark, is of bush-like appearance, with a tiny insignificant leaf, eaten by the locally-bred camel. To secure the frankincense, the scaly bark is scratched with a knife (not a deep incision) and is left for a week. The sap which exudes has by then dried into a transparent green resinous substance of delicate fragrance, and this is the article of commerce which will find its way to the Indian temples. We ascended the white pebbly bed of Wadi Dhikur and were rewarded by a magnificent spectacle. Red cliffs, 300 feet and more, towered above us on each side, their face sculpted into loges by natural action, throwing fantastic dark shadows. The scene reminded me of Petra. Near the top at 2,300 feet was a pool, where our animals watered, while I collected one or two pink-red fossils. Thence we returned to the bottom of the same Wadi, with its gentler slopes clothed with frankincense trees, where three shaikhs of the Qara had arrived for me, sent by my friend Saiyid Sa'ud, the Governor of Dhufar. Bare bodied except for the skirts about their loins, an end of which was thrown over their shoulders, and armed with swords and bucklers, they were to accompany me for the rest of the journey. On the morrow we despatched our camels by another way and climbed the steep side of the valley on the right, a hundred feet or so above. Thence we passed through rolling country thick with *tishgaut* jungle—a libaniferous shrub inferior to frankincense—climbing to the Divide at 3,000 ft., the inland limit of the region which receives the plentiful rainfall of the south west monsoon. Here we were within twenty miles of the sea and had reached a point which the Bents had visited from the coast in 1895, and of whose tropical jungles, green fields and flowing streams they speak in such rapturous phrases. At Dhara'itum the birds had found their voices, the hillsides were thick with sycas-

more, figs and acacia, presenting a twisted outline against the sky, and coloured with many verdant greens, the valleys were alive with a strange people. The night was lit up by camp fires, but I was driven by cold and wind to take refuge in one of the caves with which these hills are naturally studded. The Qara and Shahara are troglodytes and their caves are generally marked by a low hive-shaped straw hut. I was anxious to see the Abyss which Bent had identified with Abyssapolis, so thither—the natives call it Al Dahaq—we proceeded, descending through rolling yellow meadows where cattle grazed, and occasionally catching a glimpse of the blue sea of the Indian Ocean over Taqa, or the blue range of Samhan behind Murbat, as we went. Passing the Shihait village of Shihait, where I halted to make head measurements, we soon arrived at the brink of the right bank overlooking the valley of Darbat. The spectacle is delightful. You look down some two hundred feet through a tangle of tree tops to the stream below, lined with trembling willows. Opposite the hills are equally precipitous and similarly wooded. In whatever direction you look is a wall of tropical jungle, and below it the stream which is flowing towards the Abyss. We made our way down the hillside to this stream, marked by tropical trees and luxuriant creepers and alive with heron and other water fowl. Thence we crawled to the edge of the Dahaq and peered down its precipitous face five hundred feet below. With much difficulty, we clambered down a flanking slope to its wooded foot and followed the meandering Wadi bed to its mouth—Khor Ruri. The ruins hereabout—Husn Mirahadh and the entrance of Inqitat (Bent's Khatiya) are clearly the site of Moscha of the Periplus (Ptolemy's Abyssapolis as suggested by Bent from its proximity with Al Dahaq). Miles' identification of Moscha with Hasik, eighty miles to the east, is, I think, a less happy one. The Arab geographers give Murbat as the site of the ancient seaport and capital of Dhufar, which lasted until the 4th century Hijra. The Shaikh of modern Murbat, twenty miles to the east, who accompanied me to these ruins around Khor Ruri, volunteered the information that this was the site of the ancient Murbat, and I further elicited from a Shahari that in their dialect Murbat is called *sik*—a word which would appear to preserve the important radicals of the name Moscha. From here to Raisut is the rich plain of Dhufar with its capital at Salalah. Here the cocoanut is the predominant vegetation, as opposed to the date palm of Oman, and besides these grow in abundance, cotton, tobacco, indigo, cereals, papaya, melons, and so forth. This plain is the historical Dhufar, and its widespread ruins are chief among witnesses of a former glory. The most characteristic feature of these ruins is a plain primitive column, an octagonal shaft, square corbelled cap and square base, generally a monolith. It is usually about six feet high and this and its corbelled cap suggest that it supported arches. Arch masonry does in fact lie strewn about amidst the debris. Bent connects the Dhufar column with columns he saw at Adulis on the Red Sea, and with those of Kulue and Aksam in Abyssinia and others he heard of at Ma'araba in the Yaman, and says that no doubt can be entertained that they were all built by the same people. Bent's other descriptions of the archæological remains as given in his "South Arabia," are, however, not exhaustive, and his sarcophagi are, I suspect, only water tanks. The most elaborate ruins—Balid—have, however, been very fully described by Carter, the Surgeon of the Indian Naval Brig. Palinurus, in a paper given to the R.G.S. in 1846. I attempted in the short time at my disposal to make measurements of the monuments I saw, and slight drawings of the decorated capitals and bases.

The word Dhufar is susceptible of being broken up into two words—Dhu Afar—Afar being the Wadi bounding one of the largest frankincense areas. I unfortunately omitted to question the natives on its probable derivation. In the Hadara dialects modifications of this word, e.g., Afur, *Au'fur* mean "red" and the meaning "Red Country" is satisfied by the predominant red

colour of W. Afar and W. Dhukur. In the Shahari dialect, the word *Afar* means clouds, and the name "the cloudy country" is satisfied by Dhufar's continuous rainfall for three months during the south-west monsoon. Whether Ophir, which has been suggested on grounds of similarity of name, receives any confirmation from such speculations, is perhaps a debatable matter.

AN ARAB ACADEMY.

Steps are being taken by the Egyptian Ministry of Education for the creation of an Arab Academy, part of whose mission will be to adapt the Arabic language to the requirements of modern science. The number of members is to be fifteen, with the present Minister of Education, Ahmed Loutfi el Sayed Bey, as president. Among those whose appointment to the new Academy is being considered are mentioned the following:—Ahmed Shawki Bey, Khalil Moutram Bey, and Hafiz Ibrahim Bey, poets; Abdul Hamid Badawi Pasha, Ahmed Naqib el Hilali Bey, jurisconsults; Shaikh Mohammed Mustapha el Maraghi, Rector of Al Azhar, representing Muhammadan Law; Dr. Taha Hussein and Dr. Ahmed el Iskandari, representing the Arabic language and Semitic philology, and Dr. George Soubhi, representing ancient languages; Dr. Ali Bey Ibrahim, Physician, and Dr. Mustapha Mousharrafa, mathematician.

NEWS IN BRIEF.

It has been announced at Tirana that Belgium has recognised the new Albanian Monarchy.

Treaties of Arbitration and Conciliation between the United States and Albania were signed at Washington on October 22.

The fifth anniversary of the proclamation of the Turkish Republic was celebrated on October 29 by a review of troops and Boy Scouts by the Ghazi Pasha in Angora.

The death is announced in Constantinople of Madame Sevket Bey, mother of Madame Ferid Bey, wife of the Turkish Ambassador in London.

Ratib Pasha, the new Egyptian Ambassador, and Subhy Beg, the new Iraq Minister, presented their Letters of Credence on October 26 to Ghazi Mustapha Kemal Pasha, President of the Turkish Republic.

Some fifty Afghan officers who have completed a course of military instruction at the Turkish Military Academy in Constantinople have been recalled to Kabul. A number of them have married Turkish wives, who will accompany them on their return.

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Book Reviews

A MUSLIM WHO'S WHO.

"AS-SUYUTI'S WHO'S WHO IN THE FIFTEENTH CENTURY."
Nazm ul-Qayan fi A'yan-il-A'yan, being A Biographical Dictionary of Notable Men and Women in Egypt, Syria, and the Muslim World, based on Two Manuscripts, one in Cairo and the other in Leiden edited by Philip K. Hitti. (New York: Syrian-American Press. 1927)

Further information on the Mameluk period is always to be welcomed; and in Dr. Hitti's edition of as-Suyuti's biographical dictionary we are fortunate in receiving an account of the chief figures in Egyptian society in the fifteenth century from the pen of the most learned, if not the most unbiased, Professor in the University of Cairo at that time. The text is based on manuscripts dated 974 and 1097 A.H., so that they can claim a respectable antiquity.

Scholars have known of this work since Meursinge translated a portion of it many years ago; but it is only now made accessible. Dr. Hitti provides a preface in Arabic, in which he describes the MSS. and gives an interesting account of the life of the author and of his relations with his contemporaries. As-Suyuti does not seem to have suffered fools gladly, and consequently he made many enemies; although it is only fair to record that even in the last years of his life, which were spent more or less in disgrace on the island of Rauda, he was visited as an acknowledged superior by the principal men of his time. There is a tradition in Islam, which claims the authority of Muhammad, that at the beginning of each century Allah will send his people a reformer who will revivify their religion. As-Suyuti felt himself charged with this mission, and as the consciousness of it grew more insistent his attitude towards such of his contemporaries as would not admit his intellectual pre-eminence nor his claim to an exceptional authority, became more overbearing. Controversy between authors is seldom edifying, and these long-forgotten squabbles of a famous University can have value only if they suggest tolerance and scholarly detachment in theological disputes.

In his age and generation as-Suyuti was a genius: but he must have been a difficult man to live with. If he was a plagiarist, as his enemies asserted, he was a prince of plagiarists. By his skilful handling of literary material he obtained a notoriety for his publications which the *soi-disant* authors would not have enjoyed. He was an indefatigable student of the literary treasures of the past who, according to his detractors, preferred independent research to attendance at other men's lectures. His fame as a scholarly expositor is still widespread throughout the Islamic world.

The present work furnishes information about two hundred of the writer's contemporaries in the Near East, and in some instances as-Suyuti's account is the sole record of the persons named. Sometimes he draws his information from books which are not known to be extant. The author's plan is to give the full name of each person, the names of his teachers and his publications, and the date of his birth and death. Thus the work may well prove of considerable importance in checking and amplifying existing information on Muslim society during this epoch. Some headings are followed by no more information than that just summarised: others contain long extracts from the subject's writings, selected generally from his verse. The verses are for the most part trite and commonplace, and reflect the lack of inspiration and originality which marks most of the prose of the period. Traditional forms of thought as well as of expression were dictated to the Egyptian of the fifteenth century. On the whole, bibliographical rather than biographical information is recorded, but this is not always so.

On pp. 17f two extracts from Ibn Sa'd's "Tabaqat" are quoted by as-Suyuti. To judge by the footnotes, the Editor has collated them with the standard edition and has found no variant worthy of notice. As-Suyuti has merely epitomised. It would have been well if Dr. Hitti had collated the other excerpts from the hadith collections

with the printed texts. Such notes are of assistance to scholars, and serve to draw attention to variants in hadith or to illustrate dependence or otherwise on certain families of manuscripts.

Among the many literary notes which are to be found here and there in the biographies is the statement that the practice of giving a general *ijaza*, or licence, to cite traditions in the lecturer's name, had become obsolete. As-Suyuti elsewhere (in his "History of the Caliphs") records with obvious disapproval the bad example which the Caliph Nasir set in obtaining licences from the foremost traditionists of the time, and permitting all and sundry to cover themselves with the authority he had thus secured.

We notice that the date of the deposition of the Caliph Al Qaim bi Amri' llah (*sub voce*) is said to have been in the month Rajab of the year 859; whereas in the "History of the Caliphs" (Cairo edition) as-Suyuti states that al-Ashraf deposed the Caliph in the month of Jumada. (Jarrett, who worked from MSS. he found in India, says Jumada II.) This is an indication of the possible value this work may have for the historian to whom must be left the task of assigning proper value to the conflicting statements.

A most interesting feature of this book is the printing of Arabic in linotype. This is said to be the first time that a scholarly work has been thus printed; the result is most pleasing to the eye, save that the ligature between the letter "sin" and its neighbours is not so clear as in ordinary printing.

Dr. Hitti's edition of this valuable work adds to our knowledge of the last days of the Caliphate, and affords fresh material to the historian and bibliographer as well as to the student of Islamic culture.

ALFRED GUILLAUME.

GALLIPOLI SEEN THROUGH GERMAN EYES.

"THE CAMPAIGN IN GALLIPOLI." By Major-General Hans Kannengieser. Illustrated. (London: Hutchinson and Co. 21s. net.)

In Germany there seems to have been little understanding of the importance of the Gallipoli Campaign in the waging of the Great War or of the very important part taken in it by the small band of German officers and men engaged as a Military Mission on the reform of the Turkish Army before the War began. The author's object has been to bring these points home to his fellow countrymen as well as, perhaps, to work off some of the very natural irritation felt by himself and his companions at being kept perforce out of the fighting in France. His brief, straightforward and modest narrative is certainly well calculated to fulfil his object, and the German Army has every reason to feel proud of its representatives who served their country so well. But the book, which makes no claim to be a history of the campaign, but restricts itself to an occurrence of what the author saw himself, has, perhaps, even more interest for us than for the Germans. It is free from politics and is written by a plain, well-educated soldier who has no use for frills and is able to appreciate the good points of his enemies. We cannot but be a little amused at his efforts to say pleasant things about his friends, the Turks, officers and men, and the way his real feelings about them come through in spite of all his efforts. The Germans saved Gallipoli for the Turks, but they were not any the better loved for their great services. Their attitude towards everything was diametrically opposed to that of the Turks.

The reader will find much to interest him in the narrative. For instance, it is not a little startling to learn that Admiral de Robeck's attack on the Dardanelles in force had so seriously depleted the Turkish battalions' small store of gun ammunition that a repetition of the

attack on the next day must almost necessarily have resulted in a break-through to the Sea of Marmora. The account of the actual fighting leaves one with little doubt that the deficiency in quality of material on the Turkish side was far more than compensated by the plentiful supply of clean drinking water easily available in the hills which they were defending. The author's astonishment at the very great ability shown by the English in their final evacuation is both complete and generous. He puts the blame of the English defeat on the control by the "War Council" in London, the want of thorough peace training of the officers which so often resulted in missed opportunities, and the want of water. He certainly leaves us in no doubt that the Turks could not have thwarted our purpose had they not had the small band of Germans to direct and control them.

His pen pictures of his Turkish colleagues are interesting. This is what he says of Mustapha Kemal Bey who had at the time a subordinate command.

"The impression that I gained of him during this period was that of a clear-thinking, active, quiet man who knew what he wanted. He weighed and decided everything for himself, without looking elsewhere for support or agreement to his opinions. He spoke accordingly but little, and was always reserved and retiring without being unfriendly. He did not appear to be strong bodily, although extremely wiry. His stubborn energy gave him apparently complete control, both of his troops and of himself."

It is a pity that this valuable book has not been better translated. Not only is the English halting, but the transliteration of Turkish and other place names is also so badly done that it is often difficult to recognise the place in question. We may fairly suppose that the attribution to the British on page 78 of a 38-inch shell is a slip, but a similar excuse cannot apply to the machine-gun rattle, throughout the book, of the splitting, often with much misplaced ingenuity, of infinitives.

The illustrations do not, on the whole, add much to the value of the text, but a good map is given, although there is no index.

C.S-W.

AN AMERICAN'S "WAR BOOK."

"*THE ENORMOUS ROOM.*" By E. E. Cummings. With an Introduction by Robert Graves. (London: Jonathan Cape. 7s. 6d.)

It is due, apparently, to the enthusiastic and formidable combination of "T. E. Lawrence" and Robert Graves that this strange, tortured story of an American imprisoned for a short time during the War by the French authorities, has been published in England, where, however, it can scarcely receive a welcome from any but the morbid, the disgruntled, and the *déraciné*. Quite truly it is an unusual book, even an exciting book, as the author of the "Revolt of the Desert" claims for it. But it is neither literature nor the expression of important experiences.

Mr. Cummings was in France as a non-combatant, and, having a friend who seems to have been extraordinarily indiscreet in some of his letters, he was himself almost bound to come under official suspicion. To such a fate he was by no means unresigned, and it is with a kind of savage joy that he describes the shortcomings of French Government servants and also the peculiarities of fellow suspects.

But it is all too individual, too egocentric, to appeal strongly and permanently to any but those in search of sensation or possessed of anarchistic intellect. Pathological reaction to unessential phases of a national emergency, such as that which befel France in a degree experienced by no other people, may amuse and even edify the psycho-analysts, but to saner, more balanced men the self-conscious expression of it becomes irksome. To get things in the right perspective, one ought to have a French Government official write a history of the generally very beastly suspects whom that Government had to deal with during the War. But neither such a book nor this "Enormous Room" would have much chance of survival in a world concerned with the underlying and enduring bases of the conduct of living during the War.

THE SOUL OF OLD EGYPT.

"*THE NILE AND EGYPTIAN CIVILISATION.*" By Professor A. Moret. Illustrated. (London: Kegan Paul, Trench, Trubner and Co. 25s. net.)

Mr. C. K. Ogden is editing for Messrs. Kegan Paul a series of extremely important books, called "The History of Civilisation," many of which are translations of a similar series published in France. This enterprise has been the means of giving the English reader many works of permanent value and some of quite outstanding merit. Among the latter was Professor Moret's masterly account of the political development of Egypt from a nucleus of primitive communities to a world empire and its gradual decay, which formed the larger part of the book entitled "From Tribe to Empire." We had, at the time of publication, the privilege of calling the attention of our readers to its importance and interest. The qualities of immense learning and of clear statement which characterised the earlier work are equally conspicuous in that now under review.

The subject may, perhaps, be shortly summarised as the history of the religious, social, political, artistic and intellectual growth of the ancient Egyptians. It differs totally from the books on Egypt to which we are accustomed. It opens the door to new ideas and conceptions, and is a treatise of extraordinary interest and power. While intimately familiar with all the trees in the wood, Professor Moret never loses his clear view of the wood itself, and, in spite of (or rather, because of) his immense learning, he has written a book of absorbing interest and pellucid clarity. Perhaps the most enthralling parts of it concern the author's novel views on the divine and semi-divine kings who came before the existence of history, as we usually understand the term, and his explanation of the long period of darkness which puzzles the historian in the three-and-a-half centuries preceding B.C. 2000. This latter piece of research throws a flood of light on the whole mentality of the ancient Egyptian and explains the later history of the country in a way which has hitherto been impossible, especially the gradual undermining of central authority by the priests and feudal nobles which finally led to foreign domination. Altogether a masterly book by a master of his subject; excellent both from the scientific and from the literary point of view. He has achieved what only a few men of great learning can hope for, a book which nowhere stoops to the "popular" reader and which is yet easily read with full interest and enjoyment by the unlearned. We should add that it has been well translated, and that its illustrations, although not very well produced, are useful.

C. S-W.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

"Baghdad in Bygone Days." From the Journals and Correspondence of Claudius Rich, Traveller, Artist, Linguist, Antiquary, and British Resident at Baghdad 1808-1821. By Constance M. Alexander. (London: John Murray. 16s. net.)

"Cannibal Jack: The True Autobiography of a White Man in the South Seas." By William Diapea. (London: Faber and Gwyer, Ltd. 7s. 6d. net.)

"Dedication." By Viola Garvin. (London: Victor Gollancz. 3s. 6d. net.)

"The Roman World." By Victor Chapot. (London: Routledge. 16s. net.)

"The Dreaming God." By Basil Carey. (London: Constable. 3s. 6d. net.)

"The Dangerous Isles." By Basil Carey. (London: Constable. 3s. 6d. net.)

"The Commission and After." By A Liberal. (Bombay: D. B. Taraporevala Sons and Co. Rs.3.)

"The Holy Roman Empire." By E. F. Jacob, M.A., D.Phil. (London: Ernest Benn, Ltd. 6d. net.)

"The Tragedy of Greece." By S. P. P. Cosmetatos. With a Foreword by Cyril Hughes Hartmann, M.A., B.Litt. (London: Messrs. Kegan Paul, Trench, Trubner and Co. 15s. net.)

"The Dragon Sheds His Skin." By Winifred Galbraith. (London: Jonathan Cape. 7s. 6d. net.)

"Voices From the Near East." Edited by Milton Stauffer. (London: Student Christian Movement. 3s. net.)

"The Art of the Pali Empire of Bengal." By J. C. French, I.C.S. (London: Humphrey Milford. 18s. net.)

THE WEEK AT HOME

London, Tuesday Morning.

A Diagnosis of Liberalism.

Considerable entertainment is being afforded to those above the battle by the present argument between the Editor of the *Observer* and the official Liberals. Mr. Garvin wrote a short time ago that the Liberal Party shows no signs of revival—a harmless sort of accurate statement that the unkind might almost have called a platitude. Not so, however, Sir Herbert Samuel and his henchmen. For they believe, or say they believe, in a Liberal revival, and consequently are not at all beholden to the *Observer* for asserting the contrary.

The impartial witness is bound to deny the justice of the official Liberals' claim: the tide of Liberalism is not flowing, but only their money. Nor can this loss be explained by the personal defects of the candidates put forward. For what could Sir Herbert Samuel himself do in the Glasgow University Rectorial Election last Saturday? He polled 369 votes against the 1,044 of Mr. Baldwin and the 978 of Mr. Cunninghame-Graham!

The truth is, although they will not see it, that the Liberals have nothing to offer, except a stale and flat refusal to accept Safeguarding in any form, beyond the offer of the Conservatives. That they as a Party are any keener on peace than the present Administration was adequately disproved by the very remarkable utterance which the Prime Minister made at the League of Nations Union meeting in London last week. The strength and the sincerity of the Prime Minister's remarks then in favour of peace and also—this was very significant and not to be forgotten—in favour of the crediting of national statesmen with decent, not with indecent motives, made a very deep impression. One felt that Lord Grey himself, who was in the Chair, could not from all his Liberalism cull any choicer words than those spoken by Mr. Baldwin.

Scottish Nationalism.

It is a great error to suppose that Ireland has a monopoly of Nationalists in these islands, for we now have, as I have recorded before, both Scottish Nationalists and Welsh Nationalists. (In due course, it is to be hoped, we shall have the Nationalists the most needed of all, English Nationalists.) The Nationalists of Scotland are particularly prominent at the moment, being elated at the large number of votes which Mr. Cunninghame-Graham has just polled at Glasgow University.

What do they want, you ask, that they do not already possess? Well, as a start, they want Home Rule. They want to preserve Scottish autonomy, the Scottish language, Scottish customs and traditions, and so on. They fear that racial extinction is imminent, apparently being impressed by the Irish "invasion" of the industrial parts of Scotland. Quite seriously the proposal has been laid down to run candidates at the next General Election with this programme.

It is a little difficult for the Sassenach not to be amused at the monstrosity of the claim which the Scots, having overrun England years ago, having taken all her best jobs in practically every sphere, from the Church to politics, are now putting forward. Who has really been running Westminster, whose neglect of Scottish problems they now complain of, if not Scotsmen? Who has been running the newspapers, which are so ignorant of the beauties of the pure Scots character, of the Scots achievement, if it is not Scotsmen?

It seems to come to this, that Scotsmen, having (very successfully) emigrated from their own country, are now complaining when someone else (the Irish) is trying to make a "do" of a place which they themselves preferred to abandon. But of course not all Scotsmen are like this; and I rather doubt whether this new party will make much splash even in wild Caledonia.

The Bishops' "Impasse."

There seems to be little prospect of a pathway being found through the bog which was created for the Bishops by the parliamentary rejection of the Revised Prayer-Book. As if to make matters doubly sure of being all awry, the two Synods which were held last week in London and Liverpool have rejected the Bishops' proposals. Owing to a strange mixture of the Anglo-Catholic and the Evangelical vote, the Bishops have now seen that, at any rate in these important dioceses, the majority of the clergy are against them.

What is to be done, if the dioceses pronounce against the Lambeth programme of the Bishops, it is impossible to foresee. But this is a most probable contingency, for if there is opposition in the South, there will be much more opposition in the North.

A London Traffic Monopoly.

The individualists as well as the Socialists have been stirred to protest by some proposals that were recently brought forward for granting to the London Traffic Combine, which is headed by Lord Ashfield, the running of the L.C.C. trams, which, it is asserted, have for a long time been unable to pay their way. There is something inherent in the Londoner, perhaps, which makes him suspicious of monopolies, particularly of such a manifest monopoly as a transport monopoly would be.

Of course the plea is being adduced that no monopoly is intended, but only that, by means of common management of trams, buses, and Tubes, the present cut-throat competition and waste of overlapping would be avoided. It will be interesting to see whether the L.C.C. can recognise the face of the tiger when they see it. London is looking on at the coming struggle with unusual interest.

Rugger.

The two things that have most struck the follower of "Rugger" are the re-emergence of Coventry as a really first-class team, and the probability of a close match between Oxford and Cambridge at Twickenham next December. At present it is early days to write about the 'Varsity fifteens, but obviously Oxford have better material than they have had for some time past. No one can welcome this fact more sincerely than the Cambridge man, who is a little fatigued with the poor opposition which the Dark Blues have been showing in recent years. Perhaps the most noticeable feature of the Cambridge side as it has so far played is the number of Welshmen picked. And the star of "Cats" can hardly ever before have been so much in the ascendant.

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PERSONAL AND GENERAL

TO-DAY

November 1, 1928 (New Style).

October 19, 1928 (Old Style).

Jumada I, 17, 1347 A.H., of the Muslim Calendar.

Marcheshvan 18, 5689, of the Jewish Calendar.

Lady Willoughby de Broke left England on October 30 on a visit to Egypt and Spain.

Sir Clement Hindley, the outgoing Chief Commissioner of Railways in India, has arrived in London.

Sir Leslie Wilson, Governor of Bombay, is paying a farewell visit to Karachi from October 31 to November 2.

Major-General Sir Edmund Ironside sailed in the P. and O. s.s. Ranpura from Tilbury on October 26 for Bombay.

Lord Melchett and the Hon. Henry and Mrs. Mond arrived in England yesterday (Wednesday) on their return from the United States.

Saturday, October 27, was observed throughout Roumania, as the birthday of King Michael, who was born on October 25, 1921.

Captain and Lady Mary Herbert, have returned from India, where Captain Herbert has served for two years as aide-de-camp to Lord Irwin.

The ex-King of the Hellenes honoured Commander Oliver Locker-Lampson, M.P., with his company at lunch on October 23 at the Savoy Hotel.

Field-Marshal Viscount Allenby and Viscountess Allenby will return to 24, Wetherby Gardens on November 6, from America.

Rear-Admiral and Mrs. Humphrey Walwyn left England on October 26 in the s.s. Ranpura for Bombay. Their address will be Admiral's House, Bombay.

M. Henri Martin, who was for many years Commercial Attaché at the Swiss Legation in London, has been appointed Minister in Angola, where a Swiss Legation was recently created.

Mr. H. Fish Armstrong, Editor of *Foreign Affairs* (New York), who has been on a visit of several weeks to the Balkans, was in London last week and left for New York on October 24.

The marriage is taking place to-day, at St. Margaret's, Westminster, between Josephine, daughter of Mrs. Joseph Addison, of 18, Hans Road, S.W., and Mr. Somerset Hopkinson, the Rifle Brigade.

Dr. Ante Trumbitch, leader of the Croat Federalist Party, at one time Foreign Minister of Yugoslavia and previously Yugoslav Minister in London, has arrived in England from Zagreb.

On the occasion of the anniversary of the proclamation of the Turkish Republic, the Turkish Ambassador in London held a reception for the Turkish Colony at the Embassy on October 29.

Lord and Lady Airedale and their daughter, the Hon. Mrs. Halstead Connor, left London in October 27 in the Orient liner Oronsay for India. Other passengers were the Bishop of Swansea, the Hon. Kenneth and Mrs. Mackay, Sir Charles and Lady Nathan, Sir John Hewett, Major-General Sir George Richardson, Major Colin and Lady Margaret MacRae, and Sir Hugh Stuart-Forbes.

The Nawab of Bhopal gave a luncheon party at Claridge's Hotel on October 26, when his guests included the Maharajah of Kashmir, Viscount Knebworth, Lord Ebury and the Hon. Betty Grosvenor, the Hon. Kenneth and Mrs. Mackay, Captain the Hon. Inigo and Mrs. Freeman-Thomas, Sir Thomas Carey-Evans, Captain and Mrs. FitzGerald, Major Nawab Khusru Jung, Colonel Amir Ahmed, and Captain Mohammed Habid.

Mrs. N. C. Sen, who is leaving shortly for India, gave a reception at the rooms of the British Indian Union, Grosvenor Gardens, on October 26, when the company included: the Persian Minister, the Latvian Minister and Mme. Vesmans, Lady Swaythling, Viscountess Erleigh, the Maharajah of Burdwan, Lady Carmichael, Prince Victor of Cooch Behar, Lady Hirtzel, Sir Louis and Lady Dane, Sir E. and Lady Chamier, Sir Dorab and Lady Tata, Lieutenant-Colonel Sir Francis and Lady Young-husband, Sir Robert and Lady Holland, Mr. and Mrs. S. N. Mallik, Miss Gertrude Kinnaird, Sir Herbert and Lady Holmwood, the Dowager Lady Boyle, Lieutenant-Colonel and Mrs. Patterson, Mrs. Ameer Ali, Sir J. and Lady Mackenna, Sir Theodore and Lady Pigott, Sir Thomas and Lady Arnold, Sir Henry and Lady Wheeler, Sir Selwyn Fremantle, Sir M. M. Bhownaggee, Colonel Rao Raja Amir Singh, Sir Henry and Lady Birt, and Lady Pinhey.

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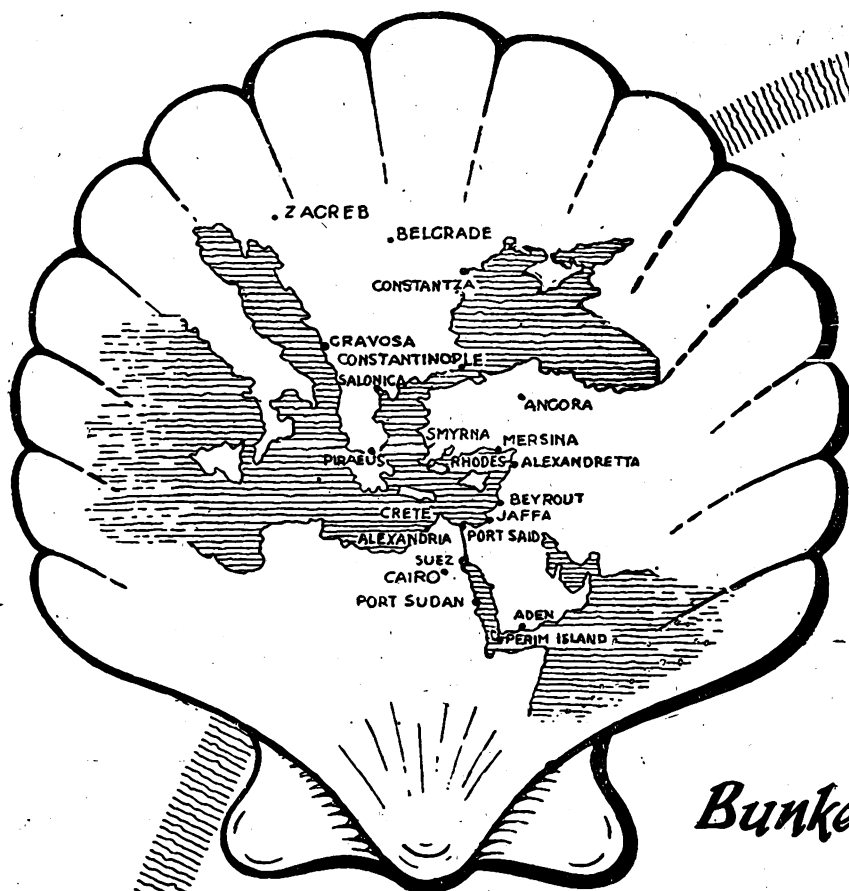
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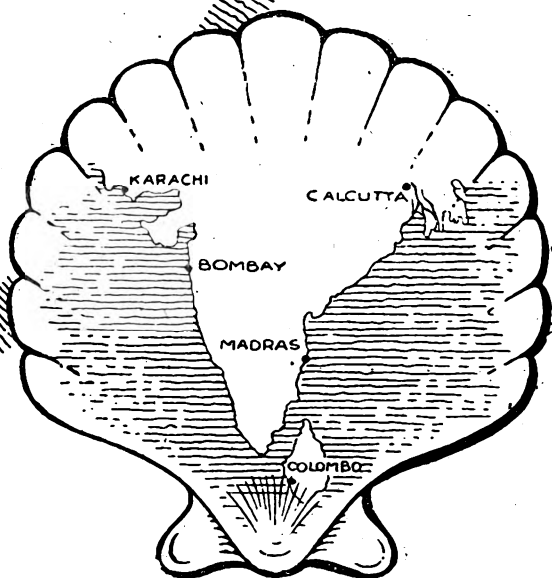
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SHELL



Commercial and Financial Section.

NOTES AND NEWS

170, Strand, London, W.C.2,
Tuesday Morning.

The Bulgarian Loan.

It is unfortunate for Bulgaria that the negotiations for her loan should have to be conducted at a time when the market is rather overweighted with flotations. Politically speaking, she has advanced far in the two years that have elapsed since she negotiated her last loan, in December 1926, and she might well consider herself entitled to better terms than the seven per cent. at 92 that she then obtained. In these matters, however, the state of the money market plays an important, if not a decisive, part, and, as things are, it will not create surprise if the new loan has to be made even more attractive for the investor than the last.

Trade and the Roumanian Loan.

It is fervently to be hoped that in the case of the Roumanian Loan the authorities here will abandon their traditional *laissez faire* policy as regards foreign issues and will insist on the insertion of a clause providing that a part of the money to be raised here shall be spent in the purchase of British material. I have singled out the Roumanian from the two Near Eastern loans shortly to be issued because Bulgaria's case is quite different from that of Roumania's and it is obvious that a very large part of any loan Roumania raises must go to the purchase of material for the railways. If a Yugoslav loan were in question (and apparently it soon will be) I should take the same point of view that I take in the case of the Roumanian loan, and I am going to be bold enough to suggest that if the authorities depart from their traditional procedure in regard to the Roumanian loan the precedent thus established should be followed henceforward. In saying this I am aware of the difficulties of the case. The interests of finance and trade in this respect are not the same. The ideal of high finance is to avoid anything which may impair London's position as the world's money market, and it is perhaps not surprising if the idea of insisting that our borrowers should trade with us should be looked at askance as likely to make countries turn to other markets to obtain the credits they desire. But there is only one other state to which they can resort with any prospect of satisfaction, for at the present time America and Great Britain alone are in a position to float loans of any size, and America, it may be noted, has long recognised the value of the trading clause in loans as an instrument for trade development.

Commerce Follows Money.

In view of the number of examples we have had especially before the War it is difficult not to think that we have been following a stupid policy. Germany in Turkey and Bulgaria, and France in Russia in pre-War days found in loans a facile means of furthering a policy of commercial penetration. Since the War we have made a large number of loans notably in the Near East, and it cannot justly be said that by placing the resources of the London money market at the disposal of the various countries we have done much to benefit trade. There has certainly been no obvious movement to "Buy British" in these countries, and in the circumstances there need be no occasion for surprise were we to copy the example of our competitors.

If the authorities do at last decide to take action, starting with the Roumanian loan, it will be due largely to the fact that a trade revival here is so slow in making its presence felt; recent figures with regard to trade outside the Empire, indeed, have shown that we are not even holding our own. It may be due also, I suspect, partly to the fact that the Roumanian loan will be unpopular in certain quarters—despite the fact that the proposed alterations in the Mining Law are understood to meet the desires of the oil companies, whose hostility will thus be removed—and a loan which is certain to help trade is likely to be received with special favour at the present juncture. In any case, the motive matters not if the end is attained, and from the point of view of the Roumanians it must be quite immaterial from what source they get the railway material they must have, provided it is of the first quality. And that they know they will obtain from the workshops of Great Britain.

Latifiyah (Iraq) Estates.

Shareholders in the Latifiyah (Iraq) Estates Ltd., will learn with satisfaction that the agreement arrived at with the Iraq Government by which the company receives the Latifiyah Estates of approximately 100,323 misharas (roughly 60,000 acres) has now become effective having been passed by the Iraq Parliament and ratified by the Senate. The amount for which the company has acquired its new property is £15,016 3s. or Rs.2 per mishara. Arrangements are now being made whereby Tapu deeds for the estate will be issued. The question of the development and exploitation of the estate is now being dealt with, and Mr. W. D. Garbutt, now in the service of the Government of Iraq is to be manager of the estate as soon as he can be released from his present duties.

The P. and O. Dividend.

The final dividend on the Deferred stock of the P. and O. for the year ended September 30 last is 7 per cent. free of income tax, making the distribution for the twelve months 12 per cent., which is 2 per cent. more than the dividend for the three previous years, and it is noteworthy that it is paid on an increased capital as the additional £1,000,000 of Deferred stock ranked for dividends as from October 1, 1927, on the amounts then paid up. In view of the conservative policy pursued by the company this increased distribution will naturally be

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regarded as throwing a most encouraging light on the trade outlook. Lord Inchcape's survey of the situation at the annual meeting in December will, in the circumstances, be awaited with considerable eagerness. While on the subject of the P. and O. Company reference must be made to the recent division of the Deferred stock into £1 units. The disadvantages attaching to a stock of high denomination are obvious; it restricts dealings, tends to concentrate the stock in a relatively few hands, and by limiting the market may have the effect of keeping the price of the stock below the level which represents its intrinsic merits. In the case of the P. and O. the result has been a notable appreciation in the price, so that the stockholders have every reason to be satisfied with developments in the past few weeks.

Anglo-Persian Oil Profits.

Even if the British Government were not directly interested in the company the Anglo-Persian Oil Company would naturally be regarded as being as much a national institution as the P. and O. is, and considerable interest therefore attaches to its report for the year ended March 31 last, which has just made its appearance. As the dividend announcement foreshadowed, there has been a shrinkage in profits which was only to be expected in view of the exceedingly difficult conditions which have obtained in the oil world. The profits amounted to £3,112,529 as against £4,635,444 for the year ended March 31, 1927, and £4,383,232 for the previous twelve months. The effect of this is seen in the reduction of the Ordinary dividend from 12½ per cent. to 7½ per cent., which calls for £1,006,875 as compared with £1,678,125, while the appropriation for reserves total £800,000 as against £1,300,000. There is this time a great saving in income tax, while the decreased profits means a considerable reduction in the royalty paid to the Persian Government which is estimated this time at £250,000 as compared with over £1,000,000 for the previous year.

Increased Turnover.

Very little information is given in the report with regard to developments during the year, and for this and a survey of the outlook we must await Sir John Cadman's speech at the approaching general meeting. The only reference to the cause of the decline in earnings is the statement that the level of world prices fell considerably during the year, but the consequences have been to some extent offset by improvements in process and increased turnover. Particulars of the production are not given, but it is stated that production from the main field at Masjid-i-Suleiman continues at the steady rate of increase necessitated by the extensions of the marketing organisations. A large productive well established last April the existence of a new oil structure at Haft Kel, 55 miles S.S.E. of the main field. It is also stated that production in the Argentine fell slightly below the level of the preceding year, while test drilling has been continued in Albania but no favourable indications were met with during the year. The output of the company's refineries and those of the associated companies were satisfactory both in quality and quantity, and considerable extensions have been made, particularly at Abadan.

Assam Railways and Trading.

At the meeting of the Assam Railways and Trading Company Mr. James Mackenzie, who presided in the absence of the Chairman, was able to give a most satisfactory account of the company's progress. For the past year the trading profit was not so large as for the previous twelve months, but apart from that period it was the best return recorded. A noteworthy feature of the year was the further increase in earnings on the railway. In view of the Government's policy with regard to the railways it is interesting to note that the official view is that the purchase of this line in 1931 is extremely improbable, so that the company will be able to carry on its plans unhampered by the thought that the railway may shortly be acquired by the State.

South Indian Railway.

I have frequently had occasion to refer in these columns to the question of motor bus competition in relation to the railways. At the meeting of the South Indian Railway Company the Chairman referred to this question and said that the effect of this competition has been felt by this railway like most railways in India. Efforts have been made by the railway to retain the traffic by running rail motors and additional trains, but this action has so far not been entirely effective. In some cases, the Chairman pointed out, the motor buses are running as feeders to the railway, and this, as he suggested, is a development to be encouraged. As I have already mentioned, there was an increase in the mileage of this railway during the year of 156 miles, and in the current year large additions are also being made, details of which were given by the Chairman. It is significant of the rapid progress of this railway that construction is proceeding on some 200 miles of new lines, while surveys for further projects aggregating more than 500 miles were completed or were in progress in the past year. This development work will have its effect in due course on the earnings of the line.

A Loss to the Banking World.

There will be very general regret at the news of the death of Mr. William John Kemsley Hegarty, general manager of the National Bank of India, which took place suddenly on October 25. Mr. Hegarty, who was only 55 years of age, joined the bank in 1894, and three years later went out to the East. He was manager of various branches of the bank in India, including the Calcutta office, and eventually became inspector of the Indian branches, which office he was holding when he was appointed London manager in 1927. On the retirement of Mr. Charles Nicoll less than a year ago he became general manager, a position which his great experience and the high reputation he enjoyed in the banking world made him eminently fitted to hold. Quite recently he was understood to have been offered an appointment of the first importance elsewhere, but he was attached to the bank which he had served throughout his career, and his decision was to remain with it. Mr. Hegarty, who was a bachelor, and lived at his club, was extremely popular both with the staff of the bank and its clients.

COMMENTATOR.

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REORGANISATION OF ROUMANIAN RAILWAYS.

One of the signs of the confidence now general in official circles in Roumania in the success of the loan negotiations is the activity recently shown in reorganising and improving the transport system. Through express trains have been put on to many important centres, i.e., to Sinaia, Galatz, Cernautzi, Oradea Mare, Constantza, etc., and at the International Railway Conference held in Vienna on October 22 the Roumanian delegates were to propose that the neighbouring countries should co-operate with them in accelerating the international services from the East to the West and the North, i.e., from Bucharest and Constantza to Paris, Berlin and Dantzig.

For instance, it is proposed (a) that direct first and second-class carriages should be attached both in summer and winter to the Bucharest-Paris express leaving Bucharest at 1.30 p.m. *via* Curtici and Budapest, and not only in summer as hitherto; (b) that the Hungarian railways should run an express service in connexion with the new Bucharest-Cluj and Satu-Mare express (started on October 22), and that the frontier Customs formalities should be performed during the transit of this train, so as to make it possible to leave Bucharest at 7 a.m. and to arrive in Budapest at 11 p.m. the same day; further, that a direct carriage, first and second class, from Bucharest to Vienna should be attached to this train. (When it is considered that up to the present it has taken from 25 to 30 hours to reach Vienna from Bucharest, it will be understood how great a blessing such a train would be to travellers.) (c) That the Calais-Bucharest direct carriage of the Orient Express should be run on to Constantza to connect with the ships of the Service Maritime Romaine serving Constantinople, Piræus, and Alexandria; (d) that an express service be arranged from Berlin to Bucharest and Constantza, with through carriages to the latter port, in extension of the new Roumanian express service from Bucharest to Cernautzi, by which the travelling time between Berlin and Constantza would be reduced to 33 hours; and that in connexion with this service through expresses be run from Warsaw to Bucharest, and Dantzig to Constantza; (e) that greater facilities should be given to induce Bulgarian travellers to take the Roumanian route to Budapest and Vienna instead of going through Yugoslavia. It seems unlikely that any objections will be raised to these proposals by the countries concerned, so that there is reasonable hope that the train services from Bucharest to the West and North will soon be greatly accelerated.

As regards inland transport, the Minister of Communications, in a long article published in the *Indépendance Roumaine* of October 24, outlined a long series of improvements which he proposes to carry out with all possible speed. They include the doubling of the line from Bucharest to Piteshti (the Simplon Express route) and the finishing of the Brashov-Nehoiash-Buzeu railway, which is of the greatest importance for traffic between Transylvania and the Danube ports.

A Belgrade message states that a contract between the Swedish-American Investment Corporation of Stockholm and the State Monopoly Direction of Yugoslavia was signed on October 27 by a representative of the Alstrom Syndicate and members of the State Monopoly Committee. The terms of the loan contract, which is for 22,000,000 dollars, involve a guarantee by the manufacture and sale of matches which have been conceded to the syndicate. The interest has been fixed at 6½, and the price of issue at 90. The loan will be redeemable in thirty years' time.

TO SUBSCRIBERS IN THE MIDDLE EAST.

Readers of "The Near East and India" in Iraq and Persia are reminded that for a subscription of £1 15s. per annum, the Paper is sent by Overland Mail. A subscription of £1 10s. covers postage by ordinary long-sea mail only.

GREECE'S TRADE POSITION.

The statistics for Greece's trade for the first half of this year make rather unfavourable showing when compared with the figures for the corresponding period of the previous year. The value of the imports showed a further substantial increase while that of the exports declined. The total for the imports (in thousands of drachmæ) was 6,336,540 as against 6,191,025 for 1927 and 4,622,156 for 1926, while the figures for the exports were 2,559,782 as against 2,724,763 for 1927 and 1,932,341 for 1926. The adverse balance for the half year was thus 3,776,758 as against one of 3,436,262 for 1927 and one of 2,776,758 for 1926. Converted into sterling at the mean rates of exchange these figures mean that Greece had an adverse balance for the half year of £10,071,000 as against £9,393,000 for 1927 and £7,331,000 for 1926. The reason for the increase in the adverse trade balance is principally that the imports included a large amount of material for various construction works, etc. The imports of agricultural products declined somewhat, as was to be expected in view of the development of agriculture in the country. The principal declines in the exports were in respect of tobacco (296,600,000 drachmæ) and wine 123,400,000. Greece has suffered, of course, as regards tobacco from the fact that there has been a tendency for the market to be overstocked with types produced in the Balkans. Bulgaria, Yugoslavia, and Greece all compete against each other with the result that they find it difficult to dispose of their crops.

In July 33 new motor cars and 13 new lorries and omnibuses were registered in Iraq.

The Brightside Foundry and Engineering Company have received an order for a rolling mill for India.

The Egyptian State Railways have given an order to the Steel Company of Scotland, Ltd., Glasgow, for the supply of carriage and waggon tyres.

The Greek Government has decided to grant a concession to a British company for the construction of aerodromes on the island of Corfu and at Argostoli, Navarino, and Suda, to be used in connexion with the London-Cairo section of the Imperial air route to India.

COMPANY NOTICE.

LATIFIYAH (IRAQ) ESTATES Limited.

The Directors of Latifiyah (Iraq) Estates Limited have pleasure in informing the shareholders that the Bill required to carry out the terms of the Agreement with the Iraq Government, dated 8th February, 1928, has been passed by that Parliament and ratified by the Senate, with the result that arrangements are being made by the company's representative in Baghdad whereby Tapu Deeds for the Latifiyah Estate of about 60,000 acres will be issued.

The active development and exploitation of the property is receiving the attention of the board, and Mr. W. D. Garbutt, a practical Agriculturist, now in the service of the Government of Iraq, will join the company as manager in Mesopotamia as soon as he can be released from his present charge. Meantime, the Department of Irrigation is proceeding with the preliminary work in connexion with the construction of the main canal and the necessary ancillary works for providing a supply of water for the Irrigation of the Estate.

The Directors desire to place on record their appreciation of the manner in which the Government of Iraq have met an admittedly difficult and complex situation, and believe the settlement now made is favourable to the company.

The formalities in connexion with the reduction of the capital of the company have been complied with, and shareholders are requested on or after the 7th November, 1928, to send their certificates for shares of £1 each, 10s. paid up, to the address below, when they will be exchanged for share certificates for fully paid shares of 10s. each.

WILLIAM S. GREGG, Secretary.

NOTE.—For the convenience of shareholders domiciled in Iraq arrangements will be made for their certificates to be exchanged at the company's Baghdad office and they will receive a notification from that office in due course.

Bank Buildings, 16, St. James's Street, London, S.W.1.
25th October, 1928.

MOTORS IN ROUMANIA.

The number of motor cars registered in Roumania on January 1 last was 22,295, and it is indicative of the trade enterprise of America that 11,095 of the motor cars came from that country, 6,694 of them being Fords. As a matter of fact, the proportion of American to European cars in Roumania is rapidly increasing. On January 1, 1926, American cars represented 33.89 per cent., a year later the percentage was 42.93, while on January 1 last it was 48.85, and presumably the current year will place American cars well in front. The Ford, as may be imagined from the figures given, easily heads the list of cars in Roumania; next comes the Fiat with 2,946 cars; the Chevrolet is third with 2,234 cars, while the Chrysler is fourth with 755. The figures for other makes of cars are Daimler 227, Sunbeam 36, Napier 29, and Morris 28. From the details given it will be seen that British cars have so far played only a small part in the Roumanian market, but in that respect the position is precisely similar to what it is in the other Balkan markets. The fact that America can find such a market in Roumania for motor cars should be an inspiration to British manufacturers to try to obtain considerably more of the trade than they do at present.

THE SMYRNA FRUIT MARKET.

Messrs. C. J. Giraud and Co., of Smyrna, report as follows for the week ended October 20:—

Sultanas.

The estimated sales to date total 28,500 tons, against 28,850 tons at the corresponding period last year.

Closing prices Smyrna, per cwt., c.i.f. London, for types 12 to 18 were:—30s.; 31s. 6d.; 34s.; 37s.; 42s.; 46s. 6d.; 56s.

Market Conditions.—Demand this week slackened considerably. Prices have eased off to a slight extent, but the decline in foreign equivalents is more marked owing to a sharp rise in exchange representing about 2 per cent. advantage to the exporter. Supplies of fruit remaining in the country appear to be plentiful and the likelihood of the crop attaining even over the estimated figure of 45,000 tons seems probable.

We draw attention to a clerical error in our last report where we indicated the total sales to October 13, 1927, at 30,600 tons instead of 26,350 tons, the correct figure.

Figs.

The estimated arrivals on the Smyrna market since the opening of the season total 23,200 tons, against 21,214 tons at the corresponding period of last year; the estimated sales to date total 20,500 tons, against 20,445 tons.

Market Conditions.—Prices advanced considerably this week owing to few arrivals and demand exceeding supplies. It is evident that stocks in the country are on the point of exhaustion and the season is drawing quickly to a close.

It is reported that fresh lighters, including new ones, are being added to the existing supply at the port of Mersina. Three new electric cranes have been installed there by the Customs authorities.

TENDERS INVITED.

Tenders are invited for the following contracts, and must be made by the dates mentioned.

(Particulars of tenders marked D.O.T. are to be obtained from the Department of Overseas Trade, 55, Old Queen Street, S.W.1.)

EGYPT.

Saddlery, Etc.—The Director of Equipment and Finance Department, Ministry of the Interior, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of various articles such as saddlery, fire-engines accessories, rest-house necessities, leather. November 24.

Microscopes and Accessories.—The Department of Public Health, Egypt, invites tenders for the supply and delivery of microscopes and accessories. November 15. (D.O.T.)

Electric Lighting Installation.—The Minister of the Interior invites tenders for the supply and erection of a complete electric lighting installation for Sohag. November 24. (D.O.T.)

Internal Combustion Marine Units.—The Director-General, Mechanical Department, P.W.M., Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of one 30-B.H.P. internal combustion marine unit required for the Government Workshops, Bulaq, Cairo, November 1; one 45-B.H.P. internal combustion marine unit required for the Government Workshops, Bulaq, Cairo, November 1; and the supply and erection of one 100-B.H.P. internal combustion unit required for stone crushing plant at Ghamra, Cairo. November 10.

Power Unit for Stone Crushing Plant.—The Egyptian Ministry of Public Works invites tenders for the supply of one semi-Diesel type I.C. engine as power unit for stone crushing plant. November 10. (D.O.T.)

THE SUDAN.

Generators and Switchboards.—The Inspector-General, Egyptian Irrigation Department in the Sudan, Khartoum, invites tenders for the supply of three De-Laval Steam Turbo 4½ kilowatt generators and two switchboards, November 10.

TURKEY.

Aerodrome.—Tenders are required for the construction and equipment of an aerodrome on a site in Anatolia. Details must be submitted to the Ministry of Defence by November 15, 1928. (D.O.T.)

FORTHCOMING SAILINGS.

The following are the sailings for the Near East and India, the ports of departure and closing dates for cargo being given in parentheses:—

Anchor Line.—S.s. Elysia for Bombay (Birkenhead, November 5). (For passenger sailings and dates see advertisement.)

Anchor Brocklebank Line.—S.s. Magdapur for Calcutta (Birkenhead, November 8); s.s. Mangalore for Calcutta (Birkenhead, November 15).

Bibby Line.—S.s. Shropshire for Port Said, Port Sudan, Colombo, and Rangoon (Birkenhead, October 31).

British India Line.—S.s. Manela for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, November 3); s.s. Mundra for Bombay and Karachi (London, November 10); s.s. Merkara for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, November 17); s.s. Hatimura for Bombay and Karachi (London, December 1).

Cunard Line.—S.s. Bothnia for Patras, Piræus, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, and Constantza (Glasgow and Swansea November 8, Liverpool November 10); s.s. Bosnia for Casablanca, Gibraltar, Genoa, Leghorn, Naples, Palermo, Messina, Catania, Corfu, Bari, Venice, Trieste, and Fiume, also at Gruz and Ancona, if inducement (Liverpool November 24, and Swansea November 27).

Johnston Line.—S.s. Aviemore for Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Bourgas, Varna, and Constantza (Liverpool, December 1).

P. and O. Line.—S.s. Kaisar-i-Hind for Bombay (London, November 9); s.s. Perim for Calcutta (London, November 10).

Prince Line.—S.s. Lancastrian Prince for Tunis, Malta, Alexandria, Jaffa, Haifa, Beyrout, Tripoli, Alexandretta, Mersina, and Cyprus (London, November 3); s.s. Egyptian Prince for Tunis, Malta, Alexandria, and Cyprus (Manchester, November 3).

Ellerman and Papayanni Lines.—S.s. Polo for Genoa, Leghorn, Naples, Palermo, Messina, Catania, Bari, Gruz*, Venice, Trieste, and Fiume (Liverpool November 7, Swansea November 10); A steamer for Malta, Alexandria, Jaffa*, and Haifa* (Glasgow, November 8); s.s. Egyptian for Malta, Alexandria, Jaffa*, and Haifa* (Liverpool, November 10); s.s. Volturino for Gibraltar, Malta, Alexandria, Jaffa*, and Haifa* (Liverpool, November 17); s.s. Mardinian for Piræus, Volo*, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, and Varna (Liverpool November 17, Swansea November 17); s.s. Algerian for Algiers*, Smyrna, and Constantinople (Liverpool, December 1). *Subject to sufficient inducement. Cargo taken on through Bill of Lading to Algerian ports via Algiers; Moroccan ports via Gibraltar; Tripoli (Barbary) via Malta; Syria and Cyprus via Alexandria; Greek outports via Piræus or other convenient port.

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THE WEEK'S FINANCE.*(By Our Financial Expert.)**London, October 30.*

The continuance of a perfect deluge of new prospectuses has once again been the week's principal feature. This week's list has included some sound investment offers such as the Peruvian Loan and Baldwin's debentures, and several quite attractive offers by well-established commercial undertakings. But once again the majority of the issues have been of the recently familiar type of speculative ventures with new patents or processes to exploit. The public continue to swallow the latter with avidity.

In the markets for existing securities the speculative element has tended to narrow its field of concentration to gramophone shares and a few other favourites, while in many industrial or speculative securities there has been a disposition to take profits. On the whole, it may be said that the "bull" movement in the industrial share sections is neither so broad nor so strong as it has recently been. This slight slowing up may be connected with the rather disappointing reports from many trade centres, and it has been accompanied by a well sustained and fairly heavy demand for sound investment stocks. It is high time that inveterate speculators began to remind themselves firstly, that all booms must end some time, and secondly that there are plenty of sound investment stocks to-day purchasable at reasonable quotations.

The Reparations Problem: The Investor's Interest.

The many holders of the German 7 per cent. sterling bonds of 1926 in this country have no doubt followed with interest the new phase which the reparations problem has apparently entered upon. This is the more likely since there have been rumours of the possibility of a further appeal to the investor with regard to the next step in the reparations problem. The 7 per cent. sterling bonds, it will be remembered, were issued in connexion with the Dawes Scheme, which was not, and was not meant to be, a permanent settlement of the reparations problem. It was an ingenious piece of machinery devised to meet an emergency, and it performed two exceedingly useful functions. It afforded Germany the opportunity, which

she has abundantly used, to set her finances and currency in order and to regain economic stability; it arranged the scale of annual payments which should be required of Germany over a number of years. The Dawes Scheme has worked well, but the time has come when it is important, not merely for Germany but for her creditors, to know what sum, in the aggregate, Germany is to pay. With the re-opening of reparations negotiations we may perhaps be entering upon the final chapter of international War debt settlements, of which the keynote is the settlement of the German War debt total, and the fixation of the period of payment. The discussions which are now beginning raise many problems, and in particular such financial problems as the possibility of "mobilising" German railway bonds and marketing them in New York and other international centres. In these circumstances the investor will follow further developments with the greatest interest.

Mond Nickel Developments.

During recent months there have been remarkable movements in the price of the 10s. ordinary shares of the Mond Nickel Company, which, from the lowest of 18s. 6d. last year, have recently been over £8. The reason, though it has been vaguely known for some time, is now apparent. Negotiations are in progress for what may be merely a close working agreement, or more probably an actual merger, with the International Nickel Company of America. Properties of the two undertakings are in close proximity and important benefits would accrue from co-operative working. It has been suggested that a holding company will be incorporated in Canada to take over the shares of both companies. The assumption is that the ordinary shareholders in the Mond Nickel Company are to receive one share in the new holding company for each share they now own, but International Nickel holders are, it would appear, to get in effect six for one. The publication of these terms, which are, of course, at best intelligent anticipation, caused a sharp fall in Mond Nickel shares, the price declining to 6½; it had been thought that the Mond Nickel interests would be dealt with more generously in the merger. There has since, however, been a recovery in the quotation. It must be emphasised that the information at present available indicates that no agreement of any kind has yet been finally signed, but apparently this is merely a matter of time, and full particulars are expected shortly.

Investment Stocks.

Many small investors, who are dependent mainly or wholly upon dividends or interest on Stock Exchange investments, find it more convenient to have their income coming in in small instalments at frequent intervals, rather than in larger instalments, say, twice a year. In the latter case periods of stringency are likely to occur, and borrowing to meet them is expensive. Incidentally, the receipt of income in two big instalments is often conducive to extravagance. A regular monthly inflow of income can easily be achieved by a careful choice of investments. For instance, anyone who followed the investment list outlined below would have income coming in every month of the year. The interest on the Argentine 4 per cent. railway guaranteed rescission bonds, yielding £5 4s. per cent., is payable in January and July. The months of February and August are provided for by the New Zealand 4 per cent. inscribed stock, returning £4 18s. per cent. The Pearson and Dorman Long debentures, guaranteed under the Trade Facilities Acts, yield £4 18s. per cent., the interest being payable in March and September. An income for April and October could be derived from 3½ per cent. Conversion Loan, yielding £4 11s. per cent. The interest on the Belgian 7 per cent. stabilisation loan, returning £6 6s. per cent., is payable in May and November. The Bristol 4½ Corporation Stock yields £4 17s. per cent., the interest being payable in June and December.

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EAST LONDON—Messrs. Dunn & Co.
PT. ELIZABETH—Mackie, Dunn & Co.

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Motors and Motoring.

By G. B. B.

Braking Systems.

The question has been raised as to whether a motor vehicle designed for commercial or passenger service should be fitted with two independent braking systems. So far it seems that it is certainly desirable for motor coaches or omnibuses to be designed with two more or less separate operating mechanisms, but it appears to be a debatable point as to whether these should be entirely independent of each other or whether some of the parts could not be common to both systems. The point was discussed recently before the Society of Automotive Engineers by Mr. Lockwood and Mr. Best, and the conclusions reached were, briefly, as follows: The purpose of legislation regarding brake equipment is to protect the public by making sure that all vehicles shall be provided with the safest possible brakes. Existing brake laws have a general similarity, apparently being patterned after early enactments formulated during the two-wheel-brake period. In some countries, notably in the United States, the law specifies, in substance, that every automobile shall be equipped with two sets of brakes, which shall be completely independent. This provision was complied with by all two-wheel brakes.

With the introduction of four-wheel brakes, conflict of brake laws and brake mechanisms was discovered, in that the two sets of brakes were not, in all cases, separately applied. Thus the anomalous situation has arisen of efficient four-wheel-brake equipment violating existing laws, while less efficient two-wheel brakes comply with the law. The situation has been met in a broad-minded way by the motor vehicle administrators, who have registered vehicles with the new brakes provisionally, pending a final decision on the question of violation of the law.

It is interesting, in this connexion, to note that definite recommendation has been made by the Eastern Conference of Motor Vehicle Administrators, which has formulated for adoption the following new law:—

Every motor vehicle operated in or upon any public highway in this State shall be equipped with brakes adequate to control the movement of and to stop such vehicle. Every automobile so operated shall be equipped with at least two braking systems, with two separate means of application, each operating on at least two wheels and each of which shall suffice to stop the vehicle within a proper distance. If these two systems are connected in any way, they shall be so constructed, that failure of any one part of the operating mechanism shall not leave the automobile without brakes on at least two wheels. One of these systems shall be so constructed that it can be set to hold the vehicle. All such brakes shall be maintained in good working order and shall conform to regulations not inconsistent with this act to be promulgated by the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles. Every motor-cycle shall be provided with at least one brake, which may be operated by hand or foot.

In spite of this official, or semi-official endorsement, many competent engineers will assert that such separation, with duplication of parts, will subtract from safety about as much as it will add; hence, the duplication of parts is not justifiable. Critics of this part of the proposed law dislike the implication that the service brakes of automobiles of the present high speed types will fail to such an extent that recourse must be had to the parking brakes. They also feel that, in case of interconnexion of the operating parts of the two sets of brakes, the operation of one set would not necessarily be affected by failure of the other set. It may be maintained that some safeguards are needed against the future cheapening of brake equipment, with the resulting lowering of safety standards. To this it may be replied that, in the essential units of the

automobile, such as braking and steering parts, such safeguards hardly seem necessary since the self-interest of the manufacturer in maintaining public confidence in his product will operate more powerfully than any law.

Cleaning Radiators.

Cases of clogged radiators are by no means uncommon, and a correspondent tells me that a method of cleaning them by using successive spurts of air and water has been devised and adopted by the research staff of one of the biggest passenger-carrying services in the world. His description of the operation is as follows: "The radiator is removed from the car and a water hose is connected to the pipe at the bottom of the radiator, where the bottom hose connexion is usually attached. The pet-cock at the bottom of the radiator is removed and a small nipple is put in place of it and connected to an air hose. The pipe where the top hose connexion attaches to the radiator is closed with a large cork. With the radiator cap removed, and the radiator standing upright, the water is turned on gradually and allowed to flow out at the top of the radiator. If hot water is available for the purpose, so much the better. The air is then turned on in spurts, a little carefully at first, and then in bigger spurts, to blow a mixture of water and air up through the radiator core. This is continued for a few minutes, the radiator being allowed to fill with water, and air may be allowed to flow through steadily together at a rapid rate for a few minutes. It should be remembered that a radiator will not stand unlimited pressure, and air and water should pass through fairly freely before being turned on at a rapid rate."



The Postal Account

It is often supposed that to live a long way from the nearest branch of a bank, or to be constantly unable to go to the bank in person, is a handicap to the enjoyment of the full advantages which, it is admitted, a banking account offers. Perhaps it is assumed that to conduct an account by post involves 'more letter-writing', or is costly, or is not welcomed by the Bank. It is the aim of the Westminster Bank to dispel such misconceptions by a leaflet entitled *The Postal Account*, which explains the convenience of the method, and offers some clear suggestions.

A copy will be gladly sent on application to the Secretary

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Installation of Tipping Gear.

Whilst on the subject of commercial motor vehicles there seems to be at least one avenue that should lead to economy that is neglected by large fleet owners. I refer to weight reduction by the installation of certain items of equipment at strategic points instead of imposing the same equipment upon each vehicle of a fleet. Tipping gear, for instance, can, in the case of a standardised fleet operating to a minimum number of given points, be installed at the tips, and vehicles arriving at intervals at each tip can all be dealt with by one outfit, thereby dispensing with the hitherto necessary gear on every vehicle. Such a method would tend to reduce initial cost and repair and maintenance charges. Even more important, however, would be the saving effected through carrying less dead weight.

An article in *Motor Transport* recently described the methods employed in this direction by the refuse collection department of the Glasgow Corporation, while last year a similar system was recorded at Hackney. Reports from both these places are encouraging, and show in a practical manner that there are no insurmountable obstacles in the way of economising by gross weight reduction in cases where standardised vehicles visit the same series of tips.

An A.P. Booklet.

My readers will no doubt be interested to know that the Anglo-Persian Oil Company is shortly issuing a booklet containing reprints of their well-known "B.P." Proverb Series. Motorists who would like a copy should write to the company at Britannia House, Moorgate, E.C.2.

The Cycle and Motor Cycle Show.

The Motor Cycle and Cycle Exhibition, which will be held at Olympia from November 5 to 10 inclusive, will provide an extraordinary display of machines. There will be motor cycles costing little more than £20 offering reliable and efficient road service, and there will be a big variety of machines of all types, whose manufacturers have set themselves to cater for the requirements of the enormous community which rides motor cycles. The bicycle will be shown in improved form and touring units, ranging from less than £5 to something like £200, every one of them being absolutely reliable.

There will be two-seater cars on two wheels, for there is a tendency toward the production of motor cycles offering unprecedented comfort. Some of the solo motor cycles will be specially designed for the conveyance of two passengers, the one-time pillion now being catered for by special seats, footrests and even handle-grips. An interesting exhibit will be a machine with a pressed steel frame whose power unit will be completely covered and protected and upon which there will be provision for protecting the rider as well. It will be a car on two wheels with motoring comfort and motor cycle performance.

Among the side-cars there will be some all enclosed baby saloons, some of them cellulose finished and equipped with safety glass wind screens. The two features of the Show will be the enhancement of comfort and appearance. There will not be a noisy motor cycle in the Exhibition, but there will be many very beautiful ones. It used to be said of the motor cycle that it was ugly and bristled with unnecessary controls. The 1929 types will be very graceful in general outline and will be very attractively finished.

Although the sports rider will be well catered for, the salient features will be comfort and safety. There will be no appreciable price reductions, but motor cycles will

be very much cheaper because they will be much better.

There will be tiny little motor cycles which will cost less per mile than is occasioned by public services travelling and which may be housed in an ordinary cycle shed in the back garden. They will be listed at figures very little in excess of £20. They are scientifically constructed mounts and as reliable as bigger motor cycles and extremely tractable.

The 250 c.c. class will offer to the prospective buyer a considerable choice. This type of machine, in spite of its small engine, has a reserve of power which ensures "safe conduct" over all hills. It is a smooth and quiet-running solo motor cycle.

Among the 350 c.c. motor cycles, which belong to the luxury class, are some of the best of the sports and fast touring motor cycles which the industry has to offer. They have reached such a stage of perfection that they may now be employed for side-car work without it being necessary to seek ultra lightness for the passenger attachment.

The Senior, or 500 c.c. machine, is a double purpose mount. As a solo machine it is a road cruiser with a performance which enables the rider to make forced marches without stressing the engine. The bigger machines are primarily intended for fast tourists who look for speed or for the family man of moderate means. There will be family side-cars with accommodation for two adults and two children, which will provide for comfort and unlimited touring scope. Their remarkable stability and facility of control render them the safest of all road vehicles. They are practically immune from skidding on the greasiest of roads. Some of them will be fitted with safety glass wind screens and their coach-built bodies will be cellulose finished.

Modern motor cycles are extremely simple to ride and to keep in order. Their general efficiency is such that the owner never has to consider the possibility of breakdowns and such adjustments as may be required are facilitated. For example, the mere turn of a milled thumb screw adjusts the brakes, lubrication is automatic, and greasing is by pressure gun. Gear changing, which is so difficult on some cars, is as easy as turning on the petrol. There is not a motor cycle in the show on which the gear cannot be changed up or down, and at any speed, with absolute ease.

Overhead valves are on the increase and enclosed mechanism carries out the general policy of greater cleanliness and better protection. There will be several interesting novelties in frame construction and saddle tanks will be general.

There will be many novelties among the accessories, including special devices for use on the road and in the garage. The visitor will discover ways and means of facilitating the removal of valves, wheels, chains, etc. There will be clever equipment amplifying the work of the manufacturers in affording greater protection to riders, and there will be a hundred and one little items for fitting to machines and side-cars.

The Egyptian Markets announce an interim dividend of 5 per cent., less tax, on the ordinary shares, payable November 15.

The Bank of England announce the numbers of 752 bonds of the Greek guaranteed 2½ per cent. gold loan of 1898 which have been purchased for the sinking fund and cancelled.

The chemists of Constantinople have decided to form a company for the manufacture of pharmaceutical products. The capital of the company is to be £T60,000 (£6,600). Owing to the excessive number of chemists' shops in Constantinople, the Turkish Government not very long ago ordered the compulsory closing of many shops which could not justify their existence.

At the 88th ordinary general meeting of the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company, to be held at the company's offices on December 12, at 11 a.m., the directors, after providing for the usual dividend at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum on the preferred stock (less income tax), will recommend a dividend on the deferred stock of 7 per cent. (free of income tax) for the six months ended September 30, 1928, making, with the dividend of 5 per cent. paid in May, a total distribution on the deferred stock of 12 per cent. for the year. Warrants will be payable on December 14.

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British Consular Reports

VIII.—GREECE.

(Continued from page 502).

Agriculture.

Greece is pre-eminently an agricultural country, about three-fifths of the population earning their living from agriculture. Owing largely to the mountainous and rocky nature of the country, only some 18.5 per cent. of the surface is cultivated. But schemes are on foot for the drainage and reclamation of extensive areas of marsh land, from which a valuable increase of agricultural land is to be expected. A feature of the agricultural development of the country is the increasing use made of artificial fertilisers. The local production of such fertilisers (mainly from a large and well-equipped factory at Piræus) rose steadily from 30,500 tons in 1925, 40,200 in 1926, to 45,600 in 1927. In this latter year the exports to Cyprus, Egypt, etc., amounted to 9,257 tons. The imports of artificial manures, which had amounted to 28,000 tons in 1925, fell to 9,600 tons in the following year, but rose to 13,800 tons in 1927.

On the whole, 1927 was a comparatively satisfactory year for agriculture, though losses were suffered from the ravages of locusts and the dacus fly in certain districts, while the great heat of the summer months also caused some damage. The prospects for the current year are stated to be on the whole good, owing to the satisfactory conditions obtaining during the sowing season. Later, however, some damage was done by heavy rains, while locusts have also appeared in various parts of the country.

The exportation of agricultural products is the main source of Greek national income. Out of a total export value of Drs.6,037,411,000 in 1927, the exports of tobacco accounted for more than half—Drs.3,417,639,884. This was followed by the export of currants, valued at Drs.785,571,015; of wines, Drs.527,407,420; and olive oil, Drs.182,465,529.

The Greek tobacco exports go mainly to Germany, Italy, and the United States of America, but considerable efforts are being made to extend the trade in other markets. Measures are being taken by the State, the Refugee Settlement Commission, and the Tobacco Growers' Association to assist the agriculturists and to improve the quality of leaf, particularly in those districts where the quality at present is inferior. There is question of the foundation of a bank, with foreign interests, which would devote itself specially to the needs of the tobacco trade.

There has been a marked increase in the export of Greek wines of recent years, the quantities having increased from 60,000 tons in 1925 to 104,000 tons in 1926 and 139,000 tons in 1927. The principal countries importing Greek wines are France (57,000 tons in 1927), Italy (33,000 tons), and Germany (16,500 tons). Great Britain's import last year amounted to 6,893 tons.

Besides the country wine producers, who still use the traditional methods, the industrial production of wine is developing considerably, there being now 171 industrial establishments in this branch. In conjunction with wine, the majority of these establishments produce also alcohol, both potable and for technical and illuminating purposes.

Cereals.—The importation of breadstuffs is the most important item in the Greek commercial budget. The main sources of supply for the 411,000 tons of wheat (valued at Drs.2,012,654,350) imported during the year were, in the following order, America, Bulgaria, Canada, and the Argentine. There was a decrease, as compared with the previous year, in the imports of wheat flour, which amounted to 66,752 metric tons, the principal supplying countries being :—Australia, 5,700 metric tons; United States, 39,291; Roumania, 1,726; Bulgaria, 8,600; and Canada, 7,101 metric tons. The reduced imports of flour were in some degree ascribable to the increase in the

duty imposed on this commodity, which aims at supporting the Greek milling industry.

Great efforts are being made to increase the home production of cereals (successful use being made of Canberra wheat for sowing purposes), with the object of reducing the expenditure of the country on imported breadstuffs. While this policy undoubtedly has a direct appeal to the broad mass of the general public, there are not wanting, perhaps, further seeing economists who advocate that greater attention should be given to increasing the output of more valuable crops, such as tobacco, cotton, etc., the proceeds of the sale of which would not only pay for the breadstuffs imported, but leave a surplus for other purchases.

Mines.

Unfortunately there exists no general statement on the mineral deposits of Greece. Of those already worked, mention may be made of mines of iron, lead, zinc, chrome, nickel, magnesite, lignite, iron pyrites, manganese, and bauxite, while the emery deposits of Naxos, the exploitation of which is a monopoly of the islanders and the revenues from which are assigned to the amortisation of the public debt, produce probably the finest emery in the world.

There exist, however, some 2,000 mining concessions, which have from time to time been issued, over which a register is kept by the Department of Mines of the Ministry of National Economy. The majority of these concessions have presumably but little, if any, value, but their number is some indication of the number of mineral deposits in the country. A large number of them have, however, not yet been examined.

It is believed, however, that certain of these deposits might repay investigation, with a view to exploitation. Such, for example, are said to be the deposit of argenteriferous ores on the island of Milos; the gold-bearing alluvial deposits of Macedonia; the nickel ore deposits of Larymna; the antimony ore deposits of Chio; the bauxite deposits in Attica; the deposits of manganese ores of Chalcidique (in Macedonia) and at Messina; the deposits of iron ores in the islands and the bituminous and petroliferous strata in Epirus, etc.

Some information concerning these and other deposits are in the possession of the Department of Mines, but a comprehensive report is yet to be made. As regards lignite, it may be added that the whole output is consumed locally, and although there is a movement to reduce the country's disbursements for imported fuels—coal and charcoal—it is not regarded as likely that, at present prices, there will be any material increase in the consumption of this fuel.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

Country.	Method of Quoting.	Parity of Exchange.	Latest Quotations
Alexandria.....	Piastre to £	97½	97½
Amsterdam ...	Florins to £	12.107	12.09½
Athens	Drachmæ to £ ..	25.22½	375
Belgrade.....	Dinars to £	25.22½	276
Berlin	Marks to £	20.43	20.35½
Berne	Francs to £	25.22½	25.20
Bombay	Sterling to Rupee	18d.	18 1/16—3/32
Brussels	Belga to £	35	34.88½
Bucharest	Lei to £	25.22½	802½
Budapest	Pen to £	27.82	27.83½
Calcutta	Sterling to Rupee	18d.	18 1/16—3/32
Constantinople	Piastres to £	110	96½
New York	Dollars to £	4.86 2-3	4 84 15/16
Paris	Francs to £	25.22½	124.15
Prague	Kronen to £	24.02	163½
Rome	Lire to £	25.22½	92 9/16—½
Sofia.....	Leva to £	25.22½	670
Teheran	Krans to £	48	48
Vienna	Sch to £	34.58	34.48
Warsaw	Zloty to £	25.22½	43 3/16—7/16

Company Meetings.

SOUTH INDIAN RAILWAY.

Record Revenue Earnings.

The ordinary general meeting of the South Indian Railway Company, Ltd., was held on October 26 at 91, Petty France, S.W.

Mr. Alex Muirhead, C.I.E. (chairman and managing director), in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said that the calendar year had been marked by intense labour agitation consequent on proposals for reducing the number of workshop employees. In spite of the offer by the company of extremely liberal terms to induce voluntary retirements, the opportunity was seized by labour agitators to exploit the occasion and to induce the labour force to strike. The labour leaders agitated for enhancements of pay and the grant of privileges to such an extravagant extent that refusal was inevitable, and a general strike was declared on the night of July 19-20. The strike collapsed on July 28, and the terms offered to the workmen on the closing down of the engineering and Negapatam workshops had now been accepted. The agent considered that matters were now completely normal again.

The passenger fares were unchanged during the year, but as satisfactory increases both in numbers carried and in earnings had followed on the reduction in fares in January, 1927, further reductions had, from October 1, 1928, been made in the fares of all classes, and it was hoped that in due course these would produce equally satisfactory results.

As to the outlook for profits in the near future, while traffics were showing not unsatisfactory expansion, and everything possible was being done to secure economy in working, the new lines which were being and would be constructed could not for some time be expected to produce earnings on the same scale as those of the older sections, and the stockholders must therefore look for some lowering of the average net return on the total capital at charge.

The past year had been one of intense activity in all branches of the railway. The revenue earnings showed an increase of Rs.33,84,045, or 6.43 per cent., compared with last year, and constituted a record, while the total number of passengers carried, 56,000,000, was also the highest recorded. The working expenses had increased by 19.53 per cent. The net result of their operations was that they had a balance of Rs.5,15,735, which realised £38,680, against £54,948 received last year. The board recommended a final distribution of 2½ per cent. from surplus profits, making the same total as for the previous year—namely, 8 per cent., less income tax.

The report was unanimously adopted.

ASSAM RAILWAYS AND TRADING.

Steady Advance in Railway Earnings.

The forty-eighth ordinary general meeting of the Assam Railways and Trading Company, Ltd., was held on October 24 at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, E.C.

Mr. James Mackenzie, who presided in the absence through indisposition of Mr. George Turner (the Chairman of the company), said that for the last five years shareholders had been congratulated on accounts showing a record profit up to that date, and though, for the year under review, the Board were not able to show quite as large a trading profit as last year, it was, apart from that year, the largest ever earned by the company, and was amply sufficient to make all the usual provisions and allotments.

In the railway the encouraging feature was that the earnings were still on the ascending scale. It was a subject for considerable satisfaction that the coaching traffic and other general traffic had expanded sufficiently to compensate for certain fallings off foreshadowed a year ago, and that the accounts actually showed an increase on the previous record year. They might take special pride in the passenger traffic, which had responded consistently to the better accommodation provided. Last year they carried over a million and a-quarter passengers, and, so far this year, there had been another 10 per cent. increase, and the Board and management looked forward to a continuous advance.

Their policy had been steadily to improve the line and rolling-stock year by year; the management reported that they were now in a position to handle expeditiously any volume of traffic likely to offer.

As regards the collieries, the slump in Bengal coal continued and the board had had to reduce prices, but it was satisfactory that sales had been increased and cost of production per ton reduced. They could, he considered, look forward to the future with confidence.

In view of the fact that the Government had the right on 12 months' notice to buy the railway in 1931, the directors had endeavoured to ascertain what the intentions of the Government were. The Government had informed the board that while they were unable so far

ahead to give an absolute guarantee, they thought that the purchase of the railway in 1931 was extremely improbable. That statement might be viewed with a certain amount of relief; the longer the Government waited the more they would have to pay for the railway, while if they left it with the company indefinitely it might ultimately be in the best interests of the shareholders.

The final result for the year was a profit of £157,514, and, after paying debentures interest and all preference dividends, the directors recommended that £11,000 should be written off discount on debentures, and a final dividend of 7½ per cent. paid on the "B" stock, making 12½ per cent. for the year, leaving £14,825 to be carried forward, as against £13,571 brought in. Taking all the circumstances into consideration, the board thought there was no reason why the "B" dividend should not be increased by the small amount suggested.

The report and accounts were unanimously adopted.

COMPANY NOTES AND REPORTS.

BENGAL DOOARS RAILWAY.

The report of the Bengal Dooars Railway for the year ended March 31 states that the gross earnings were Rs.25,12,207, the working expenses were Rs.12,98,574, the net earnings being Rs.12,12,633. The coaching earnings amounted to Rs.5,76,238, compared with Rs.5,73,753 for the year ended March 31, 1927, an increase of Rs.2,485. The total amount received on account of goods traffic during the year was Rs. 17,78,691, against Rs.17,18,858, an increase of Rs.1,59,833. The receipts from ferry service and miscellaneous earnings amounted to Rs.57,278, compared with Rs.51,096, an increase of Rs.6,182. The amount at credit of the net revenue account is £113,342 11s. 10d., from which must be deducted £16,000, the amount of the 4 per cent. interim dividend on the ordinary stock paid on April 25, 1928. Out of the £97,342 11s. 10d. remaining the directors have placed £20,000 to the credit of the reserve fund, bringing it up to £250,000, leaving a balance of £77,342 11s. 10d., which the directors recommend should be dealt with as follows:—In payment of a final dividend of 4 per cent. and a bonus of 3 per cent. on the ordinary stock for the year ended March 31, 1928, subject to income tax, £28,000; leaving to be carried forward, £49,342 11s. 10d.—£77,342 11s. 10d. The directors are pleased to report that only slight damage was caused to the railway by the flooding and erosion of the River Teesta during the monsoon period of 1927, and that there was no interruption of traffic. A certain amount of damage was done during that period to protection and other works, which was made good during the dry season when further protection works were carried out. These works have held almost in their entirety during the monsoon period of 1928, resulting in the bight, made by the River Teesta in close proximity to the railway near Barnes Junction, having largely silted up.

SUDAN GUM ARABIC.

Messrs. Boxall and Co., of Khartoum, report as follows under date September 30:—

Arrivals in Kordofan Stations from August 21 to 31 amounted to 87 tons as against 68 tons for the corresponding period last year, whilst during September they totalled 270 tons as against 156 tons for the same month last year.

The total arrivals of Kordofan gum from the beginning of the year to date amounted to 14,556 tons as compared with 12,126 tons for January/September, 1927, or an increase of about 20 per cent.

The El Obeid market opened at about 6d. less than the price at which it closed on August 20 and remained practically steady until September 18, after which prices gradually fell up to the end of the month, when the total fall amounted to 2s. 3d. per cwt. On the other hand, the course of prices at Nahud, which is the only other station bringing in gum at the present time, marked a constant rise throughout the above period, the total increase on September 30 as against August 21 being about 2s. 9d. per cwt. Demand during the whole period was generally quiet.

Yugoslavia's foreign trade for the first eight months of this year was as follows (in million dinars):—Imports, 5,087; exports, 3,875.

The traffic receipts of the Suez Canal Company from October 6 to 12 amounted to 4,190,000 francs, compared with 4,080,000 francs for the corresponding period of last year.

The directors of Lloyds Bank announce that Lord Weir has been elected to a seat on the Board. Lord Weir is an extraordinary director of the National Bank of Scotland, Ltd., and is chairman of G. and J. Weir, Ltd., the Anglo-Scottish Beet Sugar Corporation, Ltd., and the West Midland Sugar Co., Ltd.

Cotton and Cotton Goods.

THE LIVERPOOL COTTON MARKET.

Messrs. Reynolds and Gibson report as follows for the week ended October 24:—

Egyptian Futures.—Sakel Contract.—The speculative "bullish" movement which started just prior to, and was still in progress at the time of our last report, was maintained practically up to the week-end, further buying finding the market rather bare of contracts and forcing the level to 18.33d. for January before encountering much opposition. At this point the American market began to show signs of a reactionary tendency, and, with some of the more cautious and earlier buyers starting to take their profit, prices gradually eased; during the past two sessions the fact that the trade are not buyers at current prices has become more widely recognised, and we close to-night with an uncertain tendency, near positions 9 to 18 points and distant months 13 to 24 points advance since we last wrote. A feature of the recent trading has been the purchase of a line of March contracts, between 7,000 and 8,000 bales, by New York interests. In the ordinary course of events a transaction of this character would only have a temporary effect on the market, but under present conditions, with few imports heading to this side and no fresh supplies of contracts from "hedge" sources, the cotton had to be supplied by local operators; these latter have been gradually covering their sales during the past two sessions, thus imparting to the tone a greater degree of stability than the position really warranted. Trade reports in the fine section still leave a good deal to be desired, and spinners show little disposition to contract for cotton beyond their immediate requirements. The fact that Sakels are still about 800 points premium over the American contract checks any expansion in the offtake; in fact, as mentioned by us last week, the prevailing tendency is to utilise cheaper substitutes whenever possible. Liquidation of near positions has been proceeding throughout the week, and Novembers have dropped back to 15 points under January; a further widening may be witnessed between now and the end of the month, as tenders of old undesirable dockets are very probable. Reports from Alexandria indicate an improved offtake; in some outside cases there appears a tendency to reduce crop ideas, whilst more conservative sources are showing conflicting views regarding the yield. Whilst the general outlook, as far as this contract is concerned, appears to be rather "bearish," we doubt any material decline being witnessed unless American values break sharply.

Upper Contract.—Dearer American markets and improving Alexandria advices caused values in this contract to harden during the earlier days of the week; more recently, however, the tendency has been rather dull, and with trade interests showing reduced activity prices have dropped back to last week's levels. Further straddle purchases against sales of American have been in evidence; provided a very big trade demand develops during November and December this operation may be profitable; technically it is not sound, as on the Upper side purchases will have to be carried forward at heavy premiums, whilst in the American market slight discounts rule. In addition, it rather appears as if this season's Upper crop is mixed in staple which is rather a "Bear" point for the contract, as heavy tenders of undesirable and unwanted cotton will probably be experienced later. Trade reports of counts produced from cotton covered by this contract continue to be satisfactory, but spinners appear to be well covered in actual and show a disposition to await developments before making further purchases.

Egyptian Spot.—Business has again been disappointing. During the earlier part of the week, under the stimulus of an advancing futures market, quite a lively demand for actual cotton developed, but, unfortunately, much of it never passed beyond the inquiry stage. The temporary flurry in futures being over, prices now look like easing again, which, after all, is the normal state of affairs to expect at this time of the year. In the absence of killing frosts in America, the trade here looks for lower prices before the end of 1928. A certain amount of buying (probably more than is generally realised) has already taken place, and many spinners are now in a position to sit tight and wait awhile, unless, of course, the unexpected happens. In the meantime, reports from up-country indicate that trade in Egyptian counts is slowly improving. The local inquiry for Sakel has shown very little change, unless it has been for the 100 to 200 on quality, of which only a very mediocre selection is available here. "Pass" to 50 "on" has been in fair request, and the lower ranges, e.g., 10d. to 12d. and 14d. to 15½d., have attracted about their customary amount of attention. Some of the new crop Sakel we have seen (i.e., the better qualities) appears to be fully up to, if not an actual improvement on, last year's product.

Uppers continue to attract most attention and a steady trade has taken place in cotton at from "pass" to 50 "on" November contracts, whilst old crop cotton of a lower kind (25 to 50 off) has also been in favour. A moderate trade has taken place in Sudan Sakels at steady rates. White, and other special growths, have been somewhat neglected, except where undoubted bargains could be picked up. Pilon cotton has been in fair request, but buyers have been lacking in enthusiasm. C.i.f. business has been patchy. Forwardings to the trade were last week returned as 5,530 bales Egyptian and 693 bales Sudan. Estimated spot sales, 1,800 Egyptian and 550 bales Sudan. Quotations of Sakel show, on balance, an advance of 10 points, with Extra Fine exceptionally 45 points higher. Upper and Pilon are 5 points lower on the week. F.G.F. Sakel to-day, 18.30d. F.G.F. Upper to-day, 12.50d. F.G.F. Pilon to-day, 13.25d. nominal.

THE EGYPTIAN MARKET.

The Alexandria Commercial Company, in their report for the week ended October 18, state:—

Since our last report the market has been active and the tone distinctly firm. The week's summary of price movements is as follows:—Sakellaridis: November, 35.47 dollars, 1.32 dollars up; January, 36.04 dollars, 1.32 dollars up; March, 36.57 dollars, 1.47 dollars up. Ashmouni: October, 23.09 dollars, 1.14 dollars up; December, 23.22 dollars, 0.89 dollars up; February, 23.65 dollars, 0.90 dollars up; April, 23.98 dollars, 0.74 dollars up; October, 1929, 24.68 dollars, 0.68 dollars up.

Sakel.—The market has shown a considerably better tendency this week, and this improvement may almost wholly be attributed to the revival in the demand from spinners. Some good lines have been booked during the past week, much to the general surprise, seeing that all reports recently received from the textile centres have been unanimous in declaring a total absence of demand for fine yarns due to the dearthness of Sakel compared with other growths of cotton. The general feeling here recently has been bearish of Sakel, and the improvement in the demand induced some short covering, which, falling on a rather narrow market, caused a sharp upward movement.

The future course of prices depends on the attitude of spinners. It is generally expected that the Sakel crop will turn out between 2½ and 2¾ million kantars; this cannot be considered a large crop, and should the demand continue fairly good and regular for any length of time, we may see prices pushed up further. The Sakel/Ashmouni straddle (November/December) stands at 1,225 points against 1,181 points last week and 881 points at this time last year.

Uppers.—The rise in New York of about 1 cent has been reflected in our market, although the demand from abroad, whilst satisfactory, is not so good as it was last week. Spinners, it would seem, having covered their immediate requirements, are not so disposed to pay present prices, and prefer to delay entering into further commitments. We consider prices of Uppers very reasonable in comparison with American, and it surprises us that spinners do not take more advantage of the present position. The Ashmouni-American straddle (December/December) stands at 339 points against 343 points last week and 788 points at this time last year.

At the second October tender, no dockets were issued. The week's

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receipts amount to 433,808 kantars, against exports 158,629 kantars; the stock in Alexandria stands at 2,105,611 kantars.

Spot.—During the past week Minet el Bassal has shown considerable activity. Sales amount to about 33,550 bales, of which we estimate 11,500 bales Sakellaridis, 17,900 bales Ashmouni and Zagora, 2,750 bales Pilion, and 1,400 bales other varieties. Considerably more interest has been shown in Sakel, but Upper cotton still holds pride of place in the week's business. A greatly increased demand for Pilion has also appeared, and spinners are obviously trying to substitute this growth for Sakel wherever possible on account of its much lower price.

Sakellaridis: Has enjoyed a greatly improved demand and all styles have been dealt in. High premiums continue to be paid for Extra cotons. Spot differences are without much change.

Ashmouni and Zagora: Continue to meet a very good demand and all styles have changed hands. Spot differences are rather dearer for Good and better, and without much change for the other grades.

Pilion: A greatly increased business has been done in all grades. Spot differences are about unchanged for the medium qualities and distinctly dearer for the better grades.

Other Varieties: A good business has been done in White of all grades. A really good business has been done in Nahda at very good prices for all grades on offer, and a few bales of Maarad and Fouadi have also changed hands.

Up-country: The crop is moving very rapidly everywhere. Growers are, on the whole, rather disposed to sell their cotton, although the recent advance has tended to make them more pretentious in the matter of price, with the result that the turnover during the last few days shows a slight reduction. Nahda is very much in demand in the villages and still higher premiums are being paid for good crop lots. Pilion, also, is in good request. In Upper Egypt, the railway stations are choked with cotton. River transport is being utilised to

its fullest extent, but the boats available are not equal to requirements, and there has accordingly been rather less business concluded. The ginning factories are overflowing with cotton and are, for the most part, working day and night. Climatic conditions have, more or less, ceased to be of interest, as very little cotton now remains to be picked. Reports on the second picking received up to now vary considerably, but, generally speaking, results seem to be no better than last year; ginning yields, on the other hand, both for Sakel and Uppers, show slightly better than last year.

The Chirket-i-Hairie (the Bosphorus Steam Navigation Company), Constantinople, have placed an order with the Fairfield Shipbuilding and Engineering Company, Ltd., for a screw steamer for passenger ferry services on the Bosphorus. The vessel will be similar to steamers which the firm built for the same owners between 1903 and 1906, but the design will incorporate a number of improvements. The vessel will be about 100 ft. in length, 19 ft. in breadth, 7 ft. in depth, and of about 120 tons gross.

H.M. Acting Consul-General at Beyrout reports that, as the necessary consequence of the stabilisation of the franc, and therewith of the Lebano-Syrian piastre (equalling 20 centimes), the "gold Lebano-Syrian piastre" has been abolished as from September 1, 1928. This imaginary currency, introduced for purposes of official bookkeeping, has proved entirely unnecessary, as since its use began the paper currency has been practically stable. By Decree it is replaced by the Lebano-Syrian paper currency. Many Beyrout merchants continue to quote prices in Egyptian or Turkish gold, but it is presumed that the custom will gradually die out now that Syria has a stable currency of its own.

Stock and Share Markets.

LONDON EXCHANGE		Prices on Oct. 29	Railways.		Prices on Oct. 29	Banks		Prices on Oct. 10
Government Stocks.								
Egyptian 4 p.c. Unified Debt ..	...	87½	Assam-Bengal ..	...	94	Imperial Bank of India ..	...	1,470
Do. Pref. 3½ p.c. 1890 ..	...	47½	Bengal Nagpur ..	...	102	Bank of India ..	...	954
Do. Turk 4 p.c. 1891 ..	...	90	Egypt Delta Light Rly. ..	...	315/16	Central Bank of India ..	...	134
Do. 3½ p.c. Eg. Trib. Bonds. '94 ..	...	84	Nizams Gtd. ..	...	235 xd	Coal.		
Bulgaria 4½ p.c. Gold, 1907 ..	...	29	Ottoman (Smy t. Aid) ..	...	42/6	Baraboni ..	...	1
Do. 7 p.c. ..	...	89½	Southern Punjab ..	...	197½	Bengal ..	...	400
Greek 5 p.c., 1881 ..	...	64½	South Indian ..	...	123	Burrakur ..	...	114
Do. 5 p.c., 1884 ..	...	64½	Rubber.			East Indian ..	...	17½
Do. 4 p.c. Rentes, 1889 ..	...	51	Ceylon Para Rubber Ord. ..	...	7/9	Equitable ..	...	184
Do. 5 p.c. 1890 ..	...	65	Doolgalla (Ceylon) Rub. Est. ..	...	19/	Pench Valley ..	...	25
Do. 5 p.c. Funding Loan, 1893 ..	...	64	Grand Cent. (Ceylon) Rubber ..	...	24/9	Raneegunge ..	...	174
Do. 4 p.c. Rails, Loan, 1902 ..	...	61	Hewagum Rubber Co. ..	...	10/9	Standard ..	...	594
Do. 4 p.c. Loan, 1910 ..	...	61½	Kepitigalla Rubber Estates ..	...	13	Cotton.		
Do. 5 p.c. Loan, 1914 (L.on. issue) ..	...	76	Malayalam Rub. and Produce ..	...	31/6	Bengal Nagpur ..	...	30
Do. 7 p.c., 1924 ..	...	103½	Shipping.			Bombay Dyeing, etc. ..	...	853½
Do. 6 p.c. Bds. ..	...	91½	Anchor 5½ p.c. Prf. ..	...	8½	Bowrah ..	...	330
Palestine 5 p.c. ..	...	104	Cunard ..	...	32/9	Buckingham and Carnatic ..	...	185
Persia 5 p.c., 1911 ..	...	89½	Furness Withy ..	...	39/	Cawnpore Textiles ..	...	11
Roumania 4 p.c. Ext. ..	...	73½	Khediaval Mail Ord. ..	...	57/3	Century ..	...	415
Do. 4 p.c. Consolidation ..	...	47½	P. and O. Deferred ..	...		Central India ..	...	508½
Sudan 5½ p.c. Guar. Bds. ..	...	107½	Tea.			Elgin ..	...	91
India 3½ p.c. ..	...	71½	Assam Co. ..	...	2½	Khatau Makanji ..	...	90
Do. 3 p.c. ..	...	60½	Bengal United Tea Ord. ..	...	21/16	Muir ..	...	325
Do. 5½ p.c. ..	...	103	Brampootra ..	...	34	New Ring ..	...	289
Do. 4½ p.c. ..	...	92½	British Indian Tea Ord. ..	...	315/16	Phœnix ..	...	380
Turkish 4 p.c. Unified ..	...	23½	Cachar and Dooars Tea Ord. ..	...	2½	Svadeshi ..	...	471½
Banks.			Carolina ..	...	3½	Jute.		
Agri. Bank of Egypt ..	...	8	Ceylon Tea Plantations Ord. ..	...	5½	Alliance ..	...	661½
Bank of British West Africa ..	...	4½	Consolidated Estates ..	...	3½	Barnagore ..	...	324½
Bank of Roumania ..	...	86½	Darjeeling Co. ..	...	225/32	Budge Budge ..	...	69½
Barclays Dom. Col. Pf. ..	...	27/6	Dimbula Valley (Ceylon) Ord. ..	...	3/3/16	Clive ..	...	47
Chartered Bank of India ..	...	22	Dooars Tea Ord. ..	...	3/7/16	Dalhousie ..	...	620½
Eastern ..	...	71/16	Dooloogram Tea ..	...	1/3/32	Delta ..	...	682½
Ionian Bank ..	...	7½	Doom Dooma ..	...	4/1/16	Fort Gloster ..	...	1,084½
Imperial Bank of Persia ..	...	11½	East Assam ..	...	4/3/16	Gourepore ..	...	599
Land Bank of Egypt Ord. ..	...	19	Empire of Ind. ..	...	29/16	Howrah ..	...	614
Lloyds ..	...	65/6	Haleam Tea ..	...	2½	Kamarhatti ..	...	785
Mercantile Bank of India A ..	...	34½	Imperial Ind. ..	...	215/32	Kankarrah ..	...	628½
National Bank of Egypt ..	...	36	Jhanzie Tea Association ..	...	5½	Khardah ..	...	1,225
National Bank of India ..	...	53	Jokai (Assam) Tea Ord. ..	...	311/16	Kinnison ..	...	55½
Ottoman Bank ..	...	14	Jorehaut ..	...	4/3/32	National ..	...	555
Westminster ..	...	20	Lanka Plantations Ord. ..	...	129/32xd	Standard ..	...	887½
Land.			Lungla (Syhet) Tea Ord. ..	...	11/32	Miscellaneous		
Kassala Cotton ..	...	6/9	New Dimbula ..	...	6½	British India Corporation ..	...	3½
Latifiyak (Iraq) States ..	...	4/3	Nuwara Eliya Tea Estates Ord. ..	...	5/7/16	Bengal Paper Mills ..	...	39½
Sudan Plantations ..	...	4½	Nedeeem ..	...	2/25/32	Bengal Timber Trading ..	...	245
Mines.			Ouvah ..	...	3/5/16	Burn and Co. ..	...	595
Balaghat Gold Mining ..	...	6½	Pabhojan ..	...	67/16xd	Cawnpore Sugar ..	...	20½
Burma Corp. ..	...	14/6	Standard ..	...	6	Champaran Sugar ..	...	124
Champion Reef Gold ..	...	10/3	Scottish Assam ..	...	2	Howrah Oil Mills ..	...	84
Mysore ..	...	15/3 xd	Scottish Tea and Lands ..	...	33/16	ALEXANDRIA		
Nuaydroog ..	...	16/3	Upper Assam ..	...	213/16	Prices on Oct. 19, supplied by G. L.		
Ooregum Gold Mining Ord. ..	...	13/9	Insurance.			Moriera, Alexandria & Cairo.	...	
Oil.			General Accident Fire and Life (£5, £1½ paid) ..	...	14½ xd	Agricultural Bank of Egypt ..	...	£7 25 32
Anglo-Egyptian B ..	...	213/32	London & Lancs (£5, £1 paid) ..	...	31½ xd	Assoc. Cotton Ginners ..	...	£175 16
Anglo-Persian Ord. ..	...	4/23/32	Royal Exchange (£11) ..	...	7xd	Behera Ord. ..	...	£23 32
Do. 8 p.c. Cum. 1st Pf. ..	...	28/3	Sun Fire £10 (£2 paid) ..	...	41½	Ciments d'Egypte ..	...	£21 52
Do. 9 p.c. Cum. 2nd Pf. ..	...	19	Trade Indemnity (£10) ..	...	16½	Comptoir Fin. & Com. d'Egypte ..	...	£128
Do. 5 p.c. Debs. ..	...	98	Miscellaneous.			Credit Foncier Egyptian ..	...	£1,221½
Brit. Burmah ..	...	7/3	Alexandria Water Co. ..	...	17½	Fondateur ..	...	£250
Burmah Oil Co. Ord. ..	...	51/32	Associated Cotton Ginners ..	...	23/32	Crown Brewery Priv. ..	...	£163½
Do. 8½ Cum. Pref. ..	...	27/6	Dunlop Rubber ..	...	7	Filature Nationale d'Egypte ..	...	£33 16½
Hamilton's Oil Concessions ..	...	10½	Egyptian Hotels ..	...	26½	Frigoirique d'Egypte ..	...	£7 13 16
Phoenix Oil and Transport (f.p.) ..	...	14/6	Do. Markets Ord. ..	...	30½	Immeubles d'Egypte Soc. An. des ..	...	£164
Do. (1/-) ..	...	7/9	Do. Salt and Soda ..	...	4	Land Bank of Egypt Actions ..	...	£164
Shell Transport ..	...	5/27/32	Mortgage Co. of Egypt 5 p.c. Pref. ..	...	61½	Parts de Fond ..	...	£202
Steaua Romana ..	...	12½	Oriental Telephone ..	...	15/9	Menzaleh Canal Navigation ..	...	£167
Waring & Gifford ..			INDIAN EXCHANGES.					
			Government Loans.					
			3½% Government Paper ..					

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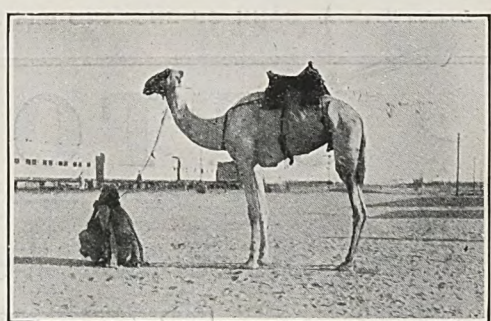
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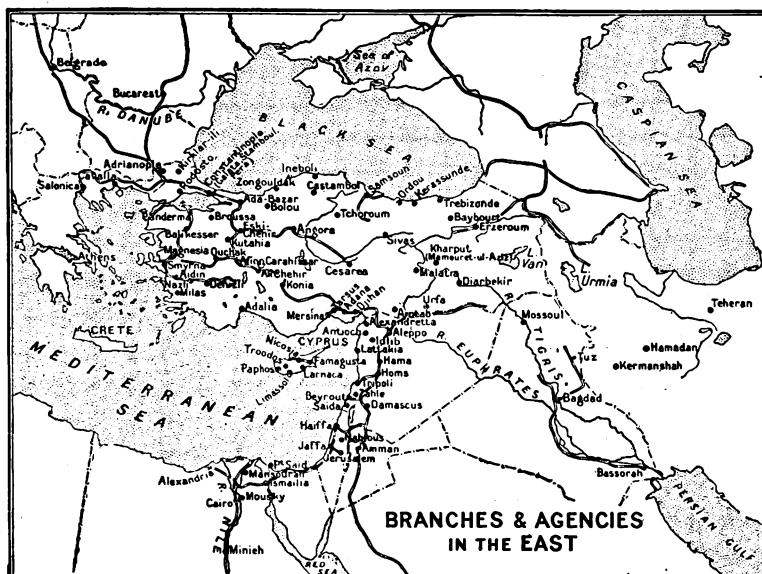
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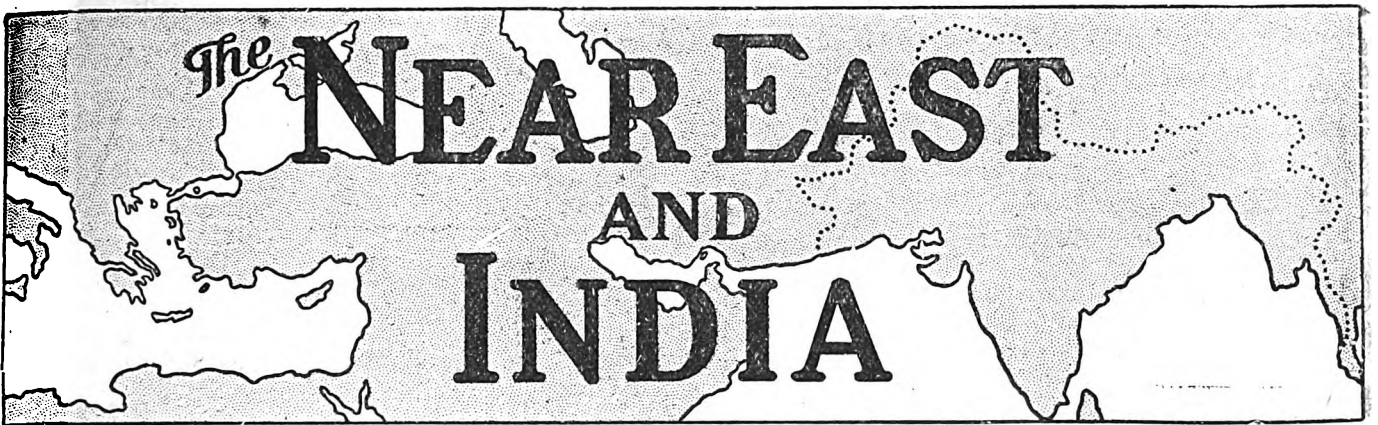
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Notes of the Week.

The Resignation of the Roumanian Cabinet.

The force of circumstances has proved at last too strong for M. Vintila Bratianu, and he has found himself compelled to hand in the resignation of his Government, which has been accepted by the Roumanian Council of Regency. In view of the late Prime Minister's record, it is obvious that economic conditions, rather than the fulminations of the National-Peasant Opposition, have been the immediate cause of this step. The need for a foreign loan has dominated Roumanian affairs for the last two years. In the face of the outspoken and determined hostility of the National-Peasant Party the conclusion of such a loan became for the Liberals the sole hope of their being able to remain in office. To secure it, M. Bratianu has gradually sacrificed the main features of the financial policy that he had fastened upon the country, largely in its own despite. Revalorisation has been abandoned, and preparations were made to stabilise the leu even at a lower rate than that at which it stood when he first became Minister of Finance. His final act of renunciation was the admission that the necessary funds for stabilisation had to come from abroad, and to this end he has been obliged to modify in application some of the legislative measures which have affected foreign interests in Roumania. In spite of confident assertions to the contrary, the negotiations for a loan have not yet been finally concluded, although the foreign financial groups consulted are prepared to grant a loan to Roumania under certain conditions. The resignation of M. Bratianu at this stage suggests that the terms offered were such as he could not accept, or possibly could not fulfil, however anxious he might be to accept them. The internal situation in Roumania hardly encouraged foreign financiers to negotiate a loan with the Bratianu Government. Its terms would have to be severe, and it would be difficult to convince the Opposition that a loan could not have been secured on easier terms under a different régime. The National-Peasant Party, therefore, would not be likely to vote for the loan agreement in Parliament. M. Bratianu, however knew that it was hopeless for him to ask the National-Peasants to join his Government for the sake of putting

through the badly needed loan. Having failed to persuade the Council of Regency to prolong his mandate indefinitely, he resigned. The Regents tried to induce Dr. Maniu, the Transylvanian leader of the National-Peasant Coalition, and General Averescu, head of the People's Party, to form a joint Coalition Government; but the former refused, on the ground that his group was prepared to form an Administration alone. Further consultations with party leaders followed, and M. Titulescu, who had returned to his post in London only two days before, was hurriedly summoned to Bucharest for consultation. It is supposed that the Regency would like M. Titulescu to form a Coalition Government; but the claims of Dr. Maniu, as leader of the second largest party, will have to be taken into account.

The Council of Regency.

Not the least striking feature of the Ministerial change in Roumania is the action of the Council of Regency in forcing the resignation of M. Bratianu. Hitherto the three Regents have contrived to convey the impression that they could act only at the behest of the leader of the Liberal Party; so much so, indeed, that for a moment the question was raised in some quarters whether the course of events was not unfolding itself according to some deep-laid plan on the part of M. Bratianu, who was anxious to thrust on others the onus of concluding a foreign loan on none too favourable terms. All reports from Roumania, however, suggest that the Liberal leader was as much taken by surprise as were his political opponents, when the Council of Regency accepted with alacrity his threat of resignation. If this be the case, it is a wholesome development in the Roumanian situation. In all the countries of South-Eastern Europe a strong hand above party politics is needed for the smooth working of the political machine. The Sovereign is not required to act unconstitutionally, but it is to the advantage of the country if his personal position enables him to keep within certain limits the play of party politics, which are frequently liable to run riot. It is for this reason that a republican régime in a Balkan country is likely sooner or later to prove an expedient of dubious value, for it is hardly to be expected that the

supply of ideal Presidents can be maintained indefinitely. The death of King Ferdinand was a severe blow to Roumania; but the country will be a long way on the road to recovery from its loss if the Regents have now found their feet, their wills and their tongues.

A Transylvanian Government.

Considerable interest would attach to the accession to power of the National-Peasant Group under Dr. Maniu. With the exception of a short space of three months, from December, 1919, to March, 1920, when Dr. Vaida Voevod was Prime Minister, the Transylvanians have had no opportunity of exercising power in Roumania. Great hopes were formed of the heaven that it was supposed they would introduce into New Roumania; but for ten years they have virtually been in opposition, as Dr. Vaida Voevod's brief term was not sufficient to show what the Transylvanian element could do, nor was the party adequately organised. To-day the latter difficulty has been overcome, and there can be little doubt that, owing to the loss of Liberal popularity, the National-Peasant Group, comprising the Transylvanian National Party under Dr. Maniu, the Nationalists of the Old Kingdom under Professor N. Jorga, and the Tsaranists, or Peasant Party, led by M. Mihalake and Dr. Lupu, if he does not desert his party, have the bulk of the Roumanian people behind them. They are alive to the mistakes of the old régime, and it may be expected that they would make a serious effort to remedy them. First and foremost, there is Roumania's unenviable reputation for official corruption. The evil lies in the under-payment of the civil service and the incubus of a pernicious tradition. To break the latter little more than the fiat of the new Cabinet may be required; to deal with the former it may be necessary to reorganise the whole economic condition of the country. The degree of solidarity that the Coalition could maintain in office has yet to be proved; for it is probable that M. Mihalake and his Peasants will be anxious to go farther on the road of Socialist legislation than his colleagues will be anxious to follow him. It is to be hoped, however, that Roumania will be able to settle down to a long period of social and economic reconstruction. She has great resources, but she has lost much valuable time in adopting policies that ill conformed with her position or her requirements.

Egypt and Britain.

A long communication from the Secretary-General of the Egyptian Wafd to the *Manchester Guardian* deserves special attention, as it contains, by implication only, it is true, an avowal which is of considerable importance to Anglo-Egyptian relations. In the quarrel between the Wafd and the present Egyptian Government no British onlooker is called upon to intervene; the question whether one party or the other is responsible for initiating reforms or for carrying them through is for the Egyptian people to pass judgment upon, if so inclined. British interest is confined to the subject of Anglo-Egyptian relations, and it is on this point that the Secretary-General of the Wafd comes out in brand-new colours, identifying himself with those "who believe that Anglo-Egyptian amity is not merely possible, but also desirable." As a personal avowal this is interesting; if it is intended to imply that it is the official point of view of the Wafd to-day, it is of great importance. In that event it will be difficult to avoid the conclusion that this eminently happy state of affairs—for such a *volte face* on the part of the Wafd would, undoubtedly, be this—is due solely to the few months in the outer wilderness of opposition experienced by the Wafd. Against such a great achievement standing to the credit of Mahmoud Pasha's Government the Wafd cannot expect Great Britain, who already considers herself pledged not to interfere in the purely domestic affairs of Egypt, to attach any importance to such technical matters as the suspension of Parliament, the abolition of newspaper licences, and so on. On one point it is difficult to follow the Wafd spokesman, where he states that "Anglo-Egyptian relations are

going through a crisis of unprecedented gravity." This aspect of the situation has certainly not been noticed on the British side; for the relations with the present Egyptian Government are scrupulously correct; and now with the knowledge that even the Wafd believe Anglo-Egyptian amity to be desirable (and the Wafd, as Dr. William Makram Ebeid points out, "represents Egypt as no political party in any other country does") Great Britain has the profound satisfaction of realising that there is no one left in Egypt to disturb Anglo-Egyptian relations, which only a few months ago, before the welcome change in the attitude of the Wafd and of its Secretary-General, were indeed in dire jeopardy.

The Turkish Assembly.

Mustapha Kemal Pasha knows the value of directness of speech, and it was hoped that he would take advantage of the opening of the Grand National Assembly to come to grips with the real problems that must, sooner or later, seriously exercise the Turkish Government. His speech, however, although slightly more explicit than the usual run of stereotyped utterances common to such occasions, threw no light upon the economic situation of the country. He excluded from the list of foreign relations that were normal the question of security along the Syrian frontier and the exchange of population problem, as still providing Turkey and France on the one hand and Turkey and Greece on the other with bones of contention. The reference to the agreement on pre-War debts was frank up to a point. It could not be pretended that the agreement had been concluded on favourable terms, nor could it be said whether the country could support the weight of the settlement without suffering considerably; but, he added, "it was a moral and national duty to recognise the debts, and it is that which has decided us to make this arrangement." It is, perhaps, unfortunate for Turkey that this attitude towards her indebtedness was not adopted at an earlier date. She will have gained nothing by postponing the day of reckoning, as it may be taken for granted that the loan agreement can be carried out only by means of a foreign loan, if any of the public works to which the President referred—railway and road construction, and irrigation schemes—are to be taken in hand. A foreign loan, however, entails the overhauling of Turkey's fiscal policy, with the provision of adequate guarantees that "moral and national" duties will not be evaded in future. The new session of the National Assembly, it is announced, will be taken up mainly with economic questions; but, as the members consider themselves debarred from criticising the Government's proposals, it is not likely that more light will be thrown on the economic situation of the country than the Cabinet chooses to reveal.

General Pangalos.

The fates are not kind to the ex-Dictator of Greece. After being kept in prison for two years without trial, by successive Governments which were as afraid to release him as they were to try him, General Pangalos was liberated by M. Venizelos, and an amnesty accorded to all political offences since 1925 seemed to have closed the Pangalos chapter for all time. It was, however, not to be. During the recent electoral campaign the ex-Dictator's headquarters were the scene of a demonstration, and in the excitement of the moment shots were fired from the house at the demonstrators. Arrests were made among the General's supporters and General Pangalos himself was subjected to magisterial inquiry, but was subsequently liberated. Two of the people who were shot have since died and General Pangalos has now been arrested in connexion with the affair. As he denied having used any weapon, it must be supposed that fresh light on the incident has been thrown by the investigations which the police have been making. If any responsibility can be attached to the General for the shooting, he will not be able this time to count on the sympathy, whether personal or political, of his compatriots.

The Balfour Declaration Anniversary.

From the way in which the Muslims and Jews in Palestine observed last Friday, November 2—which was the eleventh anniversary of the Balfour Declaration—the superficial witness of events might be tempted to think that the chances of genuine co-operation between the old inhabitants of the Holy Land and the new Zionist settlers were remote. There is, unhappily, no question that the unfortunate occurrences at the Wailing Wall on September 24 have emphasised the cleavage between the two peoples. Both Muslims and Jews have appealed to extra-Palestine authorities in defence of their particular claims in the area of, or at, the Wailing Wall, and any hopes that might originally have been entertained of circumscribing the effects of the now famous “incidents” must have vanished. Either spontaneously or through mobilisation representative voices of Jewry throughout the world have condemned the action of the British authorities on the Day of Atonement; and either spontaneously or through mobilisation Muslims in Trans-Jordan, Syria, and Egypt have hastened to the defence of their brethren in Palestine in resisting what in their view is Jewish encroachment upon their rights. On November 1 a meeting of 600 Muslims, including delegations from Trans-Jordan and Syria, resolved, according to *The Times*, not only to dispatch reports to the League of Nations, to the British Government, and to the Palestine Government, and to conduct propaganda throughout Islam, but also to establish a universal Muslim Society for the defence of Muslim Holy Places. Such, therefore, is the vivid result of allowing political bias to interfere with an essentially religious question. The clock of Palestinian unity, of collaboration between the various peoples therein, has been set back. Suspicion and distrust and disdain are now the most prominent features of the Arab-Zionist situation, and it will need all the resolve and fixity of purpose of the High Commissioner-designate, Sir John Chancellor, once more to set the country moving along more reasonable channels. Fortunately, however, there is general belief in his ability to cope with the task.

Immigration into the Holy Land.

Whether or not the Government of Palestine was partly to blame for permitting the very large immigration into Palestine during the “boom” year of 1925, it is certain now that the lesson from that particular error has been taken well to heart. Nor should we omit to add that the Zionists themselves are determined to adapt immigration of Jews into Palestine to the practicabilities of the situation. Negotiations which have been going on between the Palestine Zionist Executive and the Palestine Government in connexion with the Labour Schedule for the half-year which began on November 1 have ended with the following result. Permission is given for the immigration of 300 unskilled agricultural workmen not over the age of 35, and of 100 women workers. One hundred and fifty men for employment in industrial undertakings not over the age of 45 are to be allowed, and fifty skilled artisans not over the age of 45. Male immigrants may be accompanied by their wives, and children under the age of eighteen whom they are able to maintain. This system and these details of the half-yearly schedule show clearly with what minute care the position of the immigrants has to be controlled, and although the immigration regulations may, of course, be altered from time to time, it is patent that for the next decade or so, if not for much longer, the rate of entry of Jewish colonists should do nothing to excite Arab fears of a preponderating Jewish influence in Palestine.

The Population of Palestine

An ingenious suggestion has recently been made, according to the Jerusalem correspondent of the *Jewish Chronicle*, that the nomadic *Badawin* of Palestine should not be counted in the population of the Holy Land. This, in his opinion, would bring the number of non-Jews down from about 650,000 to something like 400,000, and since the Jews number about 150,000 (probably fewer now) the

proportion of new settlers to old is not so disheartening. One rather doubts, however, whether the official Zionist will take much courage from this calculation, for even if it were true that the nomadic Arabs are included in what there is increasing tendency now to regard as the permanent Muslim majority, it is probable that with the progress of civilisation in Palestine the roving tribes will be persuaded to settle. Another factor that may offset the Jewish immigration into Palestine is the fact that with an improvement of hygienic conditions in Palestine infant mortality among the Arab population is bound to decrease. It is difficult, from whatever angle the matter be viewed, ever to envisage a Jewish majority in the Holy Land.

The Iraqi Majlis.

It was a matter for some surprise that the Prime Minister of Iraq, Sir Abdul Muhsin Beg as Saadun, was able at the end of the last parliamentary session to boast at least as strong a position as that enjoyed by any other Prime Minister of Iraq at the end of his first session. The abundant opposition which showed itself appeared but to strengthen Sir Abdul Muhsin's hands—in which process, by the way, the notable work performed by Naji Beg Suwaidi should be mentioned. The important thing, however, is: what will happen in the session which opened on November 2? The Speech from the Throne contained some very optimistic references to the progress of negotiations upon the financial and military agreements subsidiary to the Anglo-Iraqi Treaty, to relations with the Wahhabis of Najd, and to the development of agriculture in Iraq. But no details are yet available of the lines upon which the important problem of the defence of Iraq is to be solved. As if to emphasise the urgency of this question, the two battalions of the Mahratta Light Infantry, which were the sole remaining charge on the Imperial Exchequer—apart, of course, from the Royal Air Force and the now diminished Assyrian Levies—have now left Iraq. It is known that the present Government of Iraq will in no circumstances agree to the proposal that Iraq should pay the difference in cost of the Royal Air Force at home and abroad. There seems, therefore, no alternative between the British Government's continuing to bear the full cost, and the introduction into Iraq of compulsory military service. A Conscription Bill has, we believe, been considered by the parliamentary deputies during the Recess, and it will be profoundly interesting to see whether it is actually brought before the House, and if so, what its fate therein will be. To judge from King Faisal's remarks in his Speech, we imagine that the Bill will be given its chance—otherwise how could he speak of being in “perfect accord with his British Ally on the draft proposals for the new military agreement”?

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THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 1928.

A TURKISH ANNIVERSARY.

On October 29 Turkey celebrated the fifth anniversary of the Republic, and the occasion was marked by special ceremonies throughout the country. Much that gives the Turks peculiar satisfaction has been accomplished in the last five years; a homogeneous Turkish nation has been created out of the Ottoman Empire, and Turkey has now the political and economic independence that the founders of the Republic set themselves to win for her. She has freed herself from the shackles on modern progress that certain features of the Muhammadan religion had fastened on her, and she has adopted the measures which she considered necessary to prove her right and her capacity to take her place in line with the Western nations. In so doing she has made no attempt to stultify her geographical position; for while she claims to have availed herself of all the advantages of Western progress, she has resisted the encroachment of European Powers on her territory, and she remains in the van of the modernising movement which is now stirring all the nations of the East. For those Turks, however, who are able to probe beneath the glamour attaching to the achievements of the last five years, the present situation in the country cannot be altogether free from anxiety. Anatolia has suffered this year from a serious drought, and the problem of feeding her population in the coming winter prevents formidable difficulties. As the result of a prolonged investigation the Supreme Economic Council has reported that a grave crisis is arising from diminishing wealth and extravagant private expenditure. The Commission appointed by this Council to inquire into the enhanced cost of living has analysed the conditions on which this judgment is based. Agricultural production, it is recorded, is at the lowest ebb; work is uselessly wasted, and the same effort would secure a much better return in other countries; agricultural machinery and implements are comparatively rarely used; the soil needs to be improved, but fertilisers are not employed. A restricted use is made of banking, credit and capital being the monopoly of a few. Turkish commerce, above all the export trade, is entirely lacking in organization. The incomes of the professional classes are diminishing; prices are too high, particularly rents and the cost of food stuffs.

From the earliest days of the Republic it has been realized by all with first-hand knowledge of conditions in Turkey that the real test of the new régime would be its capacity to promote the material advancement of the country. The task of the Turkish Government was to make two ears of corn grow where only one grew before, and, unless it contrived to do this, the Turkish people were not going to be much better off under a republican form of government. Unfortunately, although not unnaturally, the Turks, both official and unofficial, have considered it necessary to the success of their undertaking to make, at once, the worse appear the better cause. Instead of

facing facts, they have been inclined—the failing is common to the whole East—to represent things as they wanted them to be, and to deceive themselves into believing that this Coué method would achieve the regeneration of Turkey. It was not to be expected that a country in the backward state in which the Republic found itself could be wholly set upon its feet within a few years; what was required was that sound foundations should be laid, in order that improvement should be real and steady, even though it had to be slow. The report of the Supreme Economic Council has rather brusquely torn aside the veil that had been thrown over the true state of affairs. The first concern of the Angora Government—on paper—was agriculture; every effort was to be made to increase the cultivated area—which in spite of Turkey's being primarily an agricultural State, was less than a fifth of the total area—and to improve the standard of agriculture. The country was to be divided into agricultural zones, each under a Director of Agriculture, seeds and machinery were to be supplied to peasants free of charge; agricultural schools were to give free instruction in the use of machinery and in modern methods of cultivation. In the light of what the Economic Council now records it has to be inferred that for the greater part these reforms have remained a dead letter. The scheme, on paper, was admirable; but it has not been possible to put it into practice. In a country where public opinion counted and the press was a factor in public affairs, the reason for this failure might be examined, and Turkey might hope to derive some benefit from the lesson. As things are, there is a risk that the damaging report will merely serve as a text for yet more reforms that experience so much difficulty in passing beyond the paper stage.

The first and foremost reform that Turkey needs to adopt is for the Government and the people to realize that criticism, whether it comes from Turks or foreigners, is not necessarily hostile, but can be of great help. The progress of the West that the Turkish President is endeavouring to introduce so rapidly into Turkey has not been the creation of one man or even of a few men in any one country; it is the product of many men's minds, the results of the pooling of many theories and experiments. Turkey, who is conscious of having lagged far behind other States, is now condemned to advance only as fast as one single man, the President, can push her; before a Minister acts, the Ghazi must speak first, and Parliament, chosen individually by him, exists only to give effect to his words. The handicap is too great for the country and imposes an unfair strain on the maker of modern Turkey. While his attention is occupied by social innovations, other reforms, perforce, have to wait. Behind the failure to give effect to the Ghazi's scheme for the improvement of agriculture lie the financial restrictions from which Turkey suffers. All that the Republic inherited in respect of the economic life of the country—its railways, ports and shipping services, its banking, insurance and general business—it owed to foreign capital and largely to foreign management. Taking over the administration, as it did, when Turkey was financially and materially exhausted by a long period of war, the Angora Government set about not only to drive away the foreign capital already in the country, but also to make it impossible for more to come in to finance its vast programme of reconstruction. Little wonder, therefore, that this programme should have been carried out only where the Government could scrape together a little money by not paying its foreign debts. This state of affairs could not last indefinitely. Turkey has now agreed to make a start next year in paying off some of her indebtedness. In the light of the Economic Council's report it is impossible that she should be able to do so, without a foreign loan, unless she abandons her programme of public works. To obtain a loan she will have to renounce the fiscal policy that she has hitherto adopted, and, when she does that, she will have confessed to the wasting of five valuable years in regard to what is, after all, the main duty of all Governments, the promotion of the material welfare of the country.

*The Near and Middle East

From Our Own Correspondents.



Belgrade, November 1.

Croats and Serbs.

Despite many setbacks M. Milosh Savtchitch is continuing his examination of the possibilities of agreement between Belgrade and Zagreb. He has had further interviews with M. Davidovitch and M. Stanoyevitch, at which, it is understood, they answered in detail the many questions that he put to them during former conversations. It is reported, however, that M. Savtchitch has been asked not to go to Zagreb to communicate to the Croat leaders the results of his investigations, as the Zagreb leaders think that no good could come of this step. His activities are being held up for the time being by a journey into the interior, dictated by his private affairs.

The Zagreb leaders remain obdurate. They will propose no terms so long as the Skupshtina in which their comrades were slain continues to sit and to be led by virtually the same people as those in office at the time of the tragedy. At the great mass meeting of peasants and citizens, a Yugoslav Alba Julia, held nearly a fortnight ago at Sisak, they renewed their assertions that they will fight on until they achieve their aims—but, apart from a vague demand for what is variously styled "federation," "autonomy," "complete freedom," or "a personal union," it is not clear exactly what these aims are. A new note is, however, creeping into their speeches. M. Matchek, leader of the Croat Peasant Party, is reported to have said words to this effect at Sisak: "After June 20 the Skupshtina ceased to exist for us. There remained the King and the People. For four months we have watched and waited, but the King has made no move. Now there remains only the people." Taken into conjunction with the campaign in the Zagreb Press for the King's intervention, this is interpreted merely as an attempt to intimidate the King into taking action favourable to them by threats that, otherwise, they will return to their old republican slogan. As the King as a constitutional monarch cannot openly take any such action, it is obvious that such tactics can only serve to make the situation more difficult and to put weapons into the hands of the Belgrade die-hards, who are always seeking some new way to discredit the Croat cause.

There is, indeed, a growing division among the members of the Four-Party Coalition as to the policy to be pursued towards the Zagreb opposition. The Voukitchevitch group of Radicals, at present in the ascendant, backed by some of the Democrats and Muslims, wishes to take a strong line. M. Mihailovitch, one of their number, recently elected as President of the Skupshtina, declares that he will insist on the strict application of certain regulations which enable him to refuse to pay their salaries to M.P.'s who do not regularly attend the meetings of Parliament, and that he will apply this to the abstaining members of the Opposition. It is said, too, that this group demands the trial of M. Pernar and Mme. Stepan Raditch for certain articles published in *Narodni Val*, which are said to constitute *lèse majesté*, and insists that strong

measures should be taken against the other Zagreb leaders under the Defence of the Realm Act. Since Dr. Koroshetz, who recognises that he was made Premier in order to try to obtain a reconciliation between Belgrade and Zagreb, refuses to take any such action, unless it becomes absolutely essential for the protection of the State, it is believed that attempts will be made to deprive him first of the office of Minister of Interior and later of that of Premier.

On the other hand the Radicals following M. Aca Stanoyevitch, some of the Democrats including, it is said, M. Milan Grol, Minister for Education, and a few Muslims believe that the present Government is not conciliatory enough and desire changes which would make it more so and enable relations with Zagreb to be renewed. This group, if group is not too definite a word for so vague a movement, realise that the first real step towards agreement must be the dissolution of this "blood-stained" Parliament and the election of a new Assembly. This would enable the Zagreb parties to be represented again in Belgrade, and negotiations for the settlement of the very detrimental situation to be begun. They are strongly opposed to the suggestion of M. Mihailovitch that the salaries of abstaining Members should be withheld, since they maintain the clause in question was intended for the punishment of members who abstain from laziness and not for those who deliberately abstained as a protest and whose abstention was approved by the electors who sent them to Parliament and whose taxes provided the money for their salaries.

It is believed that M. Savtchitch will work with this second group and that, if he succeeds, M. Aca Stanoyevitch may form a Government of conciliation, with the object of holding elections and beginning real work on the solution of the difficult problems which get more complicated and more dangerous as time goes on.

Economic Union.

While the politicians of Belgrade and Zagreb cannot agree and seem to be steadily drifting further apart, commercial and financial circles tend to come nearer together. The factories and financial organisations of Zagreb have found new fields for enterprise in Serbia and Macedonia, and have profited vastly by the high protective tariff which has cut out Austrian, Hungarian, Italian and other neighbouring competitors. They are more prosperous than they were before the War and far more so than the similar firms who were left in the present Austro-Hungarian territories. Every few days it is announced that new combinations have been made between Zagreb, Sarajevo and Belgrade banks, and this is a happy sign for the future of Yugoslav union.

The Bosnian Elections.

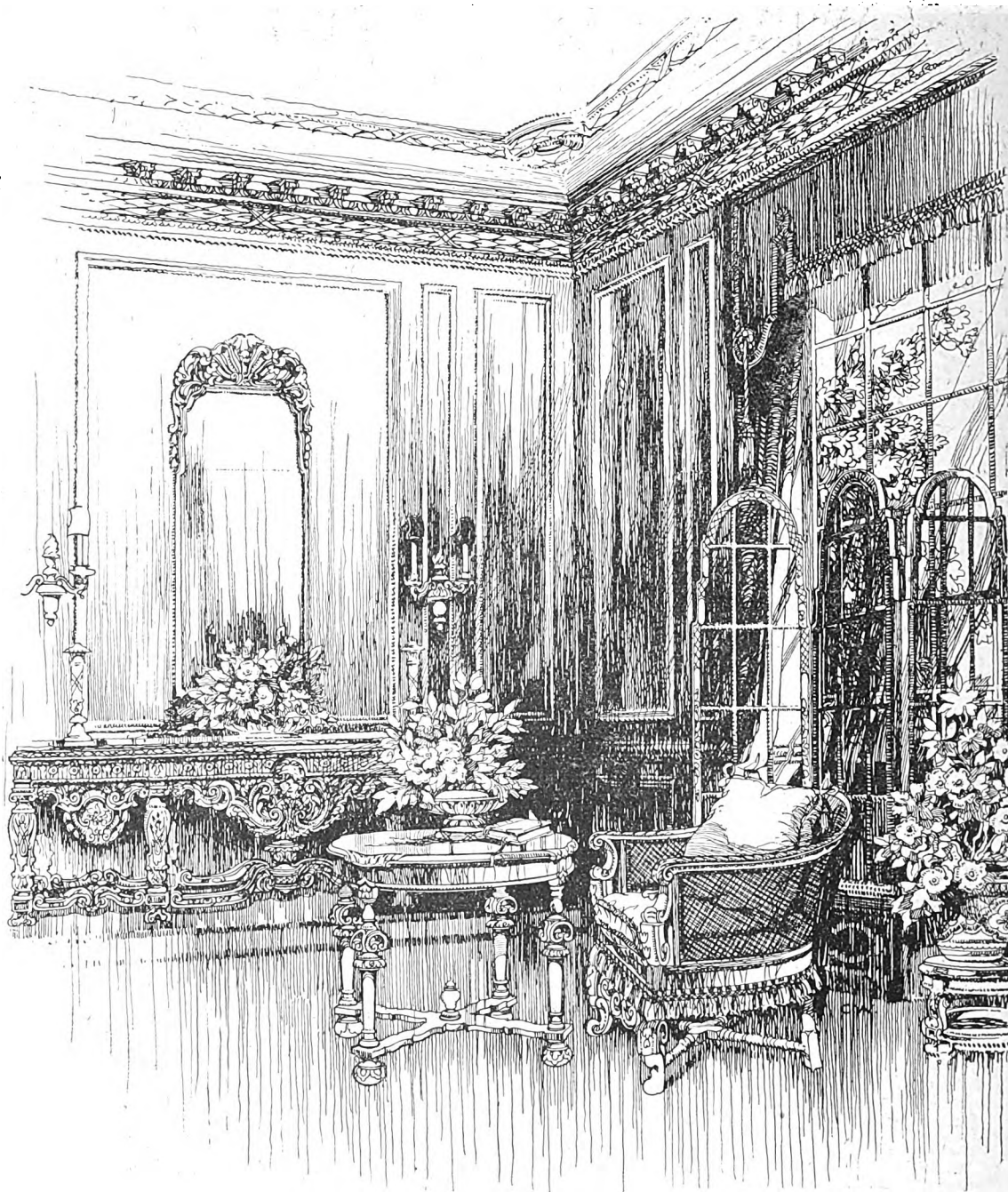
The number of Belgrade politicians who do not oppose the dissolution of the Skupshtina and the holding of new elections has considerably increased since the results of the Bosnian and Herzegovinian municipal elections were announced. From these results it would appear that the Government obtained some 3,390 seats as compared with the Opposition's 1,200. In Belgrade this is considered as showing that the people of Bosnia and Herzegovina support the policy of the present Government, and it is particularly pointed out that M. Pribitchevitch's Independent Democrat Party lost considerably—a sign, they say, that the Serbs of the new provinces do not follow him any longer. M. Pribitchevitch, of course, declares that the elections were influenced by the police and do not represent the true will of the people, while other Opposition members point out that the issues in local elections are vastly different from the vital matters of State which have to be decided by the next elections. M. Yovan Yovanovitch refuses to give any general opinion until the evidence has

*Under this heading appear weekly or at regular intervals communications from correspondents in Egypt, the Sudan, Roumania, Yugoslavia, Greece, Bulgaria, Albania, Turkey, Cyprus, Palestine, Iraq, and Persia.

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been fully sifted. It is affirmed by Government supporters that only four complaints as to the methods of conducting the elections have been made up to the present, and those are all from dissident Radicals complaining of the behaviour of their parent party.

Yugoslavia's Balance of Trade.

Although this year the wheat harvest was extraordinarily good, maize, the staple crop, failed again in the western provinces for the second year in succession. Dalmatia, Montenegro, and parts of Bosnia and Herzegovina will have to be given Government assistance to keep the people from starvation. This means, too, that the hopes aroused by the good wheat harvest, that the balance of trade would be favourable this year, are doomed to disappointment. The comparatively low prices of Canadian wheat and the failure of the Yugoslav exporters, owing to transport difficulties, to take advantage of the earliness of their harvest, have led to a slump in the sale of wheat abroad, and although prunes and fruit have been exported in good quantities, it is feared that prospects for a favourable balance of trade are very slight.

The Revolution in the Austro-Hungarian Fleet.

Ten years ago, on October 31, 1918, the great majority of officers and men of the Austro-Hungarian fleet, mostly Slovene and Dalmatian by birth, hauled down the Austro-Hungarian flag and hoisted the flags of the South Slav peoples. In leading articles dealing with the events of those stirring days the Belgrade Press expresses sorrow that this great fleet was not left in Yugoslav hands, but was divided among the Allies. Especial mention is made of the blowing up by two Italian officers of the flag ship *Viribus Unitas*, although she was flying the Yugoslav flag. Captain Yanko Voukovitch and the three hundred officers and seamen who lost their lives as a result of this dastardly deed are considered as great national heroes. The day is kept as the *slava* of the new fleet which is being built up with infinite difficulty, but which will eventually, it is hoped, be strong enough to ensure the safety of the coast line, won after so many years of struggle.

Anglican-Orthodox Union.

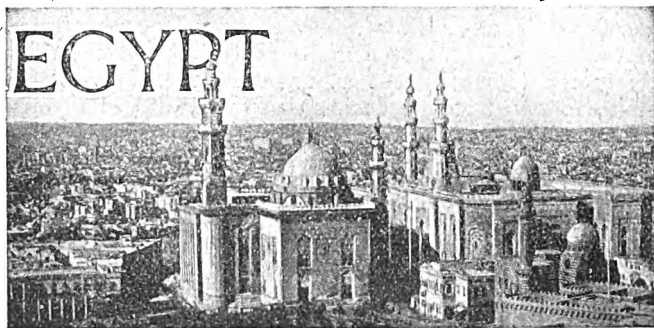
The Anglican Bishop of Gibraltar visited Belgrade, which lies within his vast diocese, last week-end and held a series of services. A reception was held for the British and American colonies at the new British Legation, the style and beauty of which everyone greatly admired.

On Sunday the Bishop assisted the Patriarch Dimitriye during a Litany in the Belgrade Cathedral, and later went as his guest to Karlovatz, where a sitting of the Holy Synod of the Serb Orthodox Church was in progress. Bishop Hicks conferred with the Patriarch and with the Synod on the possibilities of closer contact and eventual union of the Anglican and Serb Orthodox Churches. Two years ago the Bishop of Gloucester lectured in Belgrade University on the great resemblance of the Anglican and Serb Orthodox Churches, so far as all matters of ritual are concerned, and suggested the possibility of reunion. It is well known that the Archbishop of Canterbury is one of a group of great Anglicans who realise the closeness of the two Churches, far greater than that of the Anglican and the Roman Catholic Churches, and desire closer relations and possible union as a first step towards the reunion of all the Christian Churches.

Negotiations with Greece.

It is announced that the experts of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs have finished their work on the examination of the Greek proposals and have suggested that the proposals dealing with the post, postal facilities, Customs, veterinary and railway questions made in March this year to settle all matters not agreed upon in the Convention of 1923 on the Salonika Free Zone and facilities on the Salonika-Ghevgheli Railway, should be accepted. Only slight alterations in the wording have been made, and it is believed that full agreement with Greece should be reached

within the period laid down in the Protocol signed in Belgrade by M. Venizelos and M. Shumenkovitch. A pact of friendship and arbitration should be signed at the same time.



Cairo, October 27.

Commemoration of Zaghloul.

During the past week the Wafd held a celebration in commemoration of the late Zaghloul Pasha. This is the second in memory of its late leader that the Wafd has held this year. The first was on the anniversary of his death, a very natural occasion to choose for a memorial ceremony. Why within two months it should want to hold another ceremony has puzzled many people. The explanation is very simple. The anniversary fell during the school vacation when very few students were in Cairo, and the Wafd, in holding this second commemoration after the reopening of the schools, hoped that this would afford an excuse to the students to demonstrate, and by the moral effect of that act its own failing position would receive some consolidation. It was in fact a deliberate defiance of the Government in its efforts to keep the schools under better control. But the measures taken by the Ministry of Education to set a term to participation in

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politics by the students and ensure their close attention to their studies completely thwarted the Wafd, and its efforts to incite the students to rebel against those set in authority over them proved completely abortive.

The attitude of the present Cabinet towards political affairs and the constructive policy which it is following have indeed combined materially to shake the position of the Wafd, and the speech made by Nahas Pasha, which was in the circumstances as unstatesmanlike as it was stupid, followed by the decision of the Wafd to dismiss certain of its members because of their criticism of its policy, reveal the almost desperate frame of mind of those who are now in control of the destinies of the Wafd.

The International Quarantine Board.

The Egyptian Government has agreed to a request presented by the United States Government for representation on the International Quarantine Board in Alexandria. This Board has operated with great benefit to the world at large for nearly half a century for the control of the pilgrims from the point of view of health and the prevention of the spread of epidemics to Europe. It is one of the few remaining international institutions of the country, and the Egyptian Government has for some time been anxious to see the international form of this very necessary health control disappear and its incorporation in its own Public Health Administration. From the very nature of its composition and work, however, the Board comes within the reserved portion of the British Declaration of February 28, 1922 and will have to continue until such time as an agreement is come to on those reserved points. It is understood that one of the main reasons put forward by the United States Government in support of its request was the increasingly large number of American citizens who visit Egypt every year.

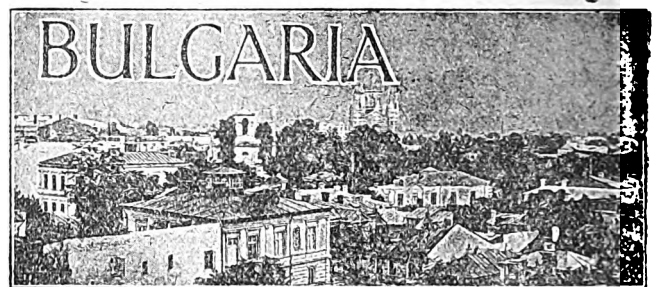
The Tropical Medicine Congress.

Preparations have reached an advanced stage in connexion with the International Congress of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene which is to be held in Cairo under the patronage of King Fuad I, from December 15 to December 22 this year. The Congress is to celebrate the centenary of the Qasr Al Aini School of Medicine, and during it the foundation stone will be laid of the new buildings for the Faculty of Medicine and the new hospital which is to take the place of the existing Qasr Al Aini Hospital. According to the information at present available, the leading countries are sending some of their most noted surgeons, physicians and scientists, some of whom will read papers on the research work done in connexion with the various tropical diseases from which the Orient, including Egypt, suffers, the most important among those diseases being bilharsiasis and anklyostomiasis. The delegates will have the advantage of seeing at close range the preparatory work for the execution of the various schemes which the Government has in hand for the improvement of the public health and hygienic conditions of the people. The filling of the "Birkas" and the provision of filtered drinking water for the villages, to mention only two of the schemes, should between them have a most salutary influence on the future health of the nation, since they will remove some of the main sources of infection to which the whole country is at present exposed, while the erection of no less than a hundred and fifty hospitals all over the country, which will mean one on an average for every 80,000 of the provincial population should bring medical attention to the door of the remotest village, and in time materially raise the health standard and reduce the mortality, particularly infant mortality.

The Commercial Secretary at the Residency.

It is with sincere regret that the British colony in general and the commercial community in particular has learned of the departure of the Commercial Secretary at the Residency, Mr. E. Homan Mulock, who, it is understood, has been relieved at his own request for reasons of health. Mr. Mulock was the first incumbent of the post which he now vacates, during the nine years he has held

it he has filled it with honour and ability. He had by no means an easy task, for the old tradition, that British merchants should never receive official encouragement or assistance, set up under the Cromerian régime, still persisted, and made the position of the Commercial Secretary a somewhat ungrateful one. However, with great tact, patience and an infinite capacity for taking pains he managed to win through the early difficult years, and a new outlook on commerce having come into being with the advent of Lord Lloyd as High Commissioner, the Commercial Secretary at the Residency has during the past three years been able to pull his full weight officially, to the great advantage of British trade. One of the outstanding features of Mr. Mulock's work has been his annual reports, written in an attractive style and containing a mass of well-marshalled information, which has been eloquent of his comprehensive grasp of the economic and commercial conditions in this country and has been of the greatest value not only to the community in Egypt but also to commerce in the Empire. Mr. Mulock will be sorely missed, and he is accompanied by the good wishes of those whose interests he has served so well, for a speedy recovery and an early appointment to a post where his special qualifications can be put to the fullest use.



Sofia, October 22.

Bulgaria and the Pact Policy.

General homage is being paid throughout Bulgaria to the frankness and courage with which M. Venizelos (abandoning the nebulous idea of a Balkan Locarno cherished both by his predecessors as well as by certain statesmen of the other countries of the Peninsula) has inaugurated a much more precise and far more practicable policy for the conclusion of separate pacts between the different Balkan States. It is only fair to state, however, that this policy was proclaimed, about two years ago, in the *Sobranie* itself by the Bulgarian Minister for Foreign Affairs, M. Bourouff, who was in favour not of a general entente but of a series of dual agreements as the only means of assuring a lasting peace in the Balkans. But as Bulgaria, a conquered country, could not take the initiative, this would have to come from another capital. It was not very surprising to see it come from Athens, after the advent of M. Venizelos. The various events which have happened on the recent foreign tour of the President of the Greek Council have been followed here with the liveliest interest. This was due not only to the fact that M. Venizelos stated everywhere, and notably at Belgrade, that he intended to be reconciled with Bulgaria also, to whom he declared that he would extend a friendly hand, but in particular because, the real aim of his journey being to prepare, although by an indirect means, the solution favourable to Greece of the Greco-Yugoslav dispute on the question of Salonika, the entente which would result between the two countries could not fail to interest Bulgaria very closely. For Yugoslavia had hitherto aspired to monopolize the direction of all the Balkan States. And now, through the help of the personal action of M. Venizelos in inaugurating a very active and open policy, this direction has been challenged by another Balkan Power, with the co-operation of an outside Balkan power—a rival of Yugoslavia.

Thus is explained here the indisputable success of M.

Venizelos at Belgrade, where he has not only refused all discussion for a new Greco-Yugoslav alliance, but has also declined every proposition tending to secure special advantages to Yugoslavia in the event of certain international complications. It should be added, moreover, that, far from M. Venizelos being grudging this success, there is very great satisfaction over it, for all that tends to enhance the military superiority of Yugoslavia must have unfortunate repercussions on the relations of this State with other Balkan States and particularly with Bulgaria. Yugoslav hegemony in the Balkans, which received a serious shock by the conclusion of the Tirana Treaty between Italy and Albania, has been definitely hit by the diplomatic action of M. Venizelos, which will profoundly modify inter-Balkan relations.

Bulgaria, therefore, views favourably this policy of pacts which has just been begun. But the country is not yet ready to profit by the policy, no important questions outstanding between Bulgaria and her neighbours yet having been regulated. In fact, if one puts aside Turkey, with whom Bulgaria has liquidated all her past problems, neither Roumania, nor Yugoslavia, nor Greece is in the opinion of her Bulgarian neighbours in such a position as to enable treaties of Friendship and Arbitration to be concluded with an end to the definitive consolidation of peace in the Peninsula. One recalls the Bulgarian trouble with Roumania and Yugoslavia; the oppression of Bulgarians in the Dobruja and in Macedonia constitutes the main obstacle to reconciliation.

Greco-Bulgarian Differences.

In regard to Greece the problem is different, for Greece has only small "islands" of Bulgarians in the north-west and could without fear make concessions to the Bulgarian minority. Certainly Bulgarian newspapers have emphasised this side of the matter, but it is not that which would prevent the conclusion of a Greco-Bulgarian pact proposed by M. Venizelos. For there are several other important questions. There is, first, the ratification of the Moloff-Caphandaris Agreement, concluded more than a year ago under the auspices and at the request, even, of the League of Nations, for the recompense of Greeks *émigrés* from Bulgaria and of Bulgarians from Greece, whose properties were liquidated by a special international Commission. This Agreement has already been ratified by Bulgaria, but ratification has been put off by Greece, who, by giving even meagre satisfaction to the unhappy refugees from eastern and southern Macedonia, will help in calming an already excited population and in lessening the causes of friction and of complications between Greeks and Bulgarians. Secondly, a series of old-standing material claims is made out, of which the Greeks are asking Bulgaria for the settlement before putting into execution the Moloff-Caphandaris Agreement, and which the Bulgarians consider as totally devoid of foundation, as having no relation with the liquidation of the refugees' property and, consequently, not being able in any case to condition the vote upon the Agreement in question in the Greek Parliament. And lastly, there is the matter of Bulgarian

access to the *Ægæan* Sea which M. Venizelos, to judge from his numerous references to it, regards as a simple commercial outlet that he would like to place at Salonika, but which the Bulgarians rather understand as a territorial outlet. Bulgarian sentiment on this point, the most important of all, has been most clearly expressed by the ex-Minister of Foreign Affairs, M. Majaroff, formerly Bulgarian Minister in London, who wrote recently in the official *Slovo*. In speaking of the offer of M. Venizelos he said: "M. Venizelos knows that the access which he offers us is not that envisaged in the Treaty of Neuilly which drove us back from Western Thrace, and as far as going to Salonika to increase the traffic is concerned, the Greek State, independently of the special stipulations of the Treaty of Neuilly, will always be anxious to invite and to attract us there; but it is a case here of guarantees which do not depend exclusively upon the goodwill of the Greek authorities." Thus one can see the difference between these two fundamental conceptions.

That, however, is not the only obstacle. The difficulties which I have mentioned will be forcibly elucidated in the course of *pourparlers* if the Greek Government address an official concrete invitation to Sofia to negotiate a Pact. The Bulgarian Government cannot retreat from its position, and if agreement is not found, progress will at any rate have been made in the reconciliation of two different points of view. Another obstacle exists in the indecision of Bulgarian policy, divided between a leaning towards an entente with Greece (the industrial interests of the country tend in this direction) and a leaning towards an entente with Yugoslavia (the ethnic affinities of the Bulgarian people and the moral interest of the future of the country tend in this direction). It is true that these two schools of thought could meet in an "entente à trois," but in such a combination the Macedonian question would automatically reappear—an eventuality which it is sought to avoid both in Belgrade and in Athens. That is why Bulgaria, convinced that the accord between Belgrade and Athens will be difficult to work out and that in the present state of things, if she decided to negotiate with one or other of the parties, it would help that country's interests without bringing profit to herself, is hesitating, at least under the present Administration, to take a firm decision to formulate her claims precisely and to determine exactly her position. It is not necessary to conclude that she is thus condemned to practise a sterile policy of complete passivity, nor, on the contrary, that she harbours any *arrière-pensées* towards her neighbours. In supporting the principle of dual pacts, Bulgaria fears nevertheless that her intervention might be exploited by a third party against herself.

CYPRUS.

Return of the Governor. Nicosia, October 24.

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Bryony on the 18th inst. and proceeded to Nicosia, where the Governor was received, with the usual honours, by the leading officers and representatives of the Greek, Muslim, and other communities. "And now," says a Nicosia paper, "Cyprus is waiting to see what gifts His Excellency is bringing from England." It adds that the zeal which the Governor has shown for the progress of the island inspires hopes that they will not be "gifts of the Danaï."

The Swedish Archaeological Mission.

Recent valuable discoveries at Vouni include many objects of gold and silver: large silver cups, solid gold and silver bracelets, figures of calves and goats in gold, several gold, and about 250 silver, coins, and many other objects in metal and pottery, all of great value for Cyprus history and archaeology. Dr. J. Gjellerstad, who is in charge of the mission, at the close of the first year's work has sent to the Greek Press a communication expressing the warm acknowledgment and thanks of the Mission for the good will and assistance which they have met with from Cypriots of all classes. Full accounts of their discoveries will be of the greatest interest. Among the chief localities where excavations have taken place are Dali (Idalium), Lapithos, Galene, Soli (Æpea), and Kovovia.

A Noted Cypriot.

The island has lost one of her foremost and best-esteemed citizens by the death on October 18, at the age of 86, of Dr. John Carageorgiades, of Limassol. He was for many years one of the leading native physicians, and during all his life devoted himself to literature. He translated Milton's "Paradise Lost" and other poems into Greek, and was author of many essays on medical and literary subjects published in Cyprus and Athens. One of his two sons settled in Paris, where he has held a distinguished position in the medical profession, and has also devoted himself to literature.

The "Union" Agitation.

There are many comments on the Greco-Italian Agreement and the work of M. Venizelos. His references to the Dodecanese and Cyprus are regarded as the "voice of diplomacy" which the political circumstances of the moment unhappily call for. It is clear, none the less, that Hellenes in all the islands must continue their patriotic work for the ultimate union with their mother country. The principal local grievance is a complaint that the number of British officials is excessive and that competent natives are passed over for the higher posts, which constitutes an injustice to the Greek community.

CALCUTTA LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Calcutta, October 18.

The Statutory Commission.

The work of the Statutory Commission began this week at Poona, and it appears to have begun well. Sir John Simon will not disappoint the hopes of Mr. Baldwin and those others who put their trust in him. The Indian situation is a terribly tangled one, with elements in it that might drive all but the stoutest-hearted to despair. The constitution that can be expected as the outcome of all these new meltings in the melting pot cannot but be a patched-up affair. It will be something if it is not seen to leak the first time it is put on the fire. We must pray that the fire be not too hot.

There have been, in Sir John's setting about his tremendous task, the notes of clear-headedness and calm will. Far too generally has the view been accepted, especially during the last few months, that the old order of things is dead, and that there must be something brand-new put in its place. Sir John has quietly reminded us that the old order is after all the existing order, and that the chief business of the Commission, according to

its terms of reference, is to form a candid opinion of its constitutional value. He has said: "There is one other observation I should like to make, and I would respectfully press it on the attention of my Indian colleagues. We must remember that the first task thrown upon the Commission is the task of giving to the very best of their power a true description of the working of the constitutional machinery in India. Before we come to proposing a remedy, change, and a new Constitution, it is extremely necessary that we, the Commissioners, with the special help of my Indian colleagues and the witnesses, should be in a position to give a just, fair, sympathetic and honest account of the working of the Reforms. We are anxious to learn by the witnesses and by our conference together, and I would beg you not to be impatient if we spend a good deal of time in trying to understand a good deal of detail, and what in fact is the structure of government in India and the working of its necessarily complicated machinery. For, believe me, nobody, not even the greatest constitutional authority with the most intimate knowledge of Indian affairs—nobody can wisely prescribe for any disease until he has conducted a proper diagnosis."

That is the note of clear-headedness. The note of calm will is heard in Sir John's quiet determination, quietly announced, not to let the strength of the Commission be dissipated by a crowd of witnesses at each provincial capital, clamouring to be heard on each one of the thorny questions that have come up. It has been decided that the "main case" should be heard once, and only once. "There will be a number of cases," Sir John has said, "wherein the convenient and practical course will be to examine any topic thoroughly at one place, and if we examine it (only) at one place, it none the less will have its bearing upon the question whenever it may arise in India." Thus the main case presented by the Associated Chambers of Commerce and the European Association will be examined in Calcutta, leaving the Bombay Government and the Bombay Chamber to concentrate on the question of the Meston Settlement. The main case of the depressed classes will be heard at Madras, and the communal question in the Punjab and Bengal. That, certainly, will not be to hear the last case only once; for it will be to hear it twice; but in the main the principle of "one place one main case" will be followed. That is very business-like.

Education Auxiliary Committee.

To inquire into the state of education in India was also among the terms of reference of the Statutory Commission. This work has been delegated, wisely, to a special Auxiliary Committee, known familiarly as the Hartog Committee after its versatile chairman. Sir John Simon expects to receive the Report of the Hartog Committee by December, when, or later, it will be discussed at meetings of the Hartog Committee and the Statutory Commission. The Hartog Committee is now busily taking evidence. In the dearth of news, for little seems to have happened throughout India this week, attention may be drawn to the testimony of one witness before the Hartog Committee, Dr. Moos, a Parsi, Dean and Syndic in Science, Bombay University. Speaking of the withdrawal of the British element in the Education Service, Dr. Moos said, as reported in the *Statesman*, "with his experience as a University Fellow from 1892 and as a Syndic from 1900, it was his conviction that the withdrawal of the English element and the substitution of Indians in the higher grades of the Educational Service had not proved beneficial to the country, or helped in any way in its advance. But the pity of it all was that while, previously, all responsible educational posts were held by Europeans, the highly-qualified cadre was closed then even to the best-cultured Indians. Now the pendulum was swinging round in the extreme opposite direction. It had stripped the Service of the bulk of the capable English element, and a large number of Indians had been drafted instead in the same cadre without any consideration at all of their qualifications, capacity, and integrity."

That is pretty plain speaking, but it is justified. I have had my experience as a teacher in Calcutta, with the opportunity that gave to form an opinion of the general capacity of the Indian as a teacher. I formed the very lowest. I once listened, astonished, to an Indian professor, a man bearing the name of a distinguished family, lecturing to a room crowded with the students of the Presidency College. The man's utterance was a voluble flow of utterly meaningless phrases. I should not have believed it possible for any man to speak so long without any meaning whatever of his own. It was an incredible exhibition. Many a lecture have I heard since, and only once—the man that time was a medical man—had the lecturer any means of his own. Yet one can have another memorandum, this one presented to the Statutory Commission by the Muslims of Bihar and Orissa, beginning: "We whole-heartedly and emphatically join in the popular demand for the Indianisation of the Services and the Army." If you move a Dr. Moos to such strong language merely by withdrawing the British element from the Education Service, and do so when only ten or so years have passed, to what language might you not move an inspecting British Field-Marshal a hundred years after you had Indianised the army?

THE LATE MR. SATISH RANJAN DAS.

Mr. S. R. Das, the Law Member of the Viceroy's Council, a brief reference to whose untimely death on October 26 was mentioned in last week's issue of THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA, was one of the ablest and best-known of the senior members of the Calcutta Bar. He was educated at Manchester Grammar School and, after being called to the Bar in 1894, he was enrolled in the same year as an advocate of the Calcutta High Court. He came of a legal family, his father and his uncle being successful lawyers. Durga Mohan Das, his father, was originally a pleader at Barisal, who came to Calcutta at the time when the High Court was established, nearly seventy years ago. He was able and energetic, and he built up a large criminal practice which he maintained for a great many years.

Bhuban Mohan Das, his brother and father of the late Mr. C. R. Das, the founder of the Swaraj Party, was a solicitor who also practised in Calcutta for a very long time. Mr. S. R. Das inherited his father's legal talents and, although, like his cousin Chitta Ranjan, he had difficulties to begin with, he became in course of time one of the most successful barristers in the High Court. He was generally considered to be a sound lawyer and an able advocate, keen and strong in argument, and courteous and restrained in bearing and language.

He was appointed Standing Counsel to the Government of Bengal in 1917, and Advocate General in 1922. His ability, skill and tact enabled him to discharge with distinction the not too easy duties of these offices. In fact, he was so successful as to be raised to the higher office of Law Member of the Government of India, on the retirement of Sir Tej Babadur Sapru, in November, 1925. Mr. Das was married to a daughter of the late Mr. Behari Lal Gupta, who was one of the first Bengalis to enter the Indian Civil Service.

In politics Mr. Das was essentially a moderate. The extreme opinions which his cousin, Chitta Ranjan, promulgated with so much force and ability made no appeal to him. He was a believer in steady and ordered progress, and he was never attracted by the pyrotechnic displays of political agitation as practised in Bengal.

Following in his father's footsteps, he was devotedly attached to the Brahma Samaj, the Theistic Church which was founded in 1830 by Raja Ram Mohan Roy, the Hindu reformer. There was a serious division in the Samaj when Keshab Chunder Sen, its distinguished leader, married his eldest daughter to the Maharaja of Cooch Behar. Mr. Das's father, Durga Mohan, was one of the principal seceders, and he became a moving spirit in the new

Church which he and his friends organised and which they named the Sadharan Brahma Samaj.

It was of this section of the Church that Mr. S. R. Das was a prominent member. He lost no opportunity of working for it, and for the promotion of the theistic faith for which it stands. He was also keenly interested in many other movements having for their object the advancement of the people.

Education was one of the subjects that Mr. S. R. Das had at heart, and for some time past he had been trying to promote the establishment in India of a school of the English public school type. This effort on his part was referred to in THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA some months ago, when it was mentioned that he proposed to collect Rs.30 lakhs to meet the cost of the necessary buildings, and to provide an adequate endowment. At that time it was understood that of this amount Mr. Das had succeeded in raising no less than Rs.18 lakhs.

INDIAN CIVIL SERVICE.

List of Appointments.

The following is the list of candidates selected for appointment to the Indian Civil Service on the results of the Open Competitive Examination held in London in August:—

G. C. S. Curtis, Westminster, Christ Church, Oxford; J. B. Shearer, Greenock Academy, Glasgow University and Trinity, Oxford; C. B. Duke, Charterhouse, Lincoln, Oxford; C. N. Sharples, Blackpool Secondary School, Selwyn, Cambridge; H. A. C. Gill, Bradfield, Magdalene, Cambridge; B. N. Chakravarty, Zilla School, Bogra, Calcutta University and London University; N. K. Paterson, George Heriot's School, Edinburgh, Edinburgh University; M. Anantanarayanan, Hindu High School, Triplicane, Madras University and Caius, Cambridge; F. N. Crofts, Rugby, Caius, Cambridge; A. W. Robertson, High School, Dublin, Trinity College, Dublin; M. P. Pai, Madras Christian College, Madras, Madras University and London University; J. G. Simms, Winchester, New College, Oxford; E. P. Moon, Winchester, New College, Oxford; C. A. G. Savidge, Aberdeen Grammar School, Aberdeen University; J. S. Hardman, Manchester Grammar School, Trinity, Cambridge; H. Trevelyan, Lancing, Jesus, Cambridge; B. Sahay, Shyam Sunder Memorial School, Chandausi, Allahabad University; B. D. Mirchandani, Government High School, Hyderabad, Singh, and Government High School, Larkana, Bombay University; T. E. Waterfield, Clifton, Magdalen, Oxford; N. Singh, Government High School, Amroati, and Neill City High School, Nagpur, Nagpur University; R. K. Mitra, Collegiate School, Krishnagar, University of Calcutta and London University; K. B. Bhatia, Government High School, Baranki, Allahabad University and London University; A. C. Hartley, Cowley School, St. Helen's, Victoria University, Manchester; L. A. Chapman, Chigwell School, Non-Collegiate, Oxford; B. K. Patel, Elphinstone High School, Bombay, Elphinstone College, Bombay, and Christ's Cambridge; R. A. Dutch, St. Olave's and St. Saviour's Grammar School, London, Christ's, Cambridge; V. N. Sardesai, New English School, Poona, Deccan College, Bombay, and London University; H. A. N. Barlow, Marlborough, Corpus Christi College, Oxford; B. C. A. Cook, Radley, Brasenose, Oxford; J. L. Llewellyn, Nottingham High School, King's, Cambridge; G. E. W. Hannington, Strand School, Brixton, Queen's, Cambridge; J. C. W. Eustace, Wellington and Brentwood College, Victoria, B.C., Exeter, Oxford; S. W. G. Olpherts Forrester, High School, Panchgani, Bombay, Nagpur University and London University; L. G. Lyde, Rugby, Wadham, Oxford; V. Ramaswami, Madras Christian College, Madras, Madras University, Allahabad University, and London University; E. A. A. Snelson, St. Olave's School, Tower Bridge, Caius, Cambridge; M. Seshadri, Municipal High School, Cuddalore, and St. Joseph's High School, Madras University and London University; W. T. Bryant, Christ's Hospital, Keble, Oxford; G. E. E. Webster, Calabar High School, Kingston, Jamaica, Trinity, Oxford; N. T. Mone, Hitkarmi High School, Jubbulpore, and Model High School, Jubbulpore, Allahabad University and Nagpur University; A. J. Salisbury, Christ's Hospital, St. John's, Oxford; D. Fishwick, Bradford Grammar School, Peterhouse, Cambridge; R. Mukkarji, Ram Mohan Roy Seminary, Patna, Patna College and St. John's, Cambridge; L. P. Hancox, St. Olave's School, Tower Bridge, Christ's, Cambridge; E. W. Bouchier, St. Olave's School, Tower Bridge, University, Oxford; C. B. C. Paine, St. Paul's, Exeter, Oxford; F. B. Arnold, Bishop's Stortford College, Trinity Hall, Cambridge; R. H. S. Healy, Earlsfoot House School, Dublin, Trinity College, Dublin; J. George, Priory County School, Shrewsbury, Queen's, Cambridge; S. Y. Krishnaswamy, Salem College School, Salem, and Pachaiyappa's School, Madras, Madras University; H. P. Tollinton, Radley, Balliol, Oxford; H. J. Evans, City of London School, Jesus, Oxford.

INDIAN NOTES.

The Indian States Inquiry.

The Indian States Inquiry Committee resumed its sittings this week under the Chairmanship of Sir Harcourt Butler, and heard further submissions from Sir Leslie Scott respecting the legal and constitutional aspects of the relations between the Indian States and the Paramount Power. In support of his contention that new machinery and readjustments are required to protect the States in the enjoyment of the rights, political and economic, to which they are entitled, and to provide for joint consultation with British India in matters of common concern, Sir Leslie Scott is quoting exhaustively from the documentary material supplied by the large group of Princes on whose behalf he is appearing before the Committee. The evidence, it is understood, is in four volumes, extending in all to over some 3,000 closely printed foolscap pages. Last week Sir Leslie Scott drew attention to cases set forth in the second volume which relates to the intervention of the Paramount Power between the Ruler and his subjects; the deposition of rulers and the compulsory modification of their powers; minority and other temporary administrations and acts done by or at the instance of the Government of India during such periods; control of successions; and complaints of derogation from the traditional dignity of rulers. Sir Leslie Scott has now completed, we understand, the exposition of the second and third volumes and expects to deal with the remaining volume during the course of the present week's sittings. There will then be an adjournment for ten days or a fortnight. On resumption of the sittings Sir Leslie Scott expects to address the Committee over three more sittings, and it is anticipated that the inquiry will close on November 27.

The I.C.S. Lists.

An examination of the list of the selected candidates for the Indian Civil Service arouses reflections of interest. In the first place, it is satisfactory, after the lack of competition in recent years, to find thirty-seven European candidates of a sufficiently high standard. Secondly, it is pleasing to note that the continuity of family service in India is maintained in several cases. Among these we notice particularly the name of Mr. G. C. S. Curtis, who passed at the top of the whole list, whether for the Home or the Indian Service, thus emulating, we believe, the example of his father, Sir George Curtis. Another name that will interest many in Northern India is Mr. H. P. Tollinton, the son of the Punjab Civilian who bore the same name and initials, though better known to fame as Bollinger. A further satisfactory feature is the number of candidates who, having already graduated at Oxford or Cambridge, are spending their year of probation at the London School of Oriental Studies. At this centre they are more likely to study the Oriental languages with zeal than in the *milieu* in which they have spent the preceding three or four years. An examination of the names of the fifteen successful Indian candidates is also interesting. Thirteen, possibly fourteen, as one surname may belong to a Hindu or a Parsee, are Hindus: the fifteenth is presumably a Sikh. Not a single Muhammadan, and, of course, no Burmese, is to be found in the list. Further, the successful candidates appear to come almost exclusively from the three Provinces of Bengal, Bombay, and Madras: with the result that many of them have to be sent to Provinces with which they have no more connexion than the European newcomer to India. It is true that the lack of representation of important sections of the population, and of certain tracts of the country, is to some extent made up by the fifteen candidates appointed or nominated in India. Of these four or five are Muhammadans and three are Burmese. The fact, however, remains that no system of examination, properly conducted, in India will produce a crop of successful candidates which can properly be reconciled with self-determination and self-government.

Indian Railways and the Provinces.

The twenty-fifth session of the Indian Railway Conference Association, which was held at Simla last month, was noteworthy by reason of an exceptionally thoughtful and well-reasoned address by the President, Mr. N. Pearce, Agent of the Eastern Bengal Railway. Several questions of outstanding importance were discussed by Mr. Pearce, and he had something illuminating and useful to say about each one of them. For example, he expressed the interesting opinion that the railway system of India will eventually become too big for one Railway Board, or for one Indian Railway Conference, to handle. He thinks that it may be a feasible solution for each province to have its own Railway Board, and its own Conference Association, and its own control of railway finance. He realises, however, that some sort of central organisation will be required, although on this point his suggestions do not seem to have been very definite. It is of particular interest to note that, in his opinion, "the split must come, and perhaps sooner than any of us imagine." Provincial autonomy as regards the ordinary administration of the provinces is certainly anticipated. But we question whether there are many people who look forward to provincial autonomy for the Indian railways. The Indian railway system has been designed and worked out as a central system without reference to provincial boundaries. And to break it up now into a series of provincial sub-systems would seem to be a task almost as formidable as that which confronts the Simon Commission. Sir Clement Hindley, the retiring Chief Commissioner of Railways, does not agree with Mr. Pearce, and he said so very plainly at the meeting. He maintains that the organisation which the existing Railway Board has set up on the Indian State Railways contains the germ of a complete decentralisation scheme for all the railways in India. And he refuses to believe that any railway system can be too big to be managed by one central body such as a Railway Board, or Commission, or whatever it may be. Sir George Rainy, the Commerce Member of the Government of India, agreed with Sir Clement Hindley that the scheme is impracticable except as regards Burma and, possibly, Madras. Each separate railway system, if it is to be a success, must be, Sir George Rainy holds, an economic unit; and the Indian provinces are not economic units except perhaps to the limited extent indicated. We are inclined to think that most people will agree with this, but all the same it seems to us to be a good thing that a prominent Indian railway man, such as Mr. Pearce, should have given public expression to his view. For the question of decentralising the railway administration is certain to be raised before very long, and it is satisfactory to know that those responsible for the State lines are alive to the possible necessity for far-reaching changes.

RETIREMENT OF MR. N. C. SEN.

Mr. N. C. Sen, son of the Indian religious and social reformer, Keshub Chunder Sen, has retired under the age limit from the post of Adviser to the Education Department of the High Commissioner for India after 15 years' service in connexion with the requirements of Indian students in this country. With Mrs. Sen and their three daughters he is returning to India, leaving London on November 22. Lord Reading presided at a dinner given to Mr. and Mrs. Sen and their daughters at Claridge's on October 31, and paid tribute to the admirable services they have rendered in promoting good relations and social intercourse between English people and Indians in this country.

Letters of appreciation of the work of Mr. N. C. Sen in London and regret at inability to attend were received from Lord Peel, Lord Birkenhead, Mrs. Edwin Montagu, the Aga Khan, the High Commissioner for India, Lord Ronaldshay, Lord Winterton, and others. In addition to the guests of the evening the company included:—The Countess of Birkenhead, Lord and Lady Erleigh, Sir Harcourt Butler, the Dowager Lady Boyle, Sir Arthur Hirtzel, Sir Dorab and Lady Tata, Sir Thomas and Lady Carey-Evans, Sir Denison and Lady Ross, Mr. and Mrs. Dudley Myers, Sir Edward and Lady Boyle, Mr. B. Webster, Sir George Sutherland, Mrs. V. Gamble, Mr. J. C. B. Drake, Mr. F. H. Brown, and Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Ezra.

LORD CARNOCK.

The death is announced of Lord Carnock, a diplomatist who accomplished most distinguished work in the Near and Middle East. Arthur Nicolson, son of Admiral Sir Frederick Nicolson, was born in 1849. Before he was 21 he was appointed to a clerkship at the Foreign Office. In the early 'eighties he had diplomatic experience, under Lord Dufferin, at Constantinople. From Turkey he went on to Greece and Persia, where he was Chargé d'Affaires from 1885-1888. For the next five years he was Consul-General at Budapest, gaining much experience of and insight into Balkan diplomacy. His work as Ambassador at St. Petersburg, particularly in the consummation of the Anglo-Russian Agreement of 1907, is well known. In 1910 Nicolson became Permanent Under-Secretary of State at the Foreign Office; six years later he retired. He was then, in 1916, created Lord Carnock. But his interest in foreign affairs, particularly in the affairs of the East, did not abate, as a proof of which it is necessary only to mention his Presidency of the Central Asian Society. The third son of Lord Carnock, Harold Nicolson, who is now Counsellor at the British Embassy at Berlin, appears to be following his eminent father's footsteps, having already had experience in the Foreign Office, Constantinople, and Teheran.

NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST ASSOCIATION.

A meeting of the Near and Middle East Association will be held on November 13, at 8.30, to discuss "Concessions in Palestine." At this gathering, which will meet, by kind permission of Mrs. L. Cobham, at 14, Hans Crescent, S.W.1., the principal speakers will be Lord Danesfort, Sir William Beach Thomas, and Miss Homer.

THE ARAB HORSE SOCIETY.

At a Council Meeting of the Arab Horse Society, held on October 31, the following new members were elected: Agnew, Major John S., Battlies, Rougham, Bury St. Edmunds; Badger, Mrs. T. R., Orchard House, Horninghold, Market Harborough; Lavington, Mrs. M. M., Poplar Cottage, Bracknell, Bucks; and Rihani, Ameen, 11, Nevern Road, Earls Court, S.W.

The Lady Margaret Savile, Ditton Lodge, Thames Ditton, Surrey, and Major S. A. Medcalf, Aylands, Waltham Cross, Herts., were elected as Governors.

The Council decided that the Governors be *ex officio* members of the Council with full voting powers.

The classes for the London Show and the Bath and West Show, 1929, were duly arranged.

The Council received from the Arab Race Committee the Report of the Arab Race held at Portsmouth on September 15, the Committee stating that the race attracted much interest.

A Budapest message states that Hungaro-Roumanian negotiations concerning the agrarian dispute have been postponed in consequence of the illness of Baron Szterenyi, the Hungarian delegate. The negotiations in Rappalo will not begin before November 14.

Dr. J. L. Magnes, Chancellor of the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, on October 31 formally opened the Einstein Institute of Mathematics. In the course of a speech he announced the establishment of a Lord Plumer Arabic scholarship. He also stated that five Arab students are now in a chemical institute of the University.

The first Indian regiment to enter Basrah in 1914, the 3rd Battalion, 5th Mahratta Light Infantry, was the last to leave the country. This regiment entrained at Baghdad on November 1 to return to India. The Air Force and the Assyrian Levies are now the only troops remaining in Iraq paid by the Imperial Exchequer.

According to the *Morning Post* Athens correspondent, a Greek Foreign Office conference, presided over by M. Venizelos, examined and approved the instructions given to M. Pappas, Greek Minister in Angora, who left for that capital on November 3 to begin negotiations for the settlement of outstanding questions between Greece and Turkey.

NEWS IN BRIEF.

A group of 115 Afghan students, including fifteen girls, has arrived in Turkey, in order to complete their education. The girls will be drafted to the Candilli Lycée, and the boys to different institutions at Constantinople and in Anatolia.

The India Office announces that the King has been pleased to approve the appointment of Mr. William Thomas Webb Baker, I.C.S., as Puisne Judge of the High Court of Judicature at Bombay, in the vacancy which will be created by the retirement of Sir Louis Charles Crump, I.C.S., on January 1, 1929.

The Provincial Governor at Khuzistan on October 22 unveiled a statue of the Pahlavi Shah at Muhammarah. The statue, which is being paid for by local subscription, was made in Italy and weighs 12 tons. The actual work of putting the statue into place was done by the Anglo-Persian Oil Company.

The death occurred on November 1 of Sir Alexander Blackie-William Kennedy, the eminent engineer. A few years ago Sir Alexander made an exhaustive exploration of Petra, and his "Petra: Its History and Monuments," in the production of which he was helped by the Royal Air Force, who took photographs, and by Mr. St. John Philby, was the result of this most laudable enterprise.

Great preparations were made in Khuzistan (Arabistan) for the visit of Shah Pahlavi, who arrived at Abadan, where the Anglo-Persian Company's refineries are, at the end of last week. The people of Abadan subscribed to present his Majesty with a gold-leaf covered chair, and the people of Muhammarah with a miniature palm tree in gold.

The Greek Red Cross has conferred its decoration on Major Reed M. Davidson, director for the Near East Relief in Egypt, Macedonia, and Thrace. The decoration was conferred for "Service to humanity at great personal sacrifices and as a true friend of Greece." Major Davidson has the Greek Commander of St. George medal and the Greek war cross, both awarded by the Greek Government for similar service to that mentioned above.

The new flying-boat flight which is now being formed at Catterwater Air Station, Plymouth, under the command of Group Captain H. R. Busted for service in the Persian Gulf, is to be equipped with new giant Blackburn Rolls-Royce flying-boats. These flying-boats, which are now nearing completion at Brough, in Yorkshire, are of all-metal construction and are stated to be the largest in the world. They are each driven by three Rolls-Royce engines totalling 2,700 horse-power.

Worcester College, Oxford, announces that it is proposed to elect in January to a studentship founded under the Laycock Trust "for the purpose of encouraging the study of Egyptology or other cognate Oriental linguistic subjects." The studentship is of the value of £200 per annum, and will be tenable for a period not exceeding three years, with possibility of a re-election for a second period. Candidates must have passed the examinations required for the degree of B.A. in the University of Oxford and must either be members of Worcester College or join that society on election. Applications, accompanied by not more than five testimonials, should be sent to the Provost of Worcester College before January 1, 1929.



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SOME QUEER CUSTOMERS IN PERSIA—I.

The Patriarch Brigand.

BY H. GASCOIGNE HART.

The life of a Bank Manager is for the most part prosaic, even in Persia. And, indeed, when I think of my ordinary customers, my memory recalls little more exciting than long drawn out discussions over rates of discount and exchange, or persistent clamouring for loans without security. But in the course of many years spent in the land of the Lion and the Sun, I had dealings with some customers whose behaviour departed from the commonplace. These often made me angry, and sometimes got me into trouble. Yet I remember them with gratitude; for to them do I chiefly owe a strange insight into the character and mode of life of a lovable, aggravating Oriental people.

Twenty years ago I stood in my office in the Holy City of Mashhad, gazing out of the window at the majestic dome and slender minarets of the great mosque of the Imam Reza.

As I stood, revelling in the delicate blues and yellows of the tilework, so well suited to the clear Persian sky, marvelling at the magnificence of the buildings and the beauty of their proportions, there arose within me a doubt.

And I asked myself in my own mind:—

"Can the religion which inspired the architect of such a work be wholly false?"

While I was lost in reverie, the muazzin ascended one of the minarets of the mosque.

"*Allāhu akbar! Allāhu akbar!*" he cried, calling the Faithful to prayer. "God is most great! I testify that Muhammad is the Prophet of God! God is most great!"

When the shrill, sweet sounds of the Announcement had died away, I heard the voice of my *ferrash* behind me;

"Rais! There is a peasant who wishes to see you."

I turned round, displeased; for the day's work was over, and I would gladly have been left to my thoughts.

"A calamity has happened!" cried the peasant, after he had spoken many complimentary phrases. "A small caravan, with nine thousand tomans (£2,000) was travelling peacefully along the road from Nishapur to Mashhad, and had reached Ab-i-diz, when a number of men in white trousers suddenly appeared on all sides. The vile highwayman," the peasant lowered his voice, "killed the luckless muleteer, Bahram, and his boy Ali! They carried away all the money. And now, Sahib, I want a present for the tidings."

"A present for bringing bad news?" No! Upon reflexion I added: "But why have you come to tell me this? I am not expecting a caravan of money."

Nor was I. For although I had twice requested Hajji Sayyid Hashim, the Bank's Agent at Nishapur, to remit his surplus funds to Mashhad, by bills if possible, or else by caravan, my request had apparently been ignored.

The next morning a telegram, which had been handed in at Nishapur three days before, was placed in my hands.

In accordance with your instructions, it ran, I have to-day dispatched 9,000 tomans by caravan. Have guards sent to Ab-i-diz to take delivery.—Hashim.

So it was the Bank's money that had been robbed! Feeling a desire to exchange ideas with someone, I summoned our interpreter. Why he was called an interpreter, I know not; for he spoke no language but his own.

"This message was delayed by a defect in the wire,"

I said, quoting the official explanation. "The coincidence is curious."

"Very," assented the interpreter, looking at me over his *pince-nez*. "And besides, even if we had received the telegram three days ago, we could hardly have had guards sent to Ab-i-diz by the time the caravan got there. Presumably," he went on, "the robbers were Afghans; for they wore white trousers. The trousers of our countryfolk are blue."

"There are no Afghans in the Nishapur district," I observed, drafting a letter to the British Consul General.

The Consul General took prompt action; he instructed K—, who was then Vice-Consul at Turbat-i-Haydari, to proceed to Ab-i-diz to investigate the affair. It so happened that I went too.

My way lay along the old Khorasan road, a road trodden by countless generations of warriors, pilgrims, and travellers; past Sharifabad, a village nestling under hills of red sandstone; across a dusty, wind-swept plain. The stars were shining long before I reached Fakhr-i-Daoud, or the Glory-of-David, where K— had pitched his camp.

Next morning we rode on to the Ab-i-diz, which is a small stream about thirty-five miles from Mashhad, and roughly the same distance from Nishapur.

"This is where the muleteers were attacked," said K—, "And over there," he pointed to a bend in the valley, "is the place where the robbers threw the specie boxes after breaking them open. I looked yesterday for loose coins, but found none. I'll say no more at present; for I would like you to draw your own conclusions. Your Agent, by the way, has come out to meet you. He is staying at the village of Akbarabad, of which he is landlord. We will go there this afternoon."

We lunched near a little shrine, built over a rock on which the Imam Reza left an imprint of his foot. Just before we reached Akbarabad, we saw Hajji Sayyid Hashim coming slowly towards us, followed by a small crowd of retainers, servants and villagers.

The Sayyid was a tall man, as Persians go, well on in years, spare and vigorous; his eyes were bright yet full of sadness; his nose aquiline; his beard full, dyed black with henna and indigo. A dark blue turban and flowing cloak enhanced the dignity of his appearance. He looked for all world like some wise old patriarch of Biblical times.

Taking my hand in both his, he bowed over it saying: "Peace be with you, Rais! Praise be to Allah, you have arrived safely! This is a terrible calamity! Terrible!! Please God, you will catch the wicked ones and have them punished. The muleteer's widow, poor woman, leaves me no rest. Wai! Wai!! Wai!!!"

Then he added, in the same grave way that he had spoken before:

"This is my son, Ali Akbar, who is my right hand." A younger man came forward.

"Your Excellencies have done us a great unkindness," said Ali-Akbar glibly. "You have belittled us in the sight of our people." He waved his hand over the village. "We expected to be honoured by your presence. Lunch was prepared for you to-day. Is there anything special that you would like for dinner? You have but to command."

After a short consultation with his Indian clerk, K— turned to Hajji Sayyid Hashim. "We will dine with you to-night," he said politely.

The venerable Sayyid bowed.

"I go to pray. After sunset I shall be at the service of your lordships."

"I am sorry for the old boy," said K—, as soon as the Sayyid had left us; "for it seems to me that he is beginning to suspect his son."

Later in the day two villagers appeared. Their eyes were haggard, their faces pale and drawn. They were dirty and wretchedly thin, and their clothing hung in rags upon them.

"Opium fiends," observed K— with a grimace of disgust.

"These men were working in a field on the day of the

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outrage," explained Ali Akbar. He turned to them. "Tell the Sahibs what you saw."

One of the men began to pour out a long tale. He was hoeing on the slope of a hill near the Ab-i-diz, so he said, when he saw the little caravan coming slowly along the road from Nishapur. Far away on the plain below a band of horsemen were galloping towards it. Leaving his work he ran to the nearest village to give the alarm.

"Why?" I asked.

"Because the horsemen were Afghans. They had black turbans and white trou—"

K— interrupted the peasant. "It is useless to go on," he said to me. "An opium smoker would sell his soul to get money for the drug; and besides, before Hajji Sayyid Hashim came here, the villagers scouted the idea of any Afghans having been in the neighbourhood. I have seven depositions."

At this moment a third man came up, and pushed the two ragamuffins aside. With him was a lad some fifteen or sixteen years old.

"That is the man," I observed, "who first brought me news of the robbery."

"He is a hireling of Hajji Sayyid Hashim's," remarked K—

"Here is Ali, the muleteer's boy," began the peasant. "He will tell you what befell—"

"Ali was killed!" I broke in.

"By the mercy of Allah, no," said the lad in a discordant voice. "I got away from the villains who slew my poor master." He sobbed out the last words. "Cursèd be their fathers!"

"This is a farce," exclaimed K—. "Send them all away, Ali Akbar. We will resume the inquiry at Nishapur."

A mile or so out of Nishapur we were met by the Governor's empty carriage and several outriders, sent to escort us into the city—a quaint mediæval custom, which the Persians call *istiqbâl*.

We were given rooms over the entrance gate to the Governor's Garden, which is considered one of the most beautiful in Persia.

The Governor, Hajji Khazan-ol-Molk, came to call in the afternoon. After assuring us that we might count upon his aid, he expressed a hope that we had been able to trace the thieves.

K— answered bluntly and to the point.

"The money never left Nishapur."

"But," protested the Governor, surprised, "my guards escorted it to Ab-idiz. The Governor General of Khorasan is responsible for the road beyond."

"Your Excellency's road guards," I ventured to remark, "should have waited for the guards from Mashhad, and obtained their receipt."

"My guards would not have left the money without obtaining a receipt," he replied, nervously cracking his finger joints. "I will send for the sergeant."

For a while we sat in silence, save for the gurgles of the Governor's water-pipe. Then the sergeant appeared, and with him Ali Akbar, who, after bowing to us all, folded his cloak about him, and sat down on his heels at the bottom of the room.

"Give me the receipt," ordered His Excellency.

"May I be thy sacrifice, here it is," replied the sergeant, producing a slip of paper.

"The seals," I observed, "are those of Bahram and Ali—the names of the muleteer and his boy."

"May I venture to explain?" purred Ali Akbar, a note of triumph in his voice. "His Excellency authorized the guards to hand the money over to the muleteers at Ab-idiz, if the Mashhad escort had not arrived. I have his written authorization."

He had. By what devious Oriental methods he had obtained it, I do not know.

"The road was reported to be perfectly safe," declared His Excellency, who felt that he was in an awkward position.

The Governor's son then spoke for the first time.

"Because I know myself to be astute" [*sic*], said the youth, "therefore do I admit that the money never left Nishapur."

Ali Akbar rose, the picture of outraged dignity. "By Your Excellency's leave," he cried, "I will bring fifty good men to disprove that statement!"

"I cannot understand," said the Governor in an aggrieved tone, when Ali Akbar was out of hearing. "Hajji Sayyid Hashim is one of our richest and most respected merchants."

It rained hard during the next two days; the weather grew cold, so cold that we kept a fire burning all day long. And this on May 15. We examined a host of witnesses, among them several—sent to us by Ali Akbar—who swore that as the caravan was leaving Hajji Sayyid Hashim's serai in Nishapur, one of the mules knocked against a gate-post, breaking a specie-box, and scattering silver coin broadcast.

"Manufactured evidence!" exclaimed K— wearily.

"I am tired of listening to all this nonsense. If the weather clears to-morrow, we will make a pilgrimage to the tomb of Omar Khayyam."

The sun shone from a cloudless sky the next day when we rode through the city gate; past some potters' shops which hug the walls; on to the plain, the wonderfully fertile plain that surrounds Nishapur.

All around us were green cornfields, waving in a gentle breeze. The huge mountain chain to the north was green too, clothed in rhubarb, and aromatic shrubs. There is enough rhubarb growing wild on those hills to supply the whole world. The air was fresh and sweet; and the sky—no words can describe the Persian sky!

Skirting the ruins of the old city, built in the fourth century by the Sassanian king Shapur the Great, we came to the little garden that encloses the tomb of Omar Khayyam.

K— was fortunate; he found among the bushes of yellow roses growing by the poet's tomb, a *gul-i-dau-rukh*, the rare double-faced rose. Yellow it is, with a red centre—the rose that inspired the quatrain:

And David's lips are lockt; but in divine
High piping Pahlavi with "Wine! Wine! Wine!
Red Wine!" the Nightingale cries to the Rose,
That sallow cheek of hers to incarnadine.

One more witness came to see us—Bahram the muleteer's "widow." She declared that her husband had gone not to the *bahasht*, or paradise that awaits all good Muslims, but to the Holy City of Karbala, whither he had been sent on a pilgrimage, by Hajji Sayyid Hashim and his son.

This concluded our inquiry; and we left Nishapur. Ali Akbar, unabashed by the discovery of his misdeeds, would have accompanied us part of the way, but we sent him about his business.

Eight months later he was imprisoned and fined by the Governor General in Mashhad. Within five years or so he was made to repay with interest the money that he had stolen from the Bank. The old patriarch, his good name gone, was left in peace, to ponder over the consequences of dishonesty. Justice is slow in Persia, and not always so sure.

The Varna police last week arrested three of the Greek brigands who in 1927 attacked a convoy between Prevenza and Yanina and carried off 15,000,000 drachmæ (£40,000) intended for the National Bank of Greece.

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Book Reviews

CLAUDIUS RICH AT BAGHDAD.

"*BAGHDAD IN BYGONE DAYS.*" By Constance M. Alexander (London: John Murray. 16s. net)

The merits of the work which Claudius Rich performed at the beginning of last century in the establishing and upholding of British prestige at Baghdad, are adequately realised by all historians, but the full story of his great struggles there, when he was ill supported by the authority of the East India Company at Bombay and constantly intrigued against by the Turkish authorities, had not previously been told. It is, therefore, both a timely work and one very well worth reading for its own sake that Miss Alexander, of whom Rich was the great-great-uncle, has done in piecing together, from the journals and correspondence of Rich himself, the life history of a very remarkable man.

Even the beginnings of Rich's life were in keeping with the romance of his career, for neither his parentage, nor the year nor the place of his birth is exactly known. Probably he was the illegitimate son of Colonel James Cockburn; probably he was born in 1786; certainly he was born somewhere in France. Rich spent the early years of his life in Bristol and Kilkenny. Very soon he showed great aptitude in languages, particularly in Latin and Greek, Arabic, Turkish and Persian, Hebrew and Syriac. In the port of Bristol one day he met a Turk, and tried his knowledge of the Turkish language upon him. The effect was enchanting; thereafter he was resolved upon a career in the East. He obtained a military cadetship in the East India Company, and in 1804 took ship for Gibraltar. Thence Rich wandered on, through Italy, for which country he retained to the end of his life a passion, to Constantinople and the Asiatic provinces of Turkey, where he spent fifteen months. In 1806 he was appointed Assistant to the Consul-General at Alexandria. The following year, however, he was appointed to Bombay, and for the journey thither significantly chose the land route by Palestine and Syria, Aleppo, Urfa, Mardin, Mosul, Baghdad, and Basra. He performed this journey disguised as a Mameluke—which is sufficient proof of his ability even then to live as one of the people of Islam among whom his lot was to be cast.

At Bombay he was married to Mary Mackintosh, daughter of the Recorder of Bombay, Sir James Mackintosh, who was a very steady friend of Rich. It was the happiest union, for Mrs. Rich was most ably to uphold in the social sphere the dignity of her race and the position of her husband. A few days previously he had been appointed Resident at Baghdad; this was before he was twenty-two! Passing through Basrah, he found trouble in the personality of the Company's Resident there, Mr. Manesty, who lived and acted by no means according to the high British standard which Rich was resolved to adopt, and in fact did adopt.

At Baghdad Rich found British prestige low enough. The French were the nation who were feared in Turkey, and "Baghdad was looked upon as one of the towns that Napoleon would make his headquarters on his way to the

Conquest of India, the aim of his ambitions, and he was thought at that time to be invincible." Of the way in which the Rich's settled down to domestic life in Baghdad, interesting though the account is, there is no space to write here.

Suffice it to say that the friction between Turkish Pasha and British Resident which was to end in complete victory of the Resident began in the first years of Rich's commanding sway. Rich felt very bitterly the ignominy of the position of British subjects in Western Asia, who could never rely upon support from the British Government. This he was determined to remedy. Another of the weaknesses of the British position upon which he at once concentrated was the tendency to employ "mercenary Greeks or half-caste natives of Constantinople" as dragomans. It is well to remember that this perspicacity of Rich might be regarded as premature even to-day!

Between 1808 and 1810 Rich was an indignant witness of the two famous British Missions to Persia, under Sir Harford Jones and Sir John Malcolm respectively. Sir Harford was sent to negotiate with the Shah by the British Government; Sir John was sent by the Government of Bengal. Rivalry was acute; so was Governmental stupidity. Rich boiled at the absurd situation; he could not stand Sir Harford as a representative of the British Empire; of him, in fact, and of the way in which these affairs reflected upon India, he wrote: "We seem to be taking the shortest route to the destruction of British India." It is obvious, therefore, that the hodiernal tendency to divide authority between two or more Departments of Government is not purely a post-War fungus.

It is highly interesting to note that Rich displayed not only interest in, but also great sympathy with, the minorities in Turkey. He was indeed a constant supporter of the Christian peoples—Armenian, Catholic, Chaldean, and Nestorian. The Armenians Rich held in particularly high regard; nor, incidentally, is there mention in this book of their oppression at the hands of the Turks—a lot which was to befall them later when the "sick man" became "sicker."

In 1811 Rich made an expedition to Babylon, and although he was not an expert archaeologist, the finds that he brought back with him form the nucleus of the existing collection of Babylonian and Assyrian antiquities at the British Museum. Later on he was to do excellent, though not epoch-making work at Nineveh.

Two years later he had his first leave, and, with his wife, who was a devoted consort, started out on post horses for Constantinople. This was really a considerable hardship, for physical comforts did not exist. They went by Kirkuk, Arbil, Mosul, the Shammar Desert, Nisibin, Mardin, Dierac, Diarbekr, Arghana, Ma'aden, Malatia, Sivas, Tokat, Amasia, Boli, the Sakharria, and Ismid. At the Embassy the Richs recuperated after their hardships in Anatolia, but after a short time moved on through the Balkans to Vienna. The details of Rich's stay in Paris and in Italy are good reading, for they show up well the versatility of the man, his love of music, of the historic past, and so on, but they cannot be told here.

Back to Baghdad Rich had to go in 1815-1816. Once more he went through Anatolia. Concerning this stay in Angora it is remarked: "European merchants there were none, all trade being carried on by agents for their chiefs in Constantinople or Smyrna, though formerly there had been French, Dutch and English factories." At Tokat he duly saw that the tombstone which he had ordered to be set up over the grave of the missionary Henry Martyn had been erected. This return route was different from that to Constantinople, for Rich wanted greater opportunity to examine ruins.

In 1816 Rich obtained some portion of that recognition which he deserved: he was made Agent for Turkish Arabia, having the Basrah Agency now under him. But the political atmosphere of Baghdad was poisonous. There

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were factions in Turkey, troubles on the frontiers, civil war, practically, in Baghdad itself. Rich had, of course, to keep strictly neutral. This he most skilfully contrived to do, and Pashas might come and go without touching his increasing prestige. But he was worried financially, for the Company kept him short of money; he felt that he was being let down by his superiors; and, above all, he deplored the indifference of England to the British position in the East. In 1817 he wrote:—

There is an absolute indifference in England about the East. That a Government which possesses India should feel that way seems unaccountable. No one cares that we are pillaged by Arab pirates on the coast of India, or that the Russians are hard at work in Turkey and Persia, undermining our interests.

If Rich were alive to-day, would he not still be up-to-date?

But from these preoccupations Rich found occasional respite in the travels and antiquarian researches of which he was so fond. In 1820 he journeyed into Persian Kurdistan, and, as everyone knows who has read his "A Residence in Koordistan" (published in 1837) he contrasted the Persian Kurds very unfavourably with the Kurds of Sulaimani. (It is one of the few errors, by the way, made by Miss Alexander, that she talks of the Kurdish "dialect," as being something akin to the Turkish language).

Of the final dispute between Rich and the Pasha of Baghdad, in 1820-1821, there is no need to write: its romantic details have often been told before. Having once escaped, the Richs left Mesopotamia, in 1821, without much regret. At Bushire he parted from his wife, going on to Persepolis. There, in the city of Hafiz, his constitution, impaired by much mental anxiety and by fever, was unable to withstand an attack of raging cholera; and on October 5 Rich died. His remains were later taken to the Armenian Cathedral at Julfa, the Christian suburb of Isfahan. It was a fitting end to a man one of whose main interests had been the welfare of the Christians of the East, an interest sustained, not on political, but on moral or spiritual grounds.

We should be grateful to Miss Alexander for the pious but sober work which she has done in filling in the hitherto obscure passages in the life of one of the most notable men in the history of Mesopotamia, whose example and whose precepts are very far from being without applicability to the needs of to-day.

ANCIENT HISTORY IN PICTURES.

"THE CAMBRIDGE ANCIENT HISTORY. Volume of Plates II.' Prepared by C. T. Seltman. (Cambridge University Press, 9s. net.)

As our readers know, Vol. I of these plates illustrated Vols. I-IV of the Cambridge Ancient History. This volume illustrates Vol. V and VI. We regret more and more that the Editors should have decided to keep the plates separate from the text. There seemed to be some excuse in the thick first volume, especially as it really did form an interesting and easily followed historical record in itself. But surely there could have been no difficulty in incorporating the contents of this comparatively slim book in the two volumes of text to which it relates. To the reader of these volumes at the time of their publication such inclusion would have made his reading doubly interesting and instructive, while future readers will always be hampered by having to refer to another book. Nor does this volume retain the corresponding advantage which we observed in its predecessor. There is no very obvious continuous history to be learned from these pictures as they stand.

Enough, however, of fault-finding. For we have to thank the Cambridge University Press for a very useful and instructive book which will add much to the utility of the great work which they accompany. In most cases the subjects are well chosen and well produced. The latter quality, however, is not conspicuous in some cases. For instance, the photographs of the Hermes at Olympia do but little justice to the original. C. S-W.

NEWS IN BRIEF.

The Iraq Parliament re-opened on November 2.

The Turkish Grand Assembly opened on November 1 at Angora.

King Alexander of Yugoslavia left Belgrade with the Queen on November 3 for Paris.

In the Turkish National Assembly on November 1 a law was passed adopting the Latin alphabet and prescribing its general use.

Sayid Kasim Khan, Afghan Consul-General in India, has been appointed Afghan Minister in Rome.

A short but severe earthquake was felt in Smyrna on October 29. It caused no damage.

A pyramid, identified as that of Pharaoh Userkaf, first King of the fifth Egyptian Dynasty, has been discovered by Mr. Cecil Firth, of the Department of Antiquities, at Sakkara.

The new railway between Philippopolis and Stanimaka was inaugurated on November 2 by King Boris and the Bulgarian Prime Minister.

In an encounter with brigands near Beisan, in Palestine, on November 1, one policeman was killed and three brigands captured. The rest escaped into Trans-Jordan.

The Welsh Guards, under their new Commander, Lieutenant-Colonel Robert T. K. Auld, early in February will leave Chelsea Barracks for a tour of foreign service in Egypt.

Major Stoitcheff, who represented Bulgaria in the equestrian events at the last Olympiad, has been seriously hurt in a contest at the Sofia Hippodrome. The horse, which fell heavily, was killed instantly.

The Duke of the Abruzzi, who was at Addis Ababa for the ceremonies in connexion with the raising of Ras Tafari to the dignity of Negus, is leaving on an exploring expedition into the interior of Abyssinia.

The commemoration stone of the Lloyd barrage across the River Indus, one of the world's greatest irrigation schemes, was laid on November 3 by Sir Leslie Wilson, Governor of Bombay, at Sukkar, Sind.

The India Office announces that the King has been pleased to appoint Mr. Charles Henry Bayley Kendall, Indian Civil Service, to be one of the Judges of the High Court of Judicature at Allahabad, in the place of Mr. Justice Benjamin Lindsay, Indian Civil Service, who has retired.

Mr. Pandeli Ralli, J.P., of Belgrave Square, S.W., one of the leading members of the Greek merchant colony of London, an intimate friend of King Edward VII. and of Lord Kitchener, left £557,441, net personalty £550,553. He left among his bequests £2,000 to the Greek Church, Moscow Road, Bayswater.

According to *The Times* Basrah correspondent the War memorial to British and Indian soldiers fallen in the Mesopotamian campaign will not be unveiled on Armistice Day, as was at one time hoped. The panels containing the names have not yet been placed in position, but the work is expected to be finished about three months hence.

A survey party from Imperial Airways will leave England early this month for the Mediterranean to decide upon the exact location of the various bases for the Mediterranean section of the England-India air route. It will be headed by Flight-Lieutenant B. H. C. Cross, a Royal Air Force officer of long experience in marine air craft, who has resigned his commission to take up the post of manager of the Mediterranean section of the Imperial Airways.

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THE WEEK AT HOME

London, Tuesday Morning.

Municipal Elections.

The Socialists are in high fettle over their successes last week in the Municipal Elections; the Conservatives appear to be correspondingly depressed, and as for the Liberals—well, they by this time are probably philosophical in face of disaster. But I do not think that these elections indicated as much as they are held to do in certain quarters.

In the first place, it was taken for granted that many more votes would be cast against the Government than previously: that always is so. But in the second place, it should be remembered that, while the endeavour of the Socialist Party is to identify local with national issues—and in such an endeavour they are said to be using the whole of their organisation—the Conservatives still are loth to confuse local with national administration. As a consequence of this indifference has grown up among conservative-minded people, who simply do not trouble to vote.

Whether this fact explains away the Socialist successes I cannot say. Obviously, if the Conservatives are to retain even their present portion of power, they will have to follow what I personally consider the very unfortunate lead of the Socialists in introducing party politics into local elections. When that has been achieved, but not before, it will be time to say that Municipal Elections faithfully reflect the probabilities of General Elections.

Conservatives' Anxiety.

It is impossible for anyone not inside the counsel of the Party to know how the Conservatives are feeling about things in general. One cannot help believing, however, that they are anxious. They appear to think that the de-rating proposals have quite failed to catch the imagination of the public (which is perhaps true), they realise that the increasing unemployment provides a very considerable handle to their opponents, and they are not too happy at the way in which votes have been cast in the by-elections.

At the session which opens to-day, the Government can hardly be expected at once to make a good show, for they have first to get over such apparently unfortunate incidents as the Naval Pact with France—a Pact for which there is abundant defence, which has, however, not yet been forthcoming in a convincing way.

Of course, Conservatives in official circles may be much more confident than would appear to the outsider. They would gain very considerably, however, if they could impress upon their supporters—and particularly during the session which begins to-day—the utter futility of mere opposition to Socialism. One does not like the scurrying desire that Liberals should link up with them so that "the real menace—Socialism" may be scotched. If the Conservatives have the right stuff in them, they themselves will be sufficient to prevent the access to power of the Socialists. In any case, you can no more scare the average English voter with proposals of Socialism than with proposals of Protection: for we are all pragmatists now!

The Primate's Farewell.

Last Sunday, in Canterbury Cathedral, the Archbishop preached his farewell sermon. The service, attended, it is said, by over 6,000 persons, was of that historic kind which writers of the future will love to recreate. For there is an element of fundamental tragedy—the tragedy which grips men in all periods—in the act of abnegation with his task unfulfilled.

But Dr. Davidson, so far from being depressed over his defeat in the matter of the Revised Prayer Book, stated his belief that the Church of England had evolved "a deeper and more thoughtful spirit of unity in purpose and in prayer than any we had known before." To those who can accept this conclusion, it will, coming from such a man and upon such an occasion, be doubly comforting.

The retiring Archbishop, upon whom has been conferred a temporal peerage, may not have been a profound

sin, but for his constant Christian attitude, his largeness of attitude in big questions, he has gained the admiration of very many men who differ profoundly from him theologically. I think that his utterances in the House of Lords will be heard and read with quite unusual respect in the future, because of the dignity of his departure from the great See of St. Augustine.

A Cigarette Temple.

One of the most important new buildings in London is the factory of Mr. Bernhard Baron, of Carreras, in Camden Town. From passing glimpses of it when it was in course of construction, one rather gained the impression that its Egyptian form and colour were badly out of keeping with the fitness of things. Not that one was unduly shocked, for the proclivity of a certain type to be over or flashily dressed is now so much taken for granted.

But whatever be thought of the outside of this tobacco factory (based on the Temple of Bubastis)—and I have not seen it since it was completed, the experts appear to be unanimous that its interior is all sweetness and light. The rise of Mr. Baron to fame and the quite extraordinary generosity with which he hands out large sums of money to charities have now impressed themselves upon the imagination of Londoners, who will be keen on seeing the temple in which the wonderful turnover is made.

Fog.

November has started most brilliantly true to type. Yesterday we had a very respectable fog—the worst of the year (so far)—although it seems to have been concentrated on the south side of London. This fact (which implied that working citizens from the north reached their offices in time, whereas the southerners were about half an hour late) will no doubt restart the interminable controversy of North versus South.

This depressing gloom is, however, being accepted quite cheerfully by the man in the street, who recalls the glory of the summer months and the beauties of the autumn, and says that whatever happens now "we mustn't grumble." But if we have more 'bus smashes and train delays, our memories, like our tempers, may become shorter.

Guy Fawkes Day.

It was bad luck for many a guy that he had yesterday such a dirty night on which to go to the stake. My impression was that this year the breed increased largely, whether because more poor children are in need of money or whether because we are indeed slowly returning to pre-War customs.

That, however, reminds me of the fact that, whereas in the (oh! so good) old days guys were always got up to represent somebody—Gladstone, Joseph Chamberlain, even Crippen,—nowadays the art of impersonality has reached a sublime degree. Can it be that our youngsters are actually unaware that politicians and public men still exist whose effigy is well worth a bonfire? This social feature must be due either to lack of education or to a sense of tolerance not commonly associated with tender years.

Grantchester Mill.

There are little losses that seem to stab the heart much more deeply than greater disasters. I think that there can be few Cambridge men who will not feel a wrench at the news that Grantchester Mill, the Mill of Chaucer and of Tennyson and of Rupert Brooke, was last week burned out entirely.

How many a punt and canoe have slipped on to the Upper River and dreamed their way up to the Meadows only the Cam knows. But now and then the mood of Rupert Brooke—

Ah God! to see the branches stir
At Grantchester, at Grantchester!
comes over the oldest of us.

ALTER EGO.

PERSONAL AND GENERAL

TO-DAY

November 8, 1928 (New Style).

October 26, 1928 (Old Style).

Jumada I, 24, 1347 A.H., of the Muslim Calendar.

Marcheshvan 25, 5689, of the Jewish Calendar.

Admiral the Hon. Sir Stanley Colville has returned to London from Egypt.

Madame Ferid Bey, wife of the Turkish Ambassador, has left London for the Continent for a few weeks.

The Hon. Lady Jackson left London on November 1 to join the Ranpura at Marseilles for Bombay.

Viscount Chetwynd and the Hon. Eve Chetwynd left on October 31 for India, and expect to be away for about four months.

Field-Marshal Viscount Allenby arrived at 24, Wetherby Gardens yesterday (Wednesday) on his return from the United States.

Admiral Sir Heathcote Grant sailed in the P. and O. s.s. Comorin from Tilbury on November 2 for Port Sudan. Sir James Mills left for Port Said in the same vessel.

The Hon. Harold Nicolson will shortly leave Long Barn, The Weald, Kent, to resume his duties at the British Embassy in Berlin.

A lecture will be delivered at King's College, Strand, on November 22, at 5.30 p.m., by M. Marcu Beza, who will speak on "Roumanian Language and Literature."

Sir Robert Clive (his Majesty's Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary at Teheran) was received in audience by the King at Buckingham Palace on October 30.

The wedding of Mr. Stanley L. Poole to Miss Phyllis Laylah Valentine Geere, elder daughter of the late H. Valentine Geere and of Mrs. Geere, took place at Trinity Church, Wimbledon, on November 2.

The Duke of Connaught, Grand Prior of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem, received Sir John Chancellor, the newly appointed High Commissioner for Palestine, on October 24, and conferred on him the insignia of a Knight of Grace of the Order.

Sir John Chancellor was the guest of the Executive Committee of the Palestine Mandate Society at Mrs. Dugdale's house, 1, Roland Gardens, on October 17.

Mr. W. E. D. Allen will lecture to the Central Asian Society on November 22 upon "Two Journeys in Georgia." The lecture, which is due to begin at 5 p.m., and will be illustrated, will be delivered in the Royal Society's Rooms, Burlington House, W.1.

Sir Edmund Wyldbore-Smith gave a luncheon at the Carlton Hotel on October 31 to meet Abdul Hamid Pasha Soliman, Egyptian Minister for Communications. The guests included: The Earl of Cromer, Sir Edward Crowe, Colonel M. R. C. Backhouse, Mr. Frank Cook, Mr. Follett Holt, Mr. F. C. Goodenough, Mr. Stanley Adams, and Ahmed Abboud Bey.

Major-General Sir Frederick Sykes was received in audience by the King at Buckingham Palace on November 3, and kissed hands upon his appointment as Governor of Bombay, when His Majesty invested him with the Insignia of a Knight Grand Commander of the Most Eminent Order of the Indian Empire. Major-General Sir Frederick and Lady Sykes subsequently had the honour of being invited to luncheon with their Majesties.

The Ranee of Pudukkottai arrived last week at Claridge's Hotel from the Continent.

Ex-King George, of Greece, visited the King at Buckingham Palace on November 2 and remained to luncheon.

Sir George Rankin, Chief Justice of the High Court of Calcutta, accompanied by his daughter, Miss Alison Rankin, will leave Marseilles in the P. and O. lines s.s. Razmak to-morrow (Friday) on their return to Calcutta.

The King and Queen received the Nawab and the Begum of Bhopal and the Maharaja of Jodhpur on October 30.

The Queen received the Maharani of Jodhpur on October 30.

Lieut.-Colonel Stewart Patterson who had the honour of being received at Buckingham Palace on October 30 by his Majesty, upon his appointment as Political Aide-de-Camp to the Secretary of State for India.

At a Council held by the King at Buckingham Palace on November 1 Viscount Peel received from His Majesty the Seals of Office and, having taken the Oath, kissed hands upon his appointment as Secretary of State for India.

Professor F. W. Thomas will read a paper to the Royal Asiatic Society on November 13, at 4.30 p.m., on "Some Documents and Languages from Chinese Turkestan." The meeting will take place at 74, Grosvenor Street, W.1.

Air Vice-Marshal Sir Robert Brooke-Popham (upon his appointment as Air Officer Commanding the British Forces in Iraq) had the honour of being received by the King at Buckingham Palace on October 31. He left London on November 1 for Port Said, travelling on the Ranpura via Marseilles.

The Maharaja of Kapurthala and the Tikka Raja of Kapurthala, the Nawab and the Begum of Bhopal, and the Yuverajah of Mysore, embarked at Marseilles on November 2 in the P. and O. s.s. Ranpura on their return to India.

Mr. Daly Stanford left Marseilles on November 2 for India, where he is going on a visit to the Maharaja of Kapurthala, the Maharaja of Mysore, and other Indian Ruling Princes. He will return next May to London *via* South Africa.

Where to stay in the East

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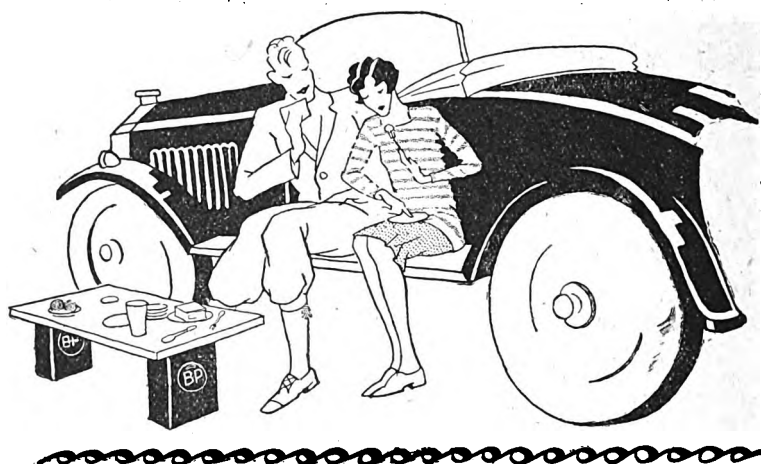
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NOTES AND NEWS

170, Strand, London, W.C.2,
Tuesday Morning.

The Bulgarian Loan.

As I suggested last week would be the case, the terms on which the Bulgarian Loan has been arranged are rather more unfavourable than those of the Refugee Loan of 1926. There is not much in it, however, as our Sofia Correspondent points out, though the figures at first sight like one of those strange mathematical puzzles, may seem to be very different. The coming loan is to bear $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. interest, and the London portion is to be issued at 96, the New York and Paris portions being issued respectively at 96½ and 98, the differences being accounted for by the varying stamp duties—another illustration of the incidence of taxation in this country. The Refugee Loan, on the other hand, was a 7 per cent. security and was issued at 92. The loan agreement has now to be ratified by the Sobranye, and provided no difficulty arises in this quarter it is expected that the loan will be issued about the middle of this month.

Greece's Refugee Loan Decision.

Nothing could affect a country's credit more adversely than the belief that the possibility exists that the terms of a loan may be subsequently altered, and when, shortly before the visit to this country of the Greek Prime Minister, M. Venizelos, it became known that the Greek Government was contemplating an alteration in regard to either the capital or the rate of interest of the 1926 Eight per cent. Internal Loan, great surprise was expressed that Greece should ever consider a policy which would be bound to impair her financial status abroad. In referring to M. Venizelos's visit, I suggested that it was probable that the views he would hear during his stay in this country would bring home to him the unwisdom of the proposed course. It is satisfactory to learn now that it has been decided not to interfere with the loan in question, but a subsequent loan of the same type will bear lower interest which, of course, is a different matter altogether and one to which no exception can be taken.

The Roumanian Loan.

Developments in Roumania have made it inevitable that there must be some delay in the conclusion of the negotiations for the stabilisation loan, but it may be hoped that the postponement will be very brief. The National Peasant Group, which is likely before long to obtain power, has shown itself to be keenly alive to the country's needs, and as far as the question of a loan is concerned it may be expected to take up the negotiations where they were left off. One point to which I referred last week in discussing the loan calls for reference. I mentioned a proposed alteration in the Mining Law, which, it was understood, had removed the hostility to the loan of the oil companies. It may well have been, however, a mere *ballon d'essai*, as no actual steps seem to have been taken in that direction

by the Government and one is left to infer that the main idea was to create a favourable atmosphere for the loan negotiations.

The National Peasant Group's Policy.

Of the policy of the National Peasant Group with regard to foreign enterprise there is fortunately no room for doubt. The proceedings of the Congress of the Group last July indicated clearly that the policy that will be pursued by the Group will be the encouragement of foreign assistance and not its hindrance. A feature of the Congress was the recognition of the adverse effect of the Mining Law and of the need for its emendation. Thus M. Michal Popovitch, in referring to what he termed the policy of "economic chauvinism" of the Government, stated that the Law had turned the whole foreign oil industry against them. Then the engineer, M. Hoiescu, in a report submitted at the Congress, emphasised the need for the reconstruction of the reserve of oil lands which has been exhausted by the development of known regions and by the suspension of works of exploitation owing to existing defects in the mining régime. He advocated the guaranteeing of concessions to those who undertake the work of exploitation and the granting to them of certain advantages. As regards foreign enterprise in general it is significant to note that he expressed himself in favour of equality of treatment as between foreign and native capital, and suggested the suppression of the special tax on the capital or revenues of foreign enterprises and the abolition of the regulation as to the proportion of foreign capital in new companies that may be established. One could give many further illustrations from the Congress proceedings of the broader vision of the Peasants Party, but those I have quoted will amply suffice to show that if the Group obtains office foreign enterprise in Roumania may, at any rate, hope for much more considerate treatment than it has received in the last few years.

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The Anglo-Persian.

At the meeting of the Anglo-Persian Oil Company, Sir John Cadman gave a most satisfactory report regarding the position of the undertaking. Dealing with the fields, he pointed out that the production from the wells at Masjid-i-Suleiman was 5,300,000 tons as against 4,800,000 tons for the previous year, and he anticipates that the output should exceed 5,500,000 tons for the current twelve months. He was further able to state that a most promising new area has been found at Haft Kel, about 50 miles east of Ahwaz. The first well in this area came into production in April with a yield of 800 tons daily, which, Sir John Cadman pointed out, is equivalent to a typical well at Masjid-i-Suleiman. He touched briefly on the future prospects for the company, and declared that if the view that oil prices have touched the low water mark is right, then they would be justified in anticipating not unsatisfactory results for the current year, "and that the succeeding year may inaugurate an era of steadily expanding profits."

Cotton Growing in the Sudan.

Crop conditions last season were, broadly speaking, unfavourable for the Sudan Plantations Syndicate, and, as will be seen from the report, extracts from which are given elsewhere in this issue, while the area under cotton was increased from 100,058 feddans to 105,587 feddans the crop amounted to only 80,995 bales as compared with 116,278 bales. The results obtained by the company, however, showed a slight improvement on those of the previous year, this being due to the fact that the price of cotton has shown a rising tendency. The net profits amounted to £587,401 as against £558,382, and the dividend this time will be 25 per cent. as against 30 per cent., but it is now paid on a much larger capital. Last year's dividend called for the distribution of £450,000, whereas the amount required this time will be £562,500. The carry forward this time will be £412,118, which compares with £419,042. These figures indicate plainly the progress of the company, and the strength of its position, and as for the current season the crop on a larger area is estimated at between 140,000 and 150,000 bales, shareholders have every justification in anticipating an improvement on the wonderful results already achieved by the company.

The Next Sudan Crop.

I mentioned above that the next Sudan crop of Sakel-larides is expected to be between 140,000 and 150,000 bales. The first estimate of the crop is actually 572,112 kantars, which represents roughly 143,000 bales. The estimate for American cotton also shows an increase at 86,349 kantars as against 61,846 kantars, or 21,312 bales as against 15,416 bales. On this basis the total production of cotton in the Sudan for the current season will amount to about 164,312 bales, which, in the circumstances, will be a very respectable total.

The Balkan Harvest.

The fact that something like famine conditions are obtaining in a part of Roumania, makes it seem a paradox to say that this year's harvest in the Balkans generally, has been a pronounced success. Yet such has been the case, and the explanation of the seeming inconsistency is

simply that this year's maize crop has generally been poor, but apart from that the Balkan harvest has shown a very appreciable improvement on that of last year. A few figures (representing in this case thousands of bushels) will suffice to show the position. Taking Roumania first the yield of the wheat crop was 130,496 as against 96,734, that of oats 64,262 as against 59,810, that of barley 75,628 as against 57,952, and that of rye 11,833 as against 9,323. For Yugoslavia the figures for wheat are 105,361 as against 56,568, for oats 26,713 as against 20,114, for barley 20,230 as against 14,449, and for rye 8,563 as against 5,923. In the case of Bulgaria also there is an increase in the case of every crop I have mentioned. The yield of wheat was 51,104 as against 47,346, that of barley 15,651 as against 14,041, that of rye 9,019 as against 8,243, and that of oats 9,382 as against 7,481. Only in Greece do any of the crops show a decrease. The Greek figures are 16,542 for wheat as against 16,106, 9,959 for barley as against 11,811, 8,514 for oats as against 7,078, and 2,337 for rye as against 2,420. Unfortunately the failure of the maize crop except in Bulgaria gives another side to the picture, for Roumania and Yugoslavia are two of the great producers of maize in Europe. Still the success, more or less general, of the other crops should go a long way to improving conditions in the Balkans and making the markets there in the next year somewhat more active than they have been.

Virginian Cigarettes for Egypt.

Attention is drawn by the Monthly Journal of the British Chamber of Commerce of Egypt to the remarkable growth in popularity of Virginian cigarettes in Egypt in the last few years. As in the case of so many other changes in the world it was the War which was responsible for the real introduction to that country of the Virginian cigarette which had hitherto been practically ignored there. The extent to which the Virginian is finding favour can be seen from the fact that the imports for 1926 and 1927 were respectively 171,738 kilogs. and 192,121 kilogs. For the humble Virginian it is a distinct triumph in a terrain particularly favourable for its Turkish and Egyptian rivals, and it is very satisfactory to know that practically all the Virginians imported come from the United Kingdom.

COMMENTATOR.

MOTOR CARS IN GREECE.

Even if the Balkans had a good system of roads the nature of the terrain in general would serve to explain the slow growth of the use of motor cars in the various countries. Of Greece it is true to say that the War really introduced the motor car to the country, and since 1918 there has been a rapid increase in the importation of motor cars, tyres, and oil. The value of the imports of motor cars in 1919 was no more than 9,038,052 drachmæ, but for 1927 it was 150,812,632. The imports of tyres have undergone a similar expansion, their value rising from 2,321,936 drachmæ for 1919 to 60,686,039 drachmæ for 1927. The figures for oil consumption are also very significant, the value rising from 3,227,041 drachmæ for 1919 to 266,144,255 drachmæ for 1927. As good progress is being made with road construction in Greece it may be anticipated that the use of the motor car will greatly develop there in the next few years.

TO SUBSCRIBERS IN THE MIDDLE EAST.

Readers of "The Near East and India" in Iraq and Persia are reminded that for a subscription of £1 15s. per annum, the Paper is sent by Overland Mail. A subscription of £1 10s. covers postage by ordinary long-sea mail only.

TRADE OF MUSCAT INCREASING.

The value of Muscat's trade for 1927-28 was £518,944, as against £474,202 for 1926-27, an increase of £44,742. The total for imports was £370,659, while the value of the exports was £148,285, the respective totals in the previous year being £326,934 and £147,268. The chief items in the imports were rice, £160,622, cotton goods £51,465, and coffee £36,079, while as regards exports dates were responsible for £92,529, dry and salted fish for £22,805, and sardines for £10,611. The principal contributors of the imports were India with £293,402, Singapore with £30,974, Persia with £18,513, and the United Kingdom with £13,878, while the chief importers from Muscat were India £100,617, Ceylon £21,436, and the United States £10,520. During the year 126 steamships of a net tonnage of 406,093, and 107 sailing vessels with a tonnage of 11,808 entered and cleared the port. Of the steamships 116 were from India, 4 from the United Kingdom, and 6 from the United States.

FOREIGN EXHIBITORS AT SMYRNA FAIR.

The British Consul-General at Smyrna reports that a larger amount of space was occupied by foreign products at the "Ninth of September" Fair at Smyrna than in 1927. The number of exhibitors was 516, of whom 155 were foreign, the principal being:—German, 61; Italian, 35; Russian, 16; French, 11; British, 8; Swiss, 5; Czechoslovak, 4; Hungarian, 2; Austrian, 1; Belgian, 1; Swedish, 1; and Yugoslav, 1.

The chief British exhibits were gas cookers and fittings, agricultural machinery, Scotch whisky, gramophones, safes, cutlery, copying machines, chocolate, biscuits, and safety razors. Whole rooms were devoted to exhibits of Swiss weaving machinery, to Austrian pianos, and German typewriters, sewing machines, bicycles, surgical accessories and tools. Large stands were occupied by foreign gramophones, foodstuffs, telephone apparatus, insecticides, whisky, and assorted small manufactured articles, mostly German.

There was also a well-organised and representative display of Italian manufactures, as well as a large number of American and German exhibits displayed by local agents. Agricultural machinery from Czecho-slovakia, Austria, Hungary, and Canada was also on view. The Soviet Trade Delegation's exhibits at the Exhibition were for the most part those forming a permanent exhibition in their offices in Smyrna. These included oils, coal, sugar, rubber, pottery, cement, chemicals, and caviar.

The King of Afghanistan has ordered the appointment of a foreign adviser to organise the Department of Finance, while the Afghan Ministry of Education has been instructed to open a school where instruction will be given through the medium of the Turkish language to train students for admission to the Turkish Military Academy in Constantinople. Precedence by warrant is being abolished.

Yugoslavia's wheat harvest is estimated at 2,880,000 metric tons. For internal consumption 1,200,000 tons are required, for sowing about 350,000 tons, making 1,550,000 tons, but it is thought that a further 500,000 tons must be added to this total owing to the relative cheapness of wheat over maize. There will remain, therefore, for export some 830,000 tons.

TENDERS INVITED.

Tenders are invited for the following contracts, and must be made by the dates mentioned.

(Particulars of tenders marked D.O.T. are to be obtained from the Department of Overseas Trade, 55, Old Queen Street, S.W.1.)

EGYPT.

Steam Lorry.—The Director-General, Tanzim Department, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of three steam lorries required for the Department. December 15.

Steel Book Cases.—The Egyptian Ministry of Public Works invites tenders for the supply and erection of 115 steel book cases for the Royal Library in Cairo. December 31. (D.O.T.)

Saddlery, Etc.—The Director of Equipment and Finance Department, Ministry of the Interior, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of various articles such as saddlery, fire-engines accessories, rest-house necessities, leather. November 24.

Microscopes and Accessories.—The Department of Public Health, Egypt, invites tenders for the supply and delivery of microscopes and accessories. November 15. (D.O.T.)

TURKEY.

Generator.—The Direction Générale des Chemins de Fer et ports d'Etat invites tenders for the supply and delivery at Haidar Pacha of a steam engine driven A.C. generator of 600 K.W. November 28. (D.O.T.)

Field Telephone Wire.—The Direction-General of Posts, Telegraphs and Telephones, Angora, invites tenders for the supply and delivery of 50,000 metres of rubber-covered field telephone wire. December 18. (D.O.T.)

Saw Milling Plant.—A Constantinople concern is anxious to acquire the following plant as soon as possible:—(1) steam power driving plant for driving saws, etc., for an annual output of 50,000 cubic metres which it is proposed to increase later to 100,000 cubic metres. Only wood will be consumed as fuel in the factory; (2) two horizontal log saws; (3) one vertical log frame saw; (4) two circular swing saws, for logs. (D.O.T.)

Aerodrome.—Tenders are required for the construction and equipment of an aerodrome on a site in Anatolia. Details must be submitted to the Ministry of Defence by November 15, 1928. (D.O.T.)

FORTHCOMING SAILINGS.

The following are the sailings for the Near East and India, the ports of departure and closing dates for cargo being given in parentheses:—

Anchor Line.—S.s. Castalia for Bombay (Birkenhead, November 23). (For passenger sailings and dates see advertisement.)

Anchor Brocklebank Line.—S.s. Mangalore for Calcutta (Birkenhead, November 15); s.s. Matra for Calcutta (Birkenhead, November 22).

Bibby Line.—S.s. Herefordshire for Port Said, Port Sudan, Colombo, and Rangoon (Birkenhead, November 14).

British India Line.—S.s. Mundra for Bombay and Karachi (London, November 10); s.s. Merkara for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, November 17); s.s. Hatimura for Bombay and Karachi (London, December 1).

Cunard Line.—S.s. Bothnia for Patras, Piræus, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, and Constantza (Glasgow and Swansea November 8, Liverpool November 10); s.s. Bosnia for Casablanca, Gibraltar, Genoa, Leghorn, Naples, Palermo, Messina, Catania, Corfu, Bari, Venice, Trieste, and Fiume, also at Gruz and Ancona, if inducement (Liverpool November 24, and Swansea November 2); s.s. Bantria for Patras, Piræus, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, and Constantza (Glasgow, Swansea and Liverpool, December 8).

Johnston Line.—S.s. Aviemore for Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Bourgas, Varna, and Constantza (Liverpool, December 1).

P. and O. Line.—S.s. Kaiser-i-Hind for Bombay (London, November 9); s.s. Perim for Calcutta (London, November 10).

Prince Line.—S.s. Scottish Prince for Tunis, Malta, Alexandria, Jaffa, Haifa, Beyrout, and Cyprus (Manchester, November 17); s.s. Algerian Prince for Tunis, Malta, Alexandria, Jaffa, Haifa, Beyrout, Tripoli, Alexandretta, and Cyprus (Manchester, November 24).

Ellerman and Papayanni Lines.—S.s. Polo for Genoa, Leghorn, Naples, Palermo, Messina, Catania, Bari, Gruz*, Venice, Trieste, and Fiume (Swansea, November 10); s.s. Egyptian for Malta, Alexandria, Jaffa*, and Haifa* (Liverpool, November 10); s.s. Volturno for Gibraltar, Malta, Alexandria, Jaffa*, and Haifa* (Liverpool, November 17); s.s. Mardinian for Piræus, Volo*, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, and Varna (Liverpool November 17, Swansea November 17); s.s. Algerian for Algiers*, Smyrna, and Constantinople (Liverpool, December 1). *Subject to sufficient inducement. Cargo taken on through Bill of Lading to Algerian ports via Algiers; Moroccan ports via Gibraltar; Tripoli (Barbary) via Malta; Syria and Cyprus via Alexandria; Greek out-ports via Piræus or other convenient port.

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Passenger sailing dates:—

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*CASTALIA ... Nov. 27	*BRITANNIA ... Dec. 31

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THE WEEK'S FINANCE.

(By Our Financial Expert.)

London, November 6.

The outstanding event of the week—which was not a complete working week, the Stock Exchange being closed on Thursday, November 1—was a set-back in the price of the highly speculative securities. There were considerable falls among many shilling shares and dealing was not easy, sellers being largely in excess of buyers. Whether the upward movement will be resumed shortly remains to be seen, but there can be no doubt that a reaction was over-due. In many cases the advances in quotations had proceeded to absurd lengths, for they bore no reasonable relation to earning power. The Stock Markets will, therefore be healthier for a breathing space. It is to be hoped, moreover, that it will last long enough to enable speculators to make a careful survey of the position and realise the extreme danger of a similar movement following that of the past few weeks. In the circumstances the quotations of investment stocks remained fairly firm, gilt-edged securities in particular showing strength. Good industrial shares have not lacked support, but the more speculative markets, including oils, mining, etc., have mostly been featureless. Despite the removal of restriction, however, rubber shares are well maintained. The new capital issue market shows some recession from the recent exceptional level of activity.

Life Assurance as an Investment.

The British insurance companies are making life assurance increasingly attractive. Thus two well-known mutual offices have recently announced considerable reductions in the rates of premium charged for non-profit assurances. This tendency is apparent in the world of life assurance as a whole. In these circumstances, it might seem to be explaining the obvious to draw attention to the merits of life assurance as an investment. But the evidence indicates that this is not the case. Britain, in fact, is considerably under-assured as compared with some other countries; and this is the less excusable since Britain is on the whole admirably served by its insurance companies. It has been well said that the first duty of the investor who has dependents is, after providing for the necessities for existence, to assure his life. And, apart from being

a duty, it is a sound investment. Assuming that the company has been chosen carefully, life assurance gives a good return; there is no danger of capital depreciation and other anxieties inseparable from Stock Exchange investment are absent; and it involves compulsory saving. Moreover, the policy is often useful as providing security for a bank loan, while most policies have a known surrender value—that is to say, in the event of the policy holder being unable to continue the payment of his premiums some return is made to him. There are various secondary attractions in policies, some, for instance, being issued in connexion with house purchase facilities.

An Important Iron and Steel Fusion.

The heavy industries of this country, including the coal and the iron and steel trades, have been well advised to embark upon a policy of "rationalisation." There is welcome evidence that the industries are realising, if somewhat tardily and grudgingly, the merits of "rationalisation," a further important scheme having been announced during the week. Thus proposals involving the amalgamation of the South Durham Steel and Iron Company and the Cargo Fleet Iron Company, having combined assets exceeding £5,000,000, have been submitted to the shareholders. These concerns are already closely connected, being members of the Furness group, but actual amalgamation is expected to result in important economies. The companies, and especially the South Durham undertaking, are noteworthy for the comparative soundness of their finances, which is mainly attributable to their prudent policy with regard to capital during the boom years. The South Durham Company, despite the severe and prolonged depression in the heavy industries, has throughout made a return to its ordinary shareholders, the last distribution being 5 per cent. In these circumstances, the company's $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. perpetual debentures, returning £5 18s. per cent. and the 6 per cent. cumulative preference shares, yielding £6 per cent., deserves the investor's careful attention. It is believed that the combined undertaking, under any reasonable conditions of trade, will be able to earn a fair return on the ordinary capital. The terms of amalgamation appear equitable.

Electricity Supply Shares: the Present Position.

We have frequently recommended the shares of electricity supply companies in this column. There is now a tendency, however, for buying to be based on hopes which may easily lead to disappointment. The current yield on the majority of the leading London and provincial companies has fallen to a low level, often being under 4 per cent. Clearly there has lately been a considerable rise in share values. Indeed, the question arises as to whether the more recent advances are fully justified. Several considerations, it would seem, have prompted the buying. First, there are hopes that the companies, owing to expanding business, will have to increase their capital, which will be raised on bonus terms. This has already been done on a fairly large scale and cannot continue indefinitely, since capital will not be raised regardless of whether it will earn a return. Secondly, it has been suggested that when the national scheme is in operation the companies will be able to effect substantial economies. To a large extent, however, these economies have been anticipated and too much should not be hoped for in this direction. Thirdly, the possibility of American buying for control has been held out as an attraction. The present signs seem to indicate that further action on these lines is improbable. In all, therefore, many electricity supply shares are, to say the least, fully valued for the time being.

The Customs duty on maize imported into Roumania has been suspended until May 1, 1929.

The production of the Dacia Romano Petroleum Syndicate for October was 3,120 tons.

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RANGOON—J. & F. Graham & Co.
CALCUTTA—Andrew Weir & Co.
COLOMBO—Skrine & Co.
BEIRA—Beira Shipping Agency.
DELAGOA BAY—John T. Rennie & Sons.
DURBAN—Andrew Weir & Co.
EAST LONDON—Messrs. Dunn & Co.
PT. ELIZABETH—Mackie, Dunn & Co.

MOSSEL BAY—Messrs. E. Searle & Co.
CAPE TOWN—Thomson, Watson & Co.
HONG KONG—The Bank Line, Ltd.
BANGKOK—Siam Forest Co., Ltd.
SINGAPORE—Hattenbach Bros. & Co.
MAURITIUS—A. Lam & Co.

LONDON—ANDREW WEIR & CO., 21, Bury Street, E.C.3

THE BULGARIAN STABILISATION LOAN.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Sofia, October 10.

The loan which the Bulgarian Government is about to conclude for the stabilisation of the currency will provide, in conformity with the decisions of the Finance Committee of the League of Nations, under whose auspices the transaction is being carried out, a net yield of £5,000,000 or 3,365,000,000 leva plus the amount allocated for the necessary reconstruction works in the regions affected by the recent earthquake. Of the loan one-fifth will be issued in Paris, two-fifths in New York and two-fifths in London, with the participation of the Rome, Amsterdam, Berne, Brussels, Prague, and Stockholm markets.

The loan will bear interest at the rate of $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., and will be issued at 98 in Paris, at $96\frac{1}{2}$ in New York, and at 96 in London and in the other countries mentioned, the difference in the rates of issue being due to the unequal stamp tax in the three chief centres. As the duration of the amortisation of the loan is forty years the yield, allowing for redemption, is 8.40 per cent., or a little more than that of the loan concluded in 1926 for the establishment of the refugees, the yield of which was 8.36.

In view of the present unfavourable conditions of the money market, which should improve, the Government has reserved the right to carry out a conversion of the loan after ten years. Further, it has obtained the immediate disposal of the whole yield of the loan except for 800,000,000 leva, which will be expended in accordance with the needs for the development of the railway system, whereas the yield of the Refugee Loan was only remitted progressively, after the justification of the expenditure incurred by the respective services for the settlement of the refugees.

In conformity with the Protocol of the Finance Committee of Geneva the proceeds of the loan will be utilised as to £1,500,000 to strengthen the position of the National Bank by the repayment of a part of the floating debt of the Treasury, as to £650,000 to provide new working capital for the Agricultural Bank (£500,000) and Co-operative Bank (£150,000), as to £1,250,000 to improve communications, and as to £1,100,000 for Budget arrears—without taking into account the £500,000 specially allocated for the relief of the distressed regions.

CONFERENCE FOR THE LIMITATION OF EXHIBITIONS.

The British Government is sending delegates to an international conference which opens in Paris on November 12 for the purpose of discussing the question of the limitation and regulation of the number of international exhibitions and for concluding an international convention on the matter. A convention on this subject was signed at Berlin in 1912 but owing to the outbreak of War before ratifications had been exchanged, the convention never came into force. The main object of the conference will be to seek to limit strictly the long period general exhibition, which is organised in many cases primarily for sentimental reasons, and where the commercial results likely to accrue to participants do not repay the cost of sending a creditable exhibit. It is understood that the British Government takes the view, after consultation with trade interests, that the short period trade exhibition or fair stands in a different category and in the main is a valuable aid to business.

The British delegates will be Sir Edward Crowe, C.M.G., Comptroller-General, Department of Overseas Trade, Colonel H. W. G. Cole, C.S.I., Director, Exhibitions Divisions, Department of Overseas Trade, Mr. J. R. Cahill, C.M.G., Commercial Counsellor, British Embassy, Paris. The delegates will be accompanied by Mr. W. E. Beckett, Assistant Legal Adviser, Foreign

Office, Mr. Guy Locock, C.M.G., who has been nominated by the Federation of British Industries and by a representative of the Association of British Chambers of Commerce, and by Mr. L. A. de L. Meredith, O.B.E., and Mr. A. I. Schué of the Exhibitions Divisions, Department of Overseas Trade.

THE DRIED FRUIT MARKET.

Messrs. J. C. Houghton and Co., of Liverpool, report as follows under date October 31:—

Currants.

October generally witnesses the heaviest trading of the year, and although the opening days failed to justify the high hopes indulged in, the prevailing feeling was that as time passed the movement would gain momentum and finish in a blaze of glory. Unfortunately, these anticipations were not realised and buyers seemed settled in their policy of confining their requirements and purchases to the narrowest limits. With the arrival of Lesbian and Bactria a good selection of all grades was available, but buyers continued to deal very cautiously, prices easing to the extent of 1s. on the medium grades and 2s. to 3s. on best qualities. Sales were:—Pyrgos, 49s. to 49s. 6d.; Amalias, 50s. 6d. to 51s. 6d.; Patras, 52s. to 53s.; Gulf, 54s. to 56s.; Vostizza, 57s. to 64s.

This depressing state of affairs continued, buyers operating on a very small scale, and holders showing willingness to make concessions to encourage operations. Prices weakened still further, more noticeably in the first qualities of Vostizza. These disappointing conditions continued right to the close. Roumelian and Polo came to hand when there was little left of the month to run its course, but the excellent assortment they brought quite failed to stimulate demand. Closing prices show very little change from those ruling midway through the period under review. The key to the situation undoubtedly rests with Greece, and when a definite announcement is made that prices of the lower grades cannot fall below the minimum guaranteed, buyers will be more likely to operate with confidence. Closing quotations:—Pyrgos, 48s. to 48s. 6d.; Amalias, 49s. to 49s. 6d.; Patras, 50s. to 51s.; Gulf, 53s. to 56s.; Vostizza, 54s. to 62s.

Sultanas.

Smyrna.—There has been no improvement in the demand. The small quantities arriving were quite insignificant as compared with what the market is usually accustomed to, but were more than sufficient to meet requirements, and with c.i.f. quotations on a lower basis day by day, buyers exercised extreme caution in their purchases. Business was transacted in medium at 48s. to 52s.; gool, 54s. to 58s.; fine, 60s. to 64s. Some trade was also done in afloat parcels.

Cretans.—Colour parcels attracted attention and sales were put through during the voyage at 61s. to 80s.

Greeks.—Small shipments have come to hand and been disposed of at 60s. to 68s. and up to 75s. and 80s. for best colour lots.

Figs.

A slight falling-off in the demand has been experienced. Best quality sells readily, but inferior lots are more difficult to place. Large boxes Layers, 52s. 6d. to 80s.; small boxes, 67s. 6d. to 82s. 6d.; Locoums, 90s. to 135s.; pulled, 45s. to 52s. 6d. Bags gennuines, 32s. to 36s.; choice, 38s. to 40s.

Messrs. C. J. Giraud and Co., of Smyrna, report as follows on the position of the market there for the week ended October 27:—

Sultanas.

The estimated sales to date total 29,100 tons, against 30,750 tons for the corresponding period of the previous year.

Closing prices Smyrna, per cwt. c.i.f. London, for types 12 to 18 are:—29s.; 30s. 6d.; 33s.; 36s.; 41s.; 45s.; 54s.

Market Conditions.—The market is very quiet. Demand, as usual at this time of the year, is slow, and is likely to continue so over the next few weeks. A recent census of stocks still remaining in this country shows the quantity at date to be about 14,000 tons.

Prices, in spite of lessening demand, show no appreciable variation, quotations in foreign equivalents fluctuating more according to rate of exchange than on actual market differences.

Figs.

The estimated arrivals on the Smyrna market since the opening of the season total 24,000 tons, against 21,547 tons for the corresponding period of the previous year; estimated sales to date total 23,200 tons, against 21,432 tons.

Market Conditions.—Arrivals are practically at a standstill. Small operations are being effected from balance stocks held by Smyrna dealers.

The Turkish Government has decided upon the extension of the Angora-Sivas railway to Erzerum.

Engineering Topics.

By G. B. B.

Soil Solidification.

Many expedients have been resorted to at times by civil engineers, who have had to carry out work in loose, soft, or sandy soil, with a view to rendering it sufficiently solid or compact for working upon, but a new method is being employed in connexion with the construction of the new underground railways in Berlin. Here the soil is peculiarly loose and friable, and in order to solidify it, two solutions, one with a large percentage of silicic acid and the other containing certain soluble salts, are successively injected, by pressure pumps and probing jets, into the sand. The first solution serves solely to impregnate the soil, whilst the second starts a number of chemical reactions as soon as it meets with the silica of the sand and the free salicic acid, and various silicates begin to form, eventually turning the loose sand into a mass almost as solid as rock. It is said that the method is specially suitable for using with soils containing acids or saline constituents, as the presence of these renders it unnecessary to incorporate any of them into the injections. An analysis of the soil will show at once whether its chemical constituents will exert a favourable influence or otherwise on the chemical re-agents involved. We have yet to ascertain the relative economic advantages of this method of solidification, and at first sight it would seem probable that the cost would be excessive. Everything, however, depends on whether the soil is or is not rich in any of the chemical constituents required for the process. Another factor to be taken into account would be the water content of the soil.

Use of Silicates.

Whilst on the subject of solidification and the use of silicates it may be mentioned that in many parts of France sodium silicate is being largely used in steel surfacing work, particularly in places where the traffic is not unduly heavy. It would certainly seem that a lesson from French practice might be taken by some of our rural surveyors, as there are many country roads in the south of England where the conditions would seem favourable for this "water glass" treatment. It is said that, for the work to be successful, the stone should be a good quality of limestone and that it should be free from any appreciable quantity of siliceous matter. In practice, it is usual to take the stone out one year before use, so that it may be entirely free from dirt or clay when it is put on the road. Anything of the kind adhering to the actual stone impairs the success of the process. It would seem, however, that where modern plant is used for stone getting, washing would be an ample precaution to take, and so the delay of waiting would be avoided.

The stone used on the first course is such as will be rejected by a 1½ inch mesh and will pass freely through a 2½ inch mesh. This course is rolled after being laid. A filler, made of small stones, chippings of limestone, crushed rock or sand, is then thoroughly mixed with commercial sodium silicate in the proportion of about 10 gallons of 58 degrees Be. S.S. to each cubic yard of fine material, the mixing being done either by stirring and turning with shovels, or in a concrete mixer.

The slurry or mortar thus produced is spread evenly over the rolled stone and rolled in, as heavy a roller as possible being used. In an alternative method the loose stone on the road is not rolled before the slurry or mortar is laid on the top, and in that case the coarse stone and the binding mortar are mixed together with a fork. Another method, but one which, although simpler and

cheaper, does not give so good results in practice, is to mix the coarse stone, the chippings, and the sodium silicate solution together in a mixing trough or concrete mixer and pour it out on to the road, afterwards rolling it down. In any case, no matter which process is adopted, the rolling must be done thoroughly. During the rolling operations the sodium silicate and the limestone slurry come to the surface in yellow patches, and the rolling should be continued until this colour becomes uniform over the surface. After a little time for drying the road is ready for light traffic and in a few days is ready for any ordinary loads. One advantage of this type of road is that should the surface become broken, it is self-repairing, provided it is wetted to a certain extent. The wet patch will either smoothen or re-set, or, if new chippings be applied, the wet patch will bind them in place.

Electrification in Ireland.

The Irish Electricity Supply Board has advanced the electrification of the Greater Dublin area another step by placing the contracts for the low tension distribution network. The contract was open to Irish, English, and Continental firms and it is interesting to note that it was secured by Messrs. Callenders Cable and Construction Co., Ltd., of London. The actual work of cable laying and construction will begin in the coast towns in about six weeks time and should be completed by the middle of next summer. A large amount of local labour will be employed. This contract represents the final stage in that section of the work, as it provides for the network that will carry electrical energy into the consumers' premises. The Board hopes that by the beginning of next August there will be no part of the Greater Dublin area in which it will not be possible for a supply of electricity to be obtained.

The Aboukir Company intends to pay off on December 1 next its Six per Cent. First Debentures due on that date.

More than £1,000,000 is to be spent on improving and extending existing telephone facilities in Yugoslavia.

Some pillars and other remains of a temple, probably built by Solomon, have been discovered at Hazor by Professor Garstang's exploration party.

An Athens message states that M. Venizelos received Mr. Charles Hambro, of Hambros Bank, on October 26 on the subject of the bank's offer of a loan for municipal and other works.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

Country.	Method of Quoting.	Parity of Exchange.	Latest Quotations.
Alexandria.....	Piastre to £	97½	97½
Amsterdam ...	Florins to £	12.107	12.09½
Athens	Drachmæ to £ ...	25.22½	375
Belgrade.....	Dinars to £	25.22½	276
Berlin	Marks to £	20.43	20.36
Berne	Francs to £.....	25.22½	25.20
Bombay	Sterling to Rupee	18d.	18 5/64—7/64
Brussels	Belga to £.....	35	34.89
Bucharest	Lei to £	25.22½	805
Budapest	Peu to £	27.82	27.81
Caleutta	Sterling to Rupee	18d.	18 5/64—7/64
Constantinople	Piastres to £	110	962½
New York	Dollars to £	4.86 2-3	4.84 27/32
Paris	Francs to £.....	25.22½	124.15
Prague	Kronen to £.....	24.02	163½
Rome	Lire to £	25.22½	92.60
Sofia.....	Leva to £	25.22½	670
Teheran	Krans to £	48	48
Vienna	Sch to £	34.58	34.47½
Warsaw	Zloty to £	25.22½	43 3/16—7/16

Company Meeting.

ANGLO-PERSIAN OIL COMPANY.

Further Increase in Production.

Position of the Industry.

Sir John Cadman's Address.

The nineteenth ordinary general meeting of the Anglo-Persian Oil Company, Limited, was held on November 6 at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, London. Sir John Cadman, K.C.M.G. (chairman of the company), presided.

The Secretary (Mr. John Clark) read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said:—Before proceeding to the business of this meeting I have to refer, with great regret, to the death of Admiral Sir Edmond Slade, which took place on January 20, 1928. As a member of the Board since 1914 and Vice-Chairman since 1916, he had taken a very active and enthusiastic part in promoting the fortunes of the company and the welfare of its employees. To a very kindly and courteous character he united a wide range of knowledge and experience, which were always at the company's service, and his loss we all deeply deplore.

In accordance with the usual custom, you will no doubt allow the report and accounts to be taken as read. My first observation relates to the warning given last year to the effect that, failing some improvement in prices, a reduction in profits was inevitable. Events have shown that warning to have been well-founded.

Reference to the profit and loss account shows that the company's net profits have, in fact, fallen by just over £1,500,000. There has been a considerable drop in the value of almost every oil product throughout the world and, more particularly, a succession of falls within the United Kingdom in the wholesale price of motor-spirit aggregating no less than 4d. per gallon, or £5 a ton, as between February and August, 1927. In these circumstances, the fact that, serious though it is, the effect on the profits is not greater, affords remarkable proof of the company's inherent strength and of the success of the measures taken to bring about permanent economies.

The extra allowance for depreciation has been maintained and the usual allocations have been made to amortisation and debenture stock redemption reserve. £500,000 have been added to the general reserve, bringing it up to over £2,000,000. After deducting these appropriations, there is a sufficient balance to enable us to pay a dividend of 7½ per cent. on the ordinary shares. During the year a considerable amount of capital outlay has been incurred in work—almost all of it revenue-earning—upon refineries, tank installations, and equipment, but nearly the whole of this expenditure has been covered by the amount set aside for depreciation. It was not possible to establish the provident fund on its amended basis during the year, but, as will be seen, we had invested over £700,000 in securities. These have since passed over to the new Provident Trust Company.

The financial year ends on March 31, but owing to the length of time required to complete and audit the accounts, it is impracticable to hold the annual general meeting until after the holiday season. Feeling that it would better suit the general convenience if the annual meeting could be held earlier than is possible at present, the Board propose to alter the period of the financial year so that it shall coincide with the calendar year. The first complete year will, therefore, if you approve, commence on January 1 next and the next accounts will be for the nine months ending December 31 next.

Production.

Persia.—There is nothing but good to report of the producing zone at Masjid-i-Suleiman. Production during the past year, estimated to exceed five million tons, was 5,300,000 tons. It is still continuing to increase at the steady rate which has characterised operations for some years past. In the current twelve months the output should exceed 5,500,000 tons, but the potential annual output is of course very greatly in excess of this figure.

As indicated last year, drilling at Masjid-i-Suleiman has been confined to marginal tests. This drilling has been very successful in proving an important extension of the oil field. As an outcome of the continuous application of scientific methods to the examination of this field, I am able to state that its structural complexities have been so successfully studied that full reliance can now be placed upon calculations as to the magnitude of the oil reserves.

The Fields Department continues to operate with a competence and precision of effort worthy of high praise. Masjid-i-Suleiman, although still the chief centre of field activity in Persia, has now become a well-balanced production centre, with an ample supply of wells, and little further drilling remains to be done to complete the delimitation of the field. In future, the principal drilling, though still controlled from that centre, will therefore take place on new areas under test or development.

Few can readily realise the amount of effort, tireless and prolonged, which is necessary before a new oil structure can be discovered in zones most suitable for development. In a search during which no fewer than nineteen areas were drilled, no marked success was obtained until recently. But I am happy to inform you that an area, which justifies a high measure of optimism, has now been

found at Haft Kel, situated about fifty miles to the East of Ahwaz (the central station on our pipe-line system) and about fifty-five miles south-south-east of Masjid-i-Suleiman. In April last the first well came into being with a production estimated at 800 tons daily, which is comparable with a typical well at Masjid-i-Suleiman. It has of course been closed in, and drilling is now proceeding to test the dimensions of the structure. This field will be linked to the pipe-line at Kut Abdullah, a little south of Ahwaz. Its proximity to administrative centres at Masjid-i-Suleiman and Ahwaz, and the absence of engineering difficulty, will materially contribute to a co-ordinated and relatively inexpensive scheme of development. Haft Kel is 1,500 feet higher than Kut Abdullah, and on account of the gravity head, no expense for pumping plant is entailed.

Drilling on other test areas is progressing steadily, but results so far do not warrant any definite forecast. Surface evidence has often proved to be entirely misleading, and for this reason the most recent knowledge which geophysical science can provide has been brought into use. It may interest you to know that by creating a miniature earthquake with explosives, the earth tremors produced can be traced by seismic instruments, from the records of which the pressure of oil deposits and their approximate depths can be determined. In course of time this scientific method is likely to play an increasingly important part in discovering the position of new fields.

During the year an extension, from Iraq into Persian territory, of the Naft Khana oil-bearing zone, under concession to the company, has been definitely proved. This has introduced an element of complexity, since here is an oil field bisected by the frontier line of two nations, and governed by the terms of two separate agreements. It is hoped, however, that it will prove possible to find means of lessening the difficulties inseparable from a situation of this kind, and so, by evolving one administrative unit instead of two, secure the benefit of the most economical methods of operation.

Turkish Petroleum Company.

Iraq.—In connexion with the recent Press announcement that the American group have now formally taken over their holding in the company which operates the Iraq petroleum concession, I should like to take this opportunity of saying that we welcome them warmly as collaborators with us and the other groups concerned in that great enterprise.

Its constituent groups are now five in number—four major groups, each holding 23½ per cent. of the share capital; and one other group holding 5 per cent. In order to facilitate the participation of American interests in the enterprise, the Anglo-Persian Oil Company have given up half their former holding at cost price, and will receive as consideration 10 per cent. of the production of crude oil free of cost.

The Iraq company is now in a position to build upon an exceptionally wide basis of technical and commercial experience. May I also add that I am full of hope that close intercourse between the representatives of so many important groups, meeting in one council chamber to forward the interests of a single enterprise whose well-being is of common concern to them all, will not be without its effect in promoting a spirit of amicable understanding throughout the yet wider sphere of the industry in which they meet competitively.

Recent drilling in Iraq has met with decided success, but many of the wells are comparatively deep, gas pressures are high, and rapid drilling is not easy. Much remains to be done before the path is cleared for final schemes of development; but the future is bright with promise.

Albania.—Although drilling operations in Albania have been continuous throughout the year, they have been attended with little success. The quality of the small production hitherto obtained is by no means good, and the wells now being drilled have so far afforded no great reason for optimism. In the light of new data secured by the drill the whole of the geological evidence is undergoing re-examination, and in this examination we are fortunate in being able to collaborate with our Italian friends who are also drilling in the country.

Refineries.

Considerable further progress has been made in adapting our principal refineries, both by improvement and expansion, to the heavier demands imposed on them by our growing marketing organisations, and by the need for keeping abreast of every new development in contemporary practice. A notable change has been effected in the distillation of the crude oil, which now involves a single, instead of a double, operation. The general modernisation of the plant, in order to keep pace with current ideas, has also introduced greater elasticity into the whole process, thereby much facilitating the manufacture of a wider range of products. On the refining side, as distinct from the initial work of distillation, a considerable amount of development work has been done and methods of treatment have been improved and simplified, with a consequent reduction in operating costs.

Shipping.

The vessels of the tanker fleet have followed the normal course of their employment and there is no serious loss to record. The building programme, to which allusion was made last year, has made good progress, and all but one of the vessels laid down are in service.

The new motor vessels included in the programme are running satisfactorily, and, in general, these new ships represent the finest development of the modern tanker. On the efficiency of the tanker fleet and marine personnel we can justly continue to pride ourselves.

Reference to the tanker fleet naturally leads me to speak of the navigable conditions prevailing in the approaches to Abadan. This is a subject on which very definite progress falls to be recorded. The port of Abadan has become one of very great importance and activity. More than 600 ships clear the port annually. At the beginning of the company's operations, so restricted was the depth of the channel that no less than 70 per cent. of each cargo had to be lightered to partially loaded tankers lying outside the bar—50 miles from Abadan. The vexatious delays to ocean-going traffic, the congestion at the port, and the resultant expense need no emphasis.

Comprehensive surveys of alternative approaches carried out by the Iraq Government revealed the possibility of dredging a new channel then forming to the east, since known as the "Rooka" channel. Two-and-a-half years' dredging on this channel has enabled us to reduce the very expensive lighterage system to 4 per cent. only of the cargo carried; and we are within sight of the completion of a passage whose ultimate use will practically eliminate it. Obviously, this result is one of the greatest possible value to the company.

Distribution.

I am able to record a continuance of satisfactory trading by our "B.P." distribution organisation in this country. The volume of sales has been on a satisfactory level, whilst expansion has been particularly gratifying in the case of "B.P." motor spirit. The expenses of distribution, which constitute a very formidable item in the cost bill, have been sensibly reduced; and yet further reductions are in prospect.

Reference was made last year to the Board's intention to emphasise the identity of the "B.P." brand of products with the Anglo-Persian Oil Company's organisation. Action has been taken with, it is believed, notable success, and there should be few people to-day who do not know that "B.P." petrol is the Anglo-Persian Company's spirit.

On the continent of Europe, in India, and elsewhere, the company has entered into new and important marketing arrangements, which should very definitely contribute towards continued business expansion. Steady progress has been made during the year by affiliated concerns on the Continent, which are disposing of increasing quantities of products.

Persian Relations.

The appointment of a Resident Director in Persia, with headquarters at Teheran, has done much to facilitate friendly understanding and the prompt settlement of important questions with the Persian Government.

You will be glad to hear that His Imperial Majesty the Shah has himself shown very great interest in the company's activities. We recently learnt that he proposed shortly to visit the South of Persia, and we are hoping that, notwithstanding the very many calls on his time, he will find it possible to take the opportunity of inspecting some of the company's operations. It is gratifying to feel that the example, originally set by His Majesty a few years ago, and since followed by various Persian statesmen and notables, has done much to stimulate national interest in the company's work. Feeling, as we do, that the distance which separates our principal centres from the most important cities of Persia, particularly the capital itself, occasionally prevents full understanding of the nature and extent of the company's operations, and appreciation of its great value as a factor in the economic advancement of Persia, we sincerely trust that such visits will be often repeated. They can be productive of nothing but good.

The plan of the Persian Government, now being put into operation, for the construction of a railway between the Caspian Sea and the Persian Gulf is a matter of common knowledge. It is a great scheme, involving many technical and economic problems of the highest importance. It is intended that the southern section of this railway shall pass near, or through, certain districts where this company is at work; and it will devolve on us, as progress continues, to determine in what respects it may prove feasible to assist Persia by making such maximum use of the railway as may be consistent with the technical needs and economic well-being of the company itself. It is too early to indicate possibilities—the scheme itself is still in its infancy—but the matter is one which will receive the earnest attention of the Board.

You will have read of the recent visit to this country of His Highness Taymour Tash, the Minister of Court. The opportunity was naturally taken to discuss certain affairs of the company with this eminent representative of His Majesty, and I would like to pay tribute to his profound grasp of those affairs and the general breadth of his outlook.

Let me also take this opportunity of saying how greatly we appreciate the benefit we continue to derive from the wise counsel of His Excellency Mirza Eissa Khan Fayz, the Persian Imperial Commissioner, who is happily in our midst to-day.

Problems of the Oil Industry.

Last year I ventured to indulge in some general comments on certain world aspects of the petroleum industry. I am glad to notice, on re-reading my remarks, that I trod gently on what was, and continues to be, very delicate ground. We still have with us the problem of uncontrolled production, just as we have that of reckless

marketing competition. I think, however, that the past year has led not only to a better realisation of these problems, but also to a gradual mobilisation of effort to overcome them. So far as production is concerned, it is hardly necessary to amplify my remarks of last year on the potentialities and actualities of our own production in Persia. There is a great gulf between them; but in the present state of world competition, low prices, and excess production, your Board hold strongly to the view that a temperate though steadily progressive policy is much to the ultimate advantage of all who look for continuous benefit from the activities of this company.

It profits nobody, in the long run, that there should be alternate waves of over-production and under-production, of high prices and low prices, of big profits and little or no profits. Least of all does it help the consumer—whether he be responsible for a motor cycle or for a transport system—to find his fuel bill, over a very brief term of years, looking like a fever chart.

There can now be no secret that certain representatives of which I may in all modesty describe as the leading forces of the petroleum industry of to-day have been closely considering this many-sided problem. It is with a very great sense of responsibility that this contact has been made. We naturally want to use such influence as we possess to make the industry a prosperous one—indeed, that is our first duty to the shareholders. Prosperity, however, does not mean a place in the sun only for a few world-wide operators. Every concern that can produce or operate competitively but efficiently must be able to share in it. Let me strongly emphasise the fact that in no sense is any creation of a trust aimed at.

Over-production is by no means governed by the rate at which oil can be brought to the surface in the world's oil fields. If it were so, there would be chaos. Fortunately, a check is immediately imposed by the physical limitations of pipe-lines, tanks, refineries, and transport, through which oil has to pass before it reaches the consumer. These facilities already exist throughout the world in such abundance as to ensure that an adequate supply of products at fair prices will be available to the consumer for very many years to come. So long as they are not unduly multiplied, there will always exist a check against oil flowing into the world's markets at a rate far exceeding the world's demands. It is evident, therefore, that the problem of what is called over-production has recognisable dimensions, and that it should not prove impracticable to devise means which will make for greater stability.

Hitherto, India as an outlet for our products has been virtually confined to fuel oil. May I just explain the exact significance of the recent change? Our friends the Burmah Oil Company now sell in India through a company called the Burmah-Shell Oil Storage and Distributing Company of India, the capital of which is jointly provided by the Burmah Company and the Asiatic Petroleum Company, a member of the Royal-Dutch-Shell Group. Without participating at all by way of capital, we have now arranged to consign to the new company through the "Burmah" a substantial share—and as the market grows an increasing amount—of the import trade of that enterprise; and this in respect not only of the heavier oils but of all products, including kerosene and motor spirit.

Similarly, we come to the announcement, made three weeks ago, of the agreement we have made with the "Asiatic" respecting distribution in Egypt, East and South Africa, and certain other markets. In this case the newly-registered Consolidated Petroleum Company will operate on our joint behalf.

This alignment of interests also is a permanent one. An important part of the scheme is a provision whereby, whilst both companies participate equally in marketing-profits, the oil will be supplied in such a manner as to afford recognition to the principal of drawing upon their nearest sources of production. The equipment established and the experience already gained by both partners in the countries concerned will constitute a common stock. It may be claimed, therefore, that in the new "Consolidated" the principles I have just been discussing are brought, in some measure, to fruition. Having regard to the evils resulting from over-provision of facilities, it detracts nothing from my satisfaction to be able to assure you that in this particular case the operation of amalgamation represents in large part one of prevention as well as of cure. The markets are already considerable in extent, and as years go on many of them will certainly become important. In relation to these markets, we and our partners command sources of supply abundantly stored and almost ideally placed. The Board is therefore satisfied that nothing but good can come of this significant union of interests.

In one movement we become established as distributors in a wide area, and on equal footing with a fully-established concern. We should have had to wait many years and expend much capital before we could have hoped to acquire such an influential position by methods of isolated and aggressive penetration. The "Consolidated" Company will be governed by the Anglo-Persian and the Asiatic

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working in the closest concert, and our share of the capital and representation on the Board will be on a basis of absolute equality. Let me add in passing that the maintenance of the Anglo-Persian's complete independence is in no way impaired by any of the prospective developments which the Board have in mind.

Future Prospects.

In this country every oil product has fallen in price. On the other hand, most Continental countries have shown a rise in value towards parity with prices ruling in the United States, where, with the important exception of fuel-oil, petroleum products have shown considerable appreciation in value. The world's consumption, more particularly of motor spirit, continues steadily and persistently to advance. The influence upon the company's revenues of increased turnover and important economies is already becoming cumulative in effect; and, provided we are right in believing that prices have touched low-water mark, we are justified in hoping that the close of the current period will be marked by not unsatisfactory results, and that the succeeding year may inaugurate an era of steadily expanding profits.

The report and accounts were unanimously adopted.

NEWS FROM ALL SOURCES:

The Greek Government has decided to lower the duties on imported wheat, flour, and maize.

It is understood that a Czechoslovakian-Yugoslavian Agricultural Bank is to be established in Belgrade.

The capital of the Banca Timisoarei si Societate Commerciala has been increased from 50,000,000 lei to 62,500,000 lei.

The opium crop in Macedonia is stated to have been a record, the estimates of the total yield ranging from 150,000 to 180,000 kilograms.

Mr. Archibald A. Jamieson, partner in the firm of Messrs. H. S. Lefevre and Co., has joined the committee of the Ottoman Bank in London.

Steaua Romana (British), Ltd., are advised that the production of the Steaua Romana Company, Bucharest, for October was 65,110 tons.

The traffic receipts of the Egyptian Delta Light Railways for the ten days ended October 10 amounted to £E11,655, making the total from April 1 £E144,995.

The traffic receipts of the South Indian Railway Company for the week ended September 30 amounted to Rs.15,15,911, making the total from April 1 Rs.3,07,98,376.

It is reported that the 1928 crop of locust beans in Cyprus will amount to about 38,000 tons. The exports in August totalled 55 tons, while 2,459 tons were exported in September.

The Yugoslav Ministry of Commerce has issued a regulation making it requisite for a foreigner to obtain the sanction of the Ministry before becoming a partner in a business concern in Yugoslavia.

It is understood in Cairo that the United States has intimated its wish to be represented on the International Quarantine Board, and that the Egyptian Government is prepared to agree to this.

Coupons due November 15 on the Persian Five per Cent. Sterling Loan of 1911 will be paid at the Imperial Bank of Persia, 33-36, King William Street, E.C.4, or by Messrs. Glyn, Mills and Co., 67, Lombard Street, E.C.4.

The Egyptian Sculpture Galleries of the British Museum are under redecoration and will be closed to the public in sections, the first section to be closed being the northern half, i.e., between the Central Saloon and the north-western staircase.

A hundred and ten Persian students have left Teheran for Paris. They will study different sciences in Europe under a scheme contained in an Act passed by the Majliss in May, by which at least 100 students will be sent to Europe every years for six years.

According to a message from Constantinople, provision is made for forming a Turkish "School of the Nation," in which the scholars are to be the whole of the population above the military service age. Their masters are to be 12,000 specially-recruited teachers. By these means popular classes are to be organised throughout Turkey and all men and women over 46 years must go to school.

The East India Manganese Company has been registered as a public company, with a nominal capital of £140,000, in £1 shares, to acquire certain manganese fields in the village of Basadera, Singbhum district, Bihar and Orissa, India; to adopt an agreement with the Dorgbun Trust and D. P. Barnett; and to carry on the business of miners and quarriers of ores. The directors are D. P. Barnett and Sir Alfred H. Grant (director of St. James Court Estate).

COMPANY NOTES AND REPORTS.

SUDAN PLANTATIONS.

The report of the Sudan Plantations Syndicate, Ltd., for the year ended June 30 last states that during the past year considerable expenditure of capital has been incurred on the new areas in course of development, and further expenditure of the same nature is required. The financial position is satisfactory, and liquid resources should be adequate to meet all further demands in connexion with development and the running of the concession of 465,000 feddans. The area under cotton in the Gezira during the year was 105,387 feddans, as compared with 100,058 feddans during the season 1926-27.

Parana Plantations, Ltd., has issued 560,000 new ordinary shares at par, in order to provide the lands in which it is interested with improved communications by an extension of the Sao Paulo-Parana Railway. The Syndicate took up its proportion of shares in the new issue, and its total holding appears in the balance-sheet. Brazil Plantations Syndicate, Ltd., has decided to abandon the direct cultivation of cotton and other crops and to realise its properties as and when favourable opportunities occur. It is anticipated that satisfactory results will be obtained from the eventual disposal of these properties. The Syndicate's holding of shares in this company remains unaltered.

The yield of the Gezira cotton crop did not come up to that of the preceding season; the exceptionally hot winter and the abnormal absence of winds prevented the proper aeration of the plants and rendered the cotton susceptible to various pests. Nevertheless the final results were not unsatisfactory. The crop at Zeidab, which is further north, did not suffer in this respect and gave results above those of the previous season, as will be seen from the subjoined table showing the cotton crops dealt with, and also the corresponding quantities of the preceding year:—

	1927. Bales.	1928. Bales.
Zeidab	3,109	3,330
Gezira	113,169	77,065
	116,278	80,995

The whole of the Zeidab bales and 47,428 Gezira bales, as well as all the cotton seed shipped from Zeidab and the Gezira, together 35,255 tons, were sold at satisfactory prices prior to the close of the financial year. The portion of the Gezira cotton crop which remained unsold at June 30 last is entered in the balance-sheet at a valuation which the directors consider conservative.

The Syndicate, under the terms of the new arrangements with the Sudan Government, has now become liable for the payment of Sudan Business Profits Tax, but as relief equivalent thereto will be obtained by a reduction of the rate of British income tax to be paid, this does not entail any increase in the amount of taxation on the Syndicate's profits. British income tax at such reduced rates has, however, to be deducted from dividends instead of the standard rate as in the past, and in order that there shall be no material difference by reason thereof in the rate of dividends paid by the company, the Board recommend that on the declaration of the final dividend for the year at the forthcoming general meeting, provision be made for the deduction of Sudan Business Profits Tax and the reduced rate of British income tax, and that the interim dividend be adjusted to accord with the same deductions. The total deductions thus made for both taxes would not exceed a deduction of British income tax at the standard rate. It is proposed to make future declarations of interim and final dividends on the same principle. The profit and loss account for the twelve months, after deduction of all outgoings, shows a net profit of £587,401 5s. 5d., which, added to the balance brought forward from last year, viz., £419,041 10s. 11d., less payment made on account of directors' percentage, £31,825-£387,216 10s. 11d., brings the total credit to £974,617 16s. 4d. The directors now recommend the declaration of a final dividend payable to shareholders on the register on November 3, 1928, at such a rate as, with the interim dividend paid in July last, will be equivalent to a dividend for the year of 5s. per share (equal to 25 per cent.), less Sudan Business Profits Tax at the rate of 4½d. in the £, and British income tax at the rate of 3s. 7½d. in the £. This final dividend, together with the interim dividend paid in July last, will absorb the sum of £362,500, leaving a balance to be carried forward of £412,117 16s. 4d.—£974,617 16s. 4d.

An agreement has been reached upon the status of Egyptians in Persia and of Persians in Egypt, and a Treaty between the two countries is to be signed at an early date which will supersede the Turco-Persian Treaty of 1875, under which Persians have hitherto enjoyed certain privileges in Egypt.

The report of the Egyptian Consolidated Lands for the year to June 30, 1928, states that in July, 1927, the scheme for repayment of 50 per cent. of the capital was confirmed by the High Court. Accordingly a return of 10 per cent. in cash and 40 per cent. in non-interest-bearing debenture stock has been made, and the present issued capital stands at £175,000 in 1,400,000 shares of 2s. 6d. each. At Kom-el-Akhdar estate sales were made totalling approximately 152 feddans, at an average net price of £E65.22 per feddan. Including about 24 feddans which reverted to the company by foreclosure, the area remaining unsold at June 30, 1928, was 1,310 feddans. At Rodah Island a property of 5,527 square metres was sold at a net average price of approximately £E1,337 per square metre. The area unsold at the close of the year was 26,639 square metres, exclusive of roads.

Cotton and Cotton Goods.

THE LIVERPOOL COTTON MARKET.

Messrs. Reynolds and Gibson report as follows for the week ended October 31:—

Egyptian Futures.

Sakel Contract.—We have experienced rather a quiet week in this market, and apart from the relative steadiness of values in the face of very lukewarm trade support the week has been somewhat devoid of feature. During the earlier sessions a moderate amount of scattered speculative buying, aided by an advancing tendency in the American department, caused prices to harden somewhat; more recently pre-November liquidation orders have been in evidence, and this, coupled with a reactionary movement in the other market, has forced prices below last week's level, near positions showing declines of 14 to 36 points and more distant options 6 to 15 points since our last. During the past few days there has been marked evidence that the market is becoming more susceptible to the increasing crop movement and to the prevailing trade attitude towards Sakel cotton at its ruling basis over other growths; the result of this is that the American/Egyptian straddle difference has closed in about 25 points on the week. In our opinion, fine cottons will have to cheapen still further before they regain their former popularity; in the meantime consumers are getting accustomed to using other varieties and through careful working and experimenting are getting better results from those so-called substitutes than ever before. The local stock-taking figures show only 13,000 bales in stock at this side; the bulk of this cotton is of undesirable quality, and as the new crop appears to be superior in every respect there has been no inducement for spot houses to support the near position. To-day Novembers have been traded in at 40 points under January, a very full carrying premium; as most of the liquidation is now completed, probably differences will close up somewhat after the first tender day. Alexandria has shown more resistance to the decline than our market, with the result that we have again dropped to a discount; offers from the other side are quite impossible from an import point of view, and consequently little free cotton is heading for this side. Reports of the growing Sudan crop are satisfactory, planting which was much interfered with by heavy rains in certain districts last season being completed under favourable conditions and a normal start effected. The general outlook continues to be rather "bearish," and, unless distinct improvement in the trade offtake is experienced during the next few weeks, increasing pressure from the crop movement may depress values further; those operating on the short side must bear in mind, however, that they are dealing with a comparatively small crop and a contract particularly susceptible to manipulation.

Upper Contract.—The tone in this contract has inclined to the heavy side during recent sessions, as apart from the American market developing a reactionary tendency, there has been a partial withdrawal of trade support. In addition, straddle purchases against sales of American have been on a much reduced scale and confidence in this operation has been somewhat shaken by reports of plentiful supplies of American staples offering at practically the cheapest basis of the last five years. Exporters have been so well supplied with shipment orders that arrivals have been well taken to date, but it remains to be seen whether the demand during the coming weeks will be consistent enough to hold values.

Egyptian Spot.

We have again to report a somewhat disappointing week in this department, and prices, after a series of moderate fluctuations, have eased on balance from $\frac{3}{4}$ d. to $\frac{1}{4}$ d. per lb. Reports from up-country have been of a distinctly more hopeful character, and it is all the more puzzling, therefore, that spinners have not displayed more enthusiasm. Most of the business passing has been of a hand-to-mouth character, and offers of cotton for forward delivery have been difficult to place. The only bright spot has been a tendency on the part of buyers to pick up some cotton on any drop in values, which rather bears out the prevalent opinion that there is business waiting to be put through—at a price.

Sakels have been in improved demand in the qualities covered by "pass to 200 on," but otherwise there has been little change. The good to fine cotton has again failed to attract attention. Uppers have not been quite so much in the limelight as usual, except the "pass to 25 off" quality, for which quite a brisk inquiry has been kept up. Possibly there has been slightly more interest shown in the best qualities, but the improvement is very slight. The bulk of the inquiry has been for low Sakel cotton at from 10d. to 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.

Pilion has been in moderate demand only, and "specialities," such as Nahda, Maarad, White, etc., have suffered from neglect. Sudan Sakel has met with a very limited offtake, but the basis has been maintained. Forwardings to spinners for the week ending the 26th inst. were returned as 11,661 bales Egyptian and 596 bales Sudan. Estimated spot sales for the week, 1,900 bales Egyptian and 250 bales Sudan. Quotations of Sakel show a decline of 35 to 50 points, those of Upper 35 points, and those of Pilion 20 points on the week. F.G.F. Sakel to-day, 17.75d. F.G.F. Upper to-day, 12.15d. F.G.F. Pilion to-day, 13.05d. nominal.

THE EGYPTIAN MARKET.

The Alexandria Commercial Company, in their report for the week ended October 25, state:—

The market has during the week maintained the activity mentioned in our last report; the tone, however, has been somewhat easier. The week's summary of price movements is as follows:—Sakellaridis. November, 35.30 dollars, 0.17 dollars down; January, 35.85 dollars, 0.19 dollars down; March, 36.37 dollars, 0.20 dollars down; May, 36.77 dollars. Ashmouni: December, 22.64 dollars, 0.58 dollars down; February, 23.12 dollars, 0.53 dollars down; April, 23.46 dollars, 0.52 dollars down; October, 1929, 24.35 dollars, 0.33 dollars down.

Sakel.—No new features of any importance have developed during the week. The slight decline in values which has occurred is the result of heavy hedging operations for account of growers and up-country merchants, which, owing to the cautious attitude of spinners regarding fresh commitments, the market was not in a position to absorb freely. There is no doubt that spinners do not care to pay current prices for Sakellaridis, and are only entering the market for this growth when necessity compels them to do so.

Reports from up-country on the final outturn of the Sakel crop continue to be conflicting. Basing ourselves as the data available, however, we estimate that the production will reach 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ million kantars. There is certainly nothing abundant about this figure, but if we are to give credit to reports emanating from textile centres producing fine goods, it ought to be sufficient for requirements, inasmuch as there is available in addition the Sakel carry-over at the end of August of about 675,000 kantars (including 325,000 kantars held by the Government) and the supply of Sudan Sakel, estimated this year at 570,000 kantars against 470,000 kantars last year. The approximate figure of the total available supply of all Sakel cotton, Egyptian and Sudan, for this year is therefore about 3,620,000 kantars against about 3,935,000 kantars last year. The development of the seasonable demand from the trade or its absence will, in our opinion, be the primary factor controlling the course of Sakel prices during the coming few weeks.

The Sakel/Ashmouni straddle (November/December) stands at 1,266 points against 1,225 points last week and 838 points at this time last year.

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New York: Brentano's, Fifth Avenue and 27th Street.
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Up-country: The movement of the crop continues actively every-

Crop, 1928.—In the Northern districts only is there any cotton remaining unpicked, and the quantity is negligible. In Upper Egypt, yields per feddan have this year shown some record figures, the production in some cases having reached 10 kantars per feddan; the substantial increase in the production this year in Upper Egypt is therefore now quite understandable.

At a meeting of the Administrative Council of the Empire Cotton Growing Corporation, held in Manchester recently, the Director mentioned the progress that had been made in cotton-growing under rainfall conditions in the Southern Sudan. Notwithstanding the difficulties of transport, and others which were unavoidably associated with attempts to turn backward and primitive races into agriculturists, the scheme was making fair progress, and in the season 1927-28 the rain-grown cotton area had produced over six million lb. of seed cotton.

Stock and Share Markets.

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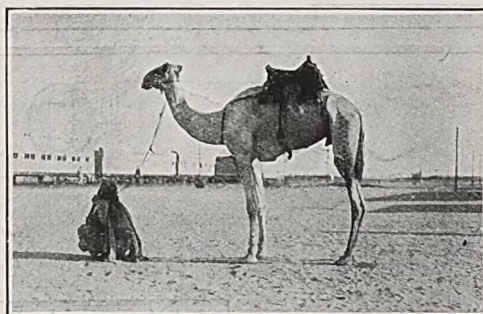
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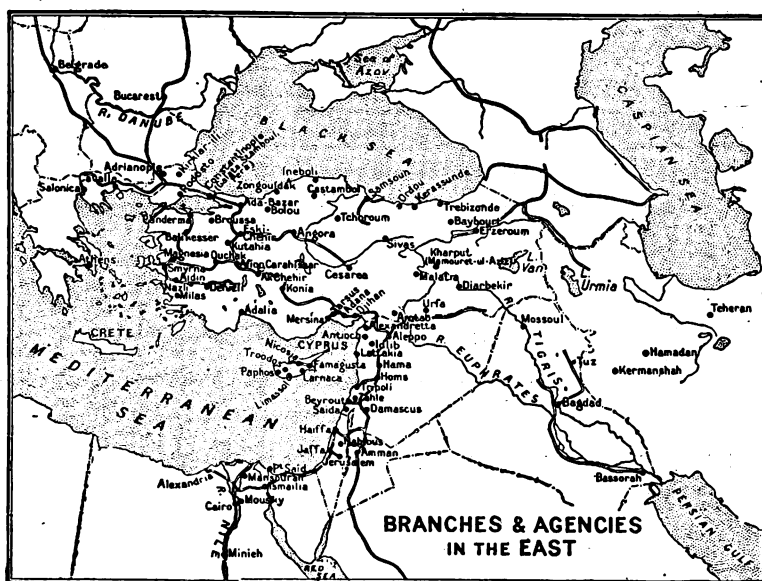
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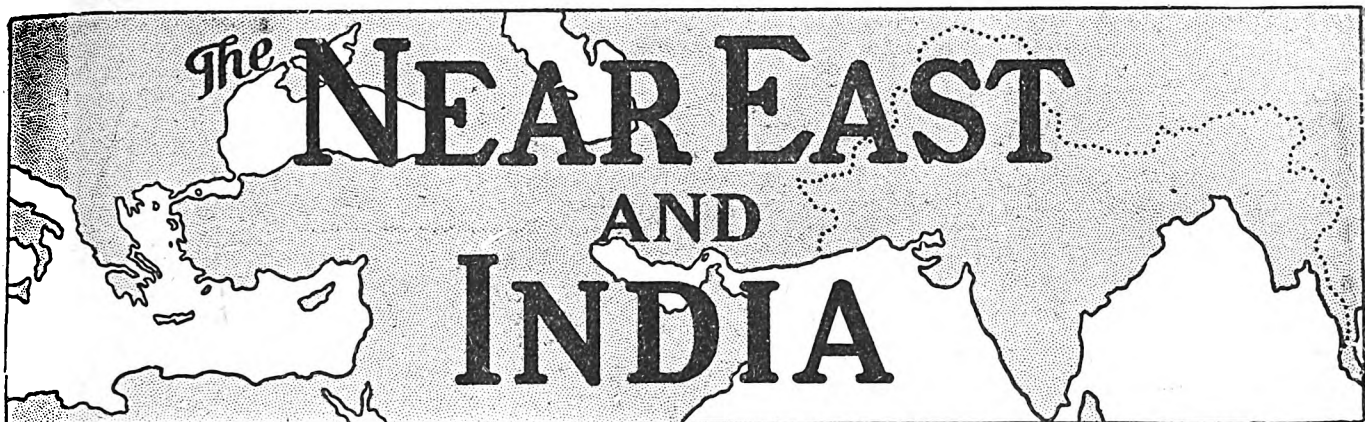
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No. 913.—VOL. XXXIV.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 1928.

Editorial Offices : "THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA," 170, Strand, London, W.C.2.

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Notes of the Week.

The New Order in Roumania.

The solution found for the Roumanian Ministerial crisis is, undoubtedly, the right one. Pre-War Roumania was accustomed to a two-party system, under which Liberals and Conservatives alternately held office. The interposition of a transition Government could only have been regarded as an attempt to hold the influence of the Liberal Party in reserve for emergencies. To-day the country has manifestly reverted of its own accord to the two-party system; but the divisions in the enlarged Kingdom are different. Universal suffrage and the sense of independence which agrarian reform has fostered among the peasantry have made the latter conscious of their political power. The union of the new provinces was the outcome of a definitely democratic, as well as national, movement, and these new Roumanians are as anxious as the peasants to impress their personality on the unified State. For ten years they have virtually been kept at arm's length—a state of affairs for which they are not wholly without blame, for they lacked organization and were content to remain, together with other political groups, as isolated units in the face of the serried and disciplined ranks that the Liberal Party could oppose to them. This long period of opposition, however, has not been without its advantages. The National Party of Transylvania and the Peasant Party, with its supporters in the other provinces and in the Old Kingdom, have made common cause, and together they have evolved a programme for which they claim that it offers a policy more in accordance with the modern needs of the State. Both the composition of the National-Peasant Group and its tactics have given rise to the fear that it may stand for more radical reforms than the Roumanian people really desire or than are suited to the conditions of the country. Last March the Group took the decisive step of withdrawing from Parliament, repudiating all responsibility for, or approval of, any act of the Government, and went so far as to hold its own "parliament" in Bucharest. The fulminations against the Government appeared to have no effect upon M. Bratianu or the Council of Regency, the monster meet-

ings at Alba Julia and elsewhere seemed to misfire; but the "parliament" at Bucharest on July 26 revealed a party with a carefully drafted comprehensive programme, and the Liberal Cabinet must have recognized at last that it was confronted with a more formidable Opposition than it cared to acknowledge. The event has proved that, with allowance made for the intervening holiday period, the Government did not long survive the Rump Parliament. Whether as a result of their tactics or because the economic conditions of the country played into their hands, the Transylvanians have come into their own.

The National-Peasant Programme.

The outlines of the policy to which the National-Peasant Government under Dr. Maniu is committed can be gathered from a publication, issued by the Party, which embodies the reports and resolutions approved by its "parliament." As Roumania, although rich in all kinds of natural resources, it is stated, lacks capital and often the necessary capacity for their exploitation, the Party has decided to open the door to foreign capital and to foreign technical assistance, offering conditions, legal and administrative, on perfect equality with those enjoyed by Roumanian capital. To bring about this collaboration of foreign and Roumanian capital, the currency will have to be stabilised, and such legislation as militates against free competition and the normal development of the country will have to be abrogated or modified. Budgets are to show a real equilibrium; taxation is to be simplified, and the civil service, while being reduced in numbers, is to be better paid and more efficient. Unless the need for a loan is found to be too urgent to admit of delay, the Party would be prepared to seek one under the auspices of the League of Nations, hoping, no doubt, to secure better terms than those that have been imposed upon the Bratianu Government. In regard to ethnical and religious minorities, the pledge is given that the Peace Treaties will be strictly respected, as well as the Constitution and the resolution passed in 1918 at Alba Julia, which guaranteed to these minorities treatment of perfect

equality with citizens of Roumanian origin. A striking passage in a report on the Loan policy inveighs against the economic legislation of the Liberal Party, which inflicted on the country incalculable harm under the pretext of developing it by its own means. "This economic chauvinism," continues the report, "revealed itself in the Mining Laws, which raised the whole foreign oil industry in revolt against us; in the Commercialisation Law, also directed against foreigners, which caused the State to lose considerable sums; in the Power Law, which for four years has retarded the progress of the country; and in the Direct Taxation Law openly directed against foreign capital." For the new Parliament, which is to assemble on December 22, there is likely to be a formidable programme, if the elections of December 12, if as seems certain, confirm Dr. Maniu's Government in power.

The Position in Yugoslavia.

The Yugoslav Prime Minister has announced the Cabinet's decision to prosecute the two leaders of the Peasant-Democrat Coalition for speeches made during the last few months; but it is to be hoped that wiser counsels will prevail before it is too late. It is difficult to see what good purpose would be served by such a prosecution. The trial would become a political duel, at which much worse things would be said than those with which the defendants could be charged, and if the Yugoslav judiciary has so much time on its hands to waste, it would surely be better employed in bringing to justice the perpetrator of the Skupshchina murders of June 20. Apart from this threat by Father Koroshetz, there would seem to be an underlying truth in the diagnosis of a cartoon in a Yugoslav newspaper, which represents M. Pribitchevitch, joint leader of the Peasant-Democratic Coalition, as saying, in reply to an inquiry regarding the political situation: "The political situation is improving. In Roumania they have already been obliged to call Maniu into the Government." The Croats and their allies, the Dissident Democrats, have seen a strong analogy to their own circumstances in the struggle that Transylvanians have been carrying on against the Liberal domination in Roumania. Like the National-Peasant Party, they also have withdrawn from Parliament, and their recent meeting at Sisak was generally described as the Yugoslav Alba Julia. They can hardly fail to be heartened, therefore, by the fall of the Roumanian Jericho, and to regard it as a favourable omen. In the meantime indications of a national weariness of the Serb-Croat deadlock are multiplying, not without their effect, it would seem, on the Government itself, as the Radical section is inclined to look askance at what is regarded as the over-emphasis now being laid by the Democrats under Dr. Davidovitch and M. Marinkovitch on the value of a Serb-Croat understanding. A newspaper attack on the Croats by the head of a Government Department has been resented in Serbia and in deference to public opinion the writer has been called upon to explain his action. The situation would be more hopeful, if some Croat spokesmen could restrain their irresponsible utterances which seem to lend colour to the charge that Croatia entertains separatist designs.

Britain and Archæology.

Lord Crawford and Balcarres did well at the Annual Meeting of the British School at Athens, to couch a lance on behalf of British archæology. During the forty years of its existence this School has many notable achievements to its credit, and has well upheld the best traditions of British archæological research. What a prominent part Great Britain is now playing in the field of archæology is indicated by the number of the more striking "finds" of recent years that are associated with British effort. At Ur of the Chaldees, in Egypt—both the Valley of the Kings and Sakkara—at Knossos in Crete, Gaza and Jerusalem the discoveries have all been effected by British archæologists. If there is one matter for regret

in this connexion it is that comparatively so little of the financial support behind these excavations should come from British sources, and we must be content with such satisfaction as can be derived from the fact that American capital is so often content to leave the work in British hands. It is to be hoped that some of the recent spectacular discoveries will rouse in time the interest of British capitalists to make them realise that archæology is by no means an unimportant factor in promoting the influence and prestige of the British race in the East.

Economic Progress of Iraq.

During the examination last week by the Permanent Mandates Commission of the annual report on Iraq of the British Government, Mr. B. H. Bourdillon, Counsellor to the High Commissioner, was able to supply figures which were in themselves a striking indication of the economic progress which the young Arab Kingdom has made in the last few years. At first concentration had to be made upon political problems, but with the passage of time endeavours could be made in other fields also, and although it would be absurd to say that the political question in Iraq is no longer a live issue, it can truthfully be said that the transference of much energy from the political to the administrative and economic sphere has had most gratifying results. During the past five years, for instance (which is, roughly speaking, the period of Sir Henry Dobbs' High Commissionership), the revenue has increased by 12 per cent. (64 lakhs, or £480,000), and when with this fact is coupled the fact that in Turkish times (1909-10-11) Iraq yielded 38 per cent. less than the present receipts, it will be seen that efficiency in tax-collecting is perfectly possible provided taxpayers know for what purpose they are paying. Expenditure had been increased by 25 per cent., but despite this there has been in the last five years a total Budget surplus of 28½ lakhs (£2,137,000). The British representative was able to point out that irrigation in Iraq is being extended, that cotton growing is on the increase, and that, because of her certain future developments in matters of agriculture and of oil, Iraq would not have to fear the construction of a trans-Persian rail-line, as she would then be independent of the Persian transit trade. Altogether it appears to have been a highly optimistic report which was offered to the Permanent Mandates Commission.

The Syrian-Turkish Frontier.

If the Press in Turkey be any guide to the state of official or public opinion in Anatolia, it will not take very much to turn the dispute over the Syrian-Turkish frontier into a serious quarrel. The origin, and the rights and wrongs of this particular dispute have already been set out in THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA, and there is no need to recapitulate them now. It is sufficient, therefore, to indicate that Turkey, having agreed to submit to the award of the international commission under General Ernst, failed to do so. No surprise can be felt, then, if in these unfortunate circumstances the opportunity has been taken by the "komitajis" of Turkey and of North-East Syria to attempt to work off old scores; certainly no dispassionate observer is likely to credit either side with an absolutely clean slate. The Turks claim, of course, that the trouble originated in Syria, and even accuse the French Mandatory authorities of encouraging brigandage. The Syrians, on the other hand, while admitting that Syrian gendarmes and even French troops are compelled occasionally to cross the border in the pursuit of Turkish bands, declare that the great majority of the raids derive from Turkish territory. Now if this ancient pastime is to be stopped, it should be stopped quickly, and conceivably the wild charges of the Turkish Press may have the unexpected effect of securing an agreement. For it is announced that the new French Ambassador to Turkey, Comte de Chambrun, is earnestly

trying to achieve reconciliation with Tewfik Rushdi Bey, Foreign Minister at Angora; and the Ghazi, in his speech at the opening of the Angora Assembly, referred, it will be remembered, to the need of clearing up the outstanding problems with France—even hinting that immaterial sacrifices might have to be made by Turkey. If Turkey consents at last to recognise the frontier which has been drawn up under international auspices, she will not only have recovered her self-respect, but will also have gone some way to establishing with Syria such happy relations as she now enjoys with Iraq. To anyone who knows the region in dispute, it is obvious that the district of the Upper Jazirah known as “Le Bec du Canard” ought, as the Dutch General pointed out, by reason of its geographical position and the racial characteristics of its population, to be included in Syria.

INDIAN NOTES.

The Bishop of Bombay.

The impending resignation by Dr. Palmer of the Bishopric of Bombay will mark the termination of an incumbency of very considerable achievement. It is true that the retiring Bishop never attained great heights of personal popularity; but it is difficult for an Indian Bishop, in his position of only partially recognised dignity, to attain such popularity, unless he has a long record of missionary effort behind him. Bishop Palmer, following as he did, a succession of somewhat transient and uneasy phantoms, has maintained, and, indeed, increased, the importance of the post which he has held for the long period of twenty years. For a great portion of that time he has been recognised as the brain of the Indian Bench of Bishops, although he has never been regarded as Metropolitan, that somewhat ill-defined dignity being apparently connected indissolubly, it may be presumed on historical grounds, with the Bishopric of Calcutta. As the moving spirit, however, of the Indian Bench, he is justly regarded as the engineer and organizer of the Indian Church Measure. To some it may appear a doubtful honour; it is probable enough that the Measure will bring not peace but a sword to the Indian Christian community. It will destroy the old connexion with the Church of England, and may well lead to the separation of the European and Anglo-Indian community into a Church distinct in government and even in doctrine from the Indian Church. Moreover the Measure has deliberately been framed to permit, not merely the independence of the Indian Anglican Church, but its re-union with the other Protestant Christian communities. This is greatly to Bishop Palmer's credit, since his attitude, at the beginning of his tenure of office, was severely Anglican to the point of lack of sympathy with other Christian denominations. But the broad basis of reunion, however desirable, may lead to some strange developments of doctrine. A particular danger lies in the fact that the mass of the Indian Church has been drawn from outcaste or aboriginal sources, with little experience of administration behind it. The Roman Catholic Church, with an even larger number of adherents drawn from similar classes, has never allowed any such degree of liberty and self-determination as the Indian Church Measure permits. A further danger lies in the fact that the leaders of the Indian Church may be tempted, from the very weakness of their numbers, to shout with the most extreme and anti-European crowd. A similar tendency has been observable among the converts of the Churches in China and Japan. Yet, when all dangers are admitted, it cannot be doubted that the course chosen by Bishop Palmer and his supporters has been the best because the most courageous. The Indigenous Church in India could have no healthy life as an artificially fostered plant, even if the changing conditions in India allowed such fostering to continue. Depending on its own growth, the plant may always be delicate and even puny:

but by such independence alone can it hope for any existence of permanent usefulness. In the story of its foundation, Bishop Palmer's name must have an honourable place.

The Bombay Mill Inquiry.

The strong, but not unjustifiably so, terms in which Sir Victor Sassoon recently referred to the part played by Communist agitators in the Bombay Cotton textile dispute are unhappily proving only too correct a description of their nefarious activities. At a meeting held immediately after last month's settlement the so-called leaders of the operatives made their attitude quite plain. Describing the agreement as not a settlement but merely a suspension of active hostilities, a kind of truce pending the report of the proposed Committee of Inquiry, the findings of which they were prepared to reject before they were even formulated, the labour leaders showed no appreciation whatsoever of the gravity of a dispute which has cost their misguided followers over three crores of rupees in wages alone. Instead, successive speakers advised their audience to spend the intervening period in building up a strong organisation and preparing for an “offensive strike”—not a “defensive strike” like the present one—in case a cut in wages were introduced later. The result is to be seen in the series of sporadic outbreaks of hooliganism and “direct action” tactics which have marked the progress of the inquiry. The Committee which has been entrusted with that thankless task and entered upon its duties at the end of last month, is all that could be desired as regards its personnel, and we have little doubt as to the form its findings will take. Sir Charles Fawcett, the Chairman, is a very capable member of the Indian Court Service and one of the most conscientious and experienced judges on the High Court Bench. He can be relied upon to take an impartial, sensible and sound view of the questions at issue and his verdict will carry great weight with the public. Mr. Kharegat, a retired member of the Civil Service, is also a good selection, while the third member, Mr. B. S. Kamat, is a well-known figure in the public life of the Western Presidency, with considerable experience of other committees and commissions. That the inquiry will be conducted with the greatest expedition consistent with the proper sifting of the facts we are quite sure. Unfortunately, although the points in dispute have been appreciably narrowed down in the course of the negotiations which gave rise to the Committee's appoint-

(Continued on page 578)

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THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 1928.

THE NEW ROUMANIAN GOVERNMENT.

The Ministerial crisis in Roumania caused by the resignation of the Government of M. Vintila Bratianu, has been ended by the appointment of Dr. Maniu, the Transylvanian leader, as Prime Minister. In view of the economic situation and the urgent need for a foreign loan the Council of Regency would apparently have preferred a Coalition Government for the purpose of an immediate conclusion of the loan negotiations, to be followed by a general election. M. Titulescu's efforts to persuade either M. Bratianu or Dr. Maniu or both to assist him in the formation of a Coalition Cabinet were not successful, and the Regents thereupon called upon the leader of the National-Peasant Party to form a Government. Although the need for a loan is pressing, there can be little doubt that the real interests of Roumania will be served better by the transfer of political power to the hands of the Party which appears to command the support of the country than by a mere transition Cabinet. The situation in Roumania is too critical for any tentative handling or makeshift devices. Apart from actual conditions in the country, where the results of a serious failure of the maize crop are aggravated by a general financial stringency and the high cost of living, the credit of the country abroad is at such a low ebb that M. Bratianu's Government would have had to be content with a foreign loan at seven-and-a-half per cent. interest, issued at 88. It remains to be seen whether the new Cabinet can obtain better terms. The situation in the country, however, cannot be remedied by the wave of a wand. For all practical purposes the Liberals have been in power for ten years, and their financial policy, for which M. Vintila Bratianu is understood to have been solely responsible, has been carried out with a thoroughness that will militate against any sudden transformation. An elaborate economic fabric has been erected during this last decade, and the Roumanian people are living their lives in it or under it. To demolish it over-hastily might involve the whole people in the ruins.

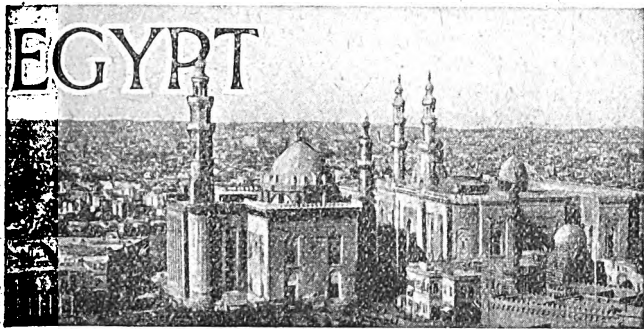
M. Bratianu's financial policy aimed at converting Roumania from a State relying almost entirely on agriculture for its national wealth—the export of wheat represented eighty per cent. of the pre-War exports of the Old Kingdom—into an industrial country. To this end the Liberal Government set itself to develop as rapidly as possible all manner of industries, many of them, in the opinion of its political opponents, lacking a natural basis for development within the country. To bolster up these industries in their early stages, they were accorded the protection of tariffs, which immediately had the effect of

increasing the cost of living. It then became necessary to keep down the price of bread and meat, and export duties were imposed on agricultural products and exported cattle. Roumanian agriculture, however, was still handicapped by the effects of agrarian reform, which, however much in the interests of the peasants and of the country as a whole, had resulted in a marked diminution of agricultural production, consequent upon the breaking up of big estates. The situation was further complicated by the disorganization of the railways, and general lack of transport, and by the absence of agricultural credit. Having set its face against the introduction of foreign capital, the Liberal Government encouraged the multiplication of banks which were largely dependent for funds on the National Bank and in turn supported the newly formed industries. As both banks and industries were mainly in the hands of its own supporters, the Liberal Government exposed itself to the charge of framing the fiscal policy of the country to its own advantage, and, when it proceeded to strain every effort to bring about the revalorization of the leu which would have enhanced the value of the depreciated currency, the policy was believed to be dictated by its own personal interests. Thus political antagonism, which in any State of South-Eastern Europe is capable of becoming embittered without the intervention of any direct cause, was fanned to great heat by the conviction acquired by the opponents of the Liberal Party that the resources of the State were being used for the Party's aggrandisement. Unfortunately the general administration of the country did nothing to conduce to a better feeling between political parties. The Constitution, drawn up and passed by the Liberals, favoured a highly centralised administration, which meant that Liberals from the Old Kingdom, conspicuous neither for efficiency nor for tact, were sent to administer the new provinces, and political prejudice was aggravated by personal grievances. The climax came when the Liberals, whose conduct of elections was not noted for any special consideration shown to their opponents, passed an electoral law which gave a party securing forty per cent. of the seats an absolute majority in the Chamber. By means of this law the Liberal Party had only to find a subservient nominee, such as they had in General Averescu and his People's Party, willing to act as an alternate Government, to insure that they should retain indefinitely in their own hands the reins of power.

This explanation of the Roumanian situation as it appears to the political opponents of the Liberal Party is necessary to enable the bitterness which has actuated the National-Peasants in their attitude towards the Government of M. Bratianu to be better understood. Dr. Maniu's Party holds that the conditions in Roumania cannot be permanently remedied by mere tinkering. Its programme aims, in the first place, at the rehabilitation of Roumania's reputation abroad in so far as it has been affected by the appearance of discrimination against foreigners; the policy of favouring industry to the extent of penalising agriculture will not be followed, and a more hospitable attitude is promised towards foreign collaboration in the reconstruction of Roumania. The task that Dr. Maniu has set himself is not an easy one; his Government will have to readjust the over-centralisation of the last ten years by gradual methods, and should be careful not to hold out hopes of the immediate establishment of the millenium in a sorely-tried country.

*The Near and Middle East

From Our Own Correspondents.



Cairo, November 3.

King Fuad in Sinai.

Following on his recent very successful progress to the Oasis of Siwa and the Western Desert King Fuad proposes to pay a visit to the Sinai Peninsula. This will be the first time that he will have inspected his territory east of the Canal and the Gulf of Suez, for although the King made a voyage down the Red Sea last year, he only called at Tor, and did not penetrate into the interior of this eastern portion of his realm. Among the places that he will visit will be the celebrated Monastery of St. Catherine, picturesquely situated at the foot of Gebel Musa, on the summit of which local tradition has it Moses received the Ten Commandments. While the roads to the north of the Tih, the sandstone barrier which runs across from just south of Suez to Aqaba and cuts the Peninsula into half, are fairly good, to the south they are to all

EGYPTIAN GOVERNMENT.

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APPLICATIONS are invited for the POST of PROFESSOR of FINANCIAL LAW in the FACULTY of LAW.

The appointment will be on contract for three years. The contract may be renewed at the end of that period if agreeable to both parties. One month's salary will be paid on arrival in Egypt for travelling expenses.

The salary offered is from £E1,000 to £E1,140 (approximately £1,025 to £1,168) a year, according to qualifications.

Applications, with copies of testimonials, should be addressed to the Dean of the Faculty of Law, Egyptian University, Cairo, and should reach him not later than November 30th, 1928.

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Applicants must possess an English Dental qualification, and have had experience in teaching and administration in a Dental School.

The appointment will be on contract for five years at a commencing salary of £E1,200, rising to £E1,360 by biennial increments of £E80. A month's pay will be granted in lieu of passage money.

Private practice will not be allowed.

There are 100 students in the Dental School.

The successful applicant will be required to take up his duties on February 1st, 1929. Applications, with details of qualifications, experience, and testimonials, should be sent to the Dean of the Faculty of Medicine, Egyptian University, Cairo, so as to reach him not later than November 28th, 1928.

EGYPTIAN UNIVERSITY.

APPLICATIONS are invited for the POST of LECTURER in APPLIED MATHEMATICS in the Faculty of Science.

The Appointment will be, in the first instance, on contract for three years, and subject to cancellation on three months' notice being given on either side. One month's salary will be paid on arrival in Egypt in lieu of passage money.

The salary offered is from £E700 to £E800 per annum according to qualifications.

Applications, with details of experience and copies of testimonials, should be sent to the Dean of the Faculty of Science, Egyptian University, Cairo, so as to reach him not later than 1st December, 1928.

intent and purposes non-existent, and the result of the King's project will be, as with every other outlying point which he has visited, that the internal means of communication will be greatly improved, and so facilitate the tourist traffic which so far has almost entirely neglected this most interesting region, owing to the difficulties of access to the interior.

Al Azhar.

As was foreshadowed at the time of his appointment as Rector of Al Azhar, Shaikh Mustapha Al Maraghi has not been long in the saddle before getting a move made in the direction of reforms in that great institution. Not only has a committee under his presidency reported on the reforms which should be introduced, but the Government has also approved of these proposals, and has appointed a committee under the presidency of the Rector to advise on the means of putting them into execution. Briefly stated, the proposals aim at removing the competition which the Ulama suffer, in the matter of Government posts, from the graduates of the "Dar al Ulum," the training college for Arabic teachers, and the school for Cadis.

This should in time have two excellent results. In the first place, the teachers in Arabic and theology required in the Government institutions will all be taken from the Ulama, who will follow in Al Azhar itself the full courses necessary to qualify them for these posts. In addition the introduction of proper courses of instruction, primary and secondary, will generally raise the standard of education of the preachers and their kind who go out into the world of the mosques.

The Mixed Courts.

On November 1, an important innovation started in the Mixed Courts. Henceforward monthly alphabetical lists will be drawn up and be at the disposal of the public on payment, giving a note of all the bills that have been protested during the preceding month. In addition the "Journal des Tribunaux Mixtes" is starting, under the authority of the Mixed Court of Appeal, a monthly supplement which will reproduce these lists adding other details of interest to the commercial community. This new departure, which is due to the initiative of the "Association du Commerce d'Importation," aims at bringing about a reduction in the enormous number of bills protested every year.

Hitherto all protests, although posted at the Mixed Courts, have been posted in a manner that hides them from the public eye. Little or no publicity has attached to the protesting of a bill, and in many instances merchants quite capable of meeting their engagements have allowed bills accepted by them to go to protest as a matter of course, confident that in view of the difficulty of ascertaining the commercial morality of local traders, they would always be able to obtain acceptance of their orders or credit from the importers. The publicity, which will henceforward be given to protests should materially improve the situation in this respect.

Shakespeare in Egypt.

On October 31, Mr. Robert Atkins inaugurated at the Royal Opera House a season of Shakespearean and modern plays. Last winter, it may be remembered, an experimental season of a fortnight was given by him with a Government guarantee against loss. Not only was there no need to draw on the credit, but the demand proved so great also, that it was decided to repeat the

*Under this heading appear weekly or at regular intervals communications from correspondents in Egypt, the Sudan, Roumania, Yugoslavia, Greece, Bulgaria, Albania, Turkey, Cyprus, Palestine, Iraq, and Persia.

experiment on a larger scale, and the season now inaugurated is the result. Mr. Robert Atkins has collected an excellent troupe, including Miss Stella Arbenina, Mr. Duncan Yarrow, Mr. Bruno Barnabe and Mr. Arthur Burne. The repertoire includes "King Lear," "As you like it," "Julius Cæsar" (beloved of Egyptian students), "Hamlet," "Anthony and Cleopatra" and "King Henry IV," with the "School for Scandal," "A trip to Scarborough" and "Pygmalion." Truly a banquet for those of us who are stranded so many miles away from the centre of Shakespearean and other British drama. The inaugural night was an enormous success, and a packed house, which included Mohamed Mahmud Pasha, the Prime Minister, and a large number of Egyptians, gave Mr. Atkins and his troupe an enthusiastic reception, which already foreshadows the success of this venture.

ABYSSINIA.

Addis Ababa, October 29.

The Coronation.

During this month business has been at a standstill. It will be remembered that early in September, following on a plot against him, H.H. Taffari Makonnen obtained full powers to govern the country. It was then decided to invest him with the title of King, and preparations for the coronation were at once put in hand.

After one or two alterations of date, October 7 was finally selected. The time was short and much in the way of preparation had to be done. Practically every engineer, carpenter, mason and workman in the capital was temporarily engaged by the Government. Triumphal arches were erected on the roads, the roads themselves were repaired or remade: flags, decorations and bunting made their appearance everywhere. The merchants in the town did a roaring trade supplying wines, provisions,

etc., to the Palace. From the country came in flocks of cattle and sheep, and countless loads of grain and native beverages. All Government offices were closed in fact, if not in theory.

At last the day arrived. It had been decided to hold the actual ceremony at an early hour at the Palace of the Empress Zauditu. Of the foreign community, only the actual heads of the Legations had been invited to this ceremony, and even with this limited audience the tent erected for the purpose was crowded.

The Abyssinian Church, which forms part of the Coptic Church, has at its head a Coptic Bishop sent from Egypt, known as the Abuna. At the moment, however, there is no Abuna, the last having died in 1926, and no new appointment having been made in consequence of the death about the same time of the Patriarch in Egypt, whose duty it is to appoint the Abuna for Abyssinia. In the absence of the Abuna, the Chige, who is next in the Church hierarchy, was the leading priest present.

After prayers, the Chige opened the proceedings by stating that the present ceremony was for the purpose of witnessing the presentation to H.M. Taffari Makonnen by H.M. The Empress Zauditu of a crown.

The actual ceremony of the coronation was not seen, as a curtain was then drawn round their Majesties. It is understood that the Empress placed the crown on the head of King Taffari, and presented him with a sword, stating that she thereby conferred on him the title of King, and prayed that one day he might wear the Imperial Crown.

The curtain was then withdrawn and complimentary speeches were made. A salute of 21 guns was fired and the coronation was publicly proclaimed.

King Taffari then proceeded to the neighbouring Church of Selassé, where a numerous gathering of Abyssinians and foreigners was assembled. A lengthy service was held, followed by a procession to the King's

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Palace, where his Majesty received the Diplomatic Corps. The remainder of the month has been filled, for the most part, by receptions and banquets in honour of the coronation.

CYPRUS.

(From a Special Correspondent.)

Nicosia, November 1.

The Church at Troodos.

On Saturday, October 27, the Governor visited Troodos in order to dedicate the Foundation Stone of the new Anglican Church, to be named the Church of St. George. Sir Ronald Storrs arrived at the site at 2.30 p.m. accompanied by Major Lanyon, O.C. Troops, and the A.D.C., and was received with the Royal Salute by the Guard of Honour found from "C" Company, 2nd Bn. The Green Howards, under the command of Lieut. Snelling. The officiating clergy were the Rev. Canon Newham, O.B.E., Rev. Harold Buxton, and the Rev. F. H. Dunnford, of Khartoum. Amongst those present were Mrs. Lanyon, Mr. and Mrs. Llewelyn Jones, Capt. and Mrs. Mackay, Capt. Jenkins, Mrs. Petrides and Mr. Cecil Lee.

The service opened with short prayers, after which the Governor deposited and sealed up in the stone certain mementoes, which included a Cyprus Jubilee crown piece, a uniform cap badge and button of the Green Howards Regiment and a list of the first subscribers towards the building of the church.

In addressing the assembly Sir Ronald Storrs first paid tribute to the energy and zeal of the Rev. Harold Buxton and Mr. H. Ll. Jones in raising sufficient funds to begin the building; and laid stress on the generous help given by the detachment of the Green Howards, whose effort was particularly unselfish in that they themselves would not benefit by it. He pointed out the great need for a church on Troodos, owing to the inconvenience and unsuitability of holding religious services in a military recreation room. Sir Ronald expressed the view that, though not ostentatious on this subject, the British race were as truly religious as any other; and when sealing up these evidences of their faith in the power of religion he was led to conjecture who and what type of man in some distant age would open them. He considered that, however vast the differences might be between us and these unknown successors, they could not fail to recognise and be inspired by the devotion of purpose which had prompted the building of this church.

The Governor then dedicated the Stone, and Canon Newham pronounced the blessing.

At the conclusion of the ceremony Sir Ronald Storrs adjourned to the parade ground and presented the Challenge Shield for inter-platoon sports and games during the past year, which was won by No. 12 Platoon of the Green Howards. His Excellency then left by car for Amiandos, to open the new bakery at that place.

About £500 has been raised for the Troodos Church, but if a building in keeping with the old Cyprus churches is to be constructed a sum of at least £800 is needed, and it is hoped that contributions will still be forwarded to the Troodos Church Fund, c.o. H. Ll. Jones, Esq., Ottoman Bank, Nicosia.

REFORMS IN AFGHANISTAN.

A recent number of the *Aman-i-Afghan* of Kabul contains an official account of the sessions of the Loya Jirga, or Grand Assembly. Telegraphic summaries of the reforms that are to be introduced into Afghanistan have already appeared in the daily Press, but a fuller account contains additional points of interest.

In its opening session the Loya Jirga decided that the Council of State should in future be replaced by a National

Assembly of 150 members. No Government servants would be eligible for election to this Assembly, nor would foreigners who have acquired Afghan citizenship, unless they had resided for at least ten years in Afghanistan. At subsequent sessions of the Loya Jirga provisions were made for the constitution of Special Cabinets from among the Ministers. In certain cases Cabinet meetings would be attended by the King in person. The period of military service, it was decided, should be extended from two to three years, and the old system of payment in lieu of military service was abolished.

Medals and Uniform.

In future medals are to be awarded only for military service, and those already in possession of medals must not wear them, although they may retain them as souvenirs. No Afghan subject is to be permitted to accept medals from foreign countries.

All ceremonial uniforms and dress are abolished, as also are all forms of complimentary address. All forms of address are in future to be in plain language. Civil dress is to consist of a black suit, while military uniforms are to be of khaki-coloured material.

The Powers of Mullahs.

No Mullahs or Ulama are to be allowed to preach without an official permit to do so, issued by the provincial authorities.

It was proposed that a certain fixed sum should be levied by way of contribution to Government from every independent member of the population, and that every Government official should contribute one month's pay. The money thus raised would go towards the payment for the 50,000 rifles and ammunition purchased from France.

Bribery and Ostentation.

Very stringent measures are to be taken for the suppression of bribery, which of late has become notoriously rife throughout all official circles. It was decided by the Loya Jirga that when an official first entered Government service a list should be made of all his property, and records should be kept of his income and expenditure. A check should be kept on the number of domestic servants employed by officials, and the latter would not be allowed in future to have more than one wife. An effort would also be made to ban unnaturally early marriages.

New National Flag.

In its final session, the Loya Jirga decided that the existing black flag should be abolished in favour of a tri-colour. The proposed new flag is to be black, green, and red, bearing emblems of the rising sun, a stack of wheat, and legends "Allah" and "Muhammad."

It was finally decided that the Loya Jirga should re-assemble in future every five years, that the members should return to their provinces, and that arrangements should be made to hold elections for the National Assembly.



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CALCUTTA LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Calcutta, October 25.

The Statutory Commission.

The Statutory Commission has been hearing evidence at Poona throughout the week. Even if the best part of it was not heard *in camera*, there would be little profit in discussing it, while we have only the newspaper reports to rely on; for they are most fragmentary and disjointed, and are only in the papers because the editors feel that they must give something, and that there may be a *mot* of Sir John's worth quoting. There have been perhaps one or two. The Commission goes to Lahore to-morrow. The local reports say that there are plenty of people in the Punjab ready to co-operate with the Commission.

A Lahore correspondent of the *Statesman* is even unkind enough to write: "It is noteworthy that very few . . . even of the class of Muslims susceptible to Khilafat tub-thumping, have attended meetings "to popularise" the Nehru Report, and to stiffen the boycott movement. This is due to the fact that *the two most distrusted of Hindu politicians* [the italics are mine], Pandit Malaviya and Lala Lajpat Rai, are the leaders of the "popularisation" and boycott movements." It serves them right, that men should think of them so. The *Review of India*, the organ of the European Association, has a cartoon in the October number. Sir John is seated at a table, reading a memorandum; the floor to his right is littered with others, and a *dak* peon is bringing in a basket full of new ones. Underneath, in large type, is "Non-Co-operation!"

The Nehru Report.

The Nehru Report began with a good press, but at the beginning I said, if I remember rightly, that the bad press would come when the chorus of approval had died down. It has not been, of late, so much the Nehru Report itself that has been shown up, as the Lucknow Conference that adopted it. Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai, the Secretary of the Constitution Committee of the All-Parties Conference at Lucknow, recently challenged the correctness of an opinion expressed by Sir Muhammad Shafi; the opinion, namely, that the Lucknow Conference was a one-sided affair.

Sir Muhammad Shafi has now issued a statement in which he says: "Can Mr. Kidwai or anyone else deny that representative Mussulmans were refused admission to the meeting in spite of their persistent requests? Can he or anyone else deny that certain amendments sent in by Maulvi Muhammad Yakub, Deputy President of the Assembly, and by Maulvi Muhammad Shafi Dandi, a Swarajist leader, were arbitrarily disallowed by the President? . . . The fact is well known that over the question of the boycott of the Royal Commission a wide divergence of opinion prevails among the Indian Mussulmans, a majority of them being opposed to the boycott and a minority being in its support. The real question at issue is, were an invitations issued to the organizations repre-

senting the former school, to send their representatives to the Lucknow Conference? If not, it necessarily follows that the Lucknow Conference was a one-sided affair."

Waltair-Vizagapatam Floods.

Very heavy rain in the Waltair-Vizagapatam district has seriously damaged the railway for a hundred miles, with a loss of lives that includes those of two European officials of the railway, Mr. Taverner, the District Traffic Superintendent, and Mr. Temple, the Assistant Traffic Superintendent, and a fireman. The three were on the engine of a relief train, and were creeping over a bridge, when it collapsed into the flood beneath. The mail that left Madras for Calcutta on October 20 was still stranded at Tuni station up to a late hour last night, and probably still is there. A mail that left Calcutta for Madras had to put back. Mails and passengers to Madras have now to go *via* Manmad or even Bombay. It takes one five days going that way. Oddly enough, I had made up my mind to go to Madras, and then on to Colombo, during these Durga *pujas*, and only thought better of it at the last moment, while I spent a short holiday in Vizagapatam in 1923, and left for Calcutta only just before the terrific storm of that year.

Southern Punjab Railway Company.

The public announcement has been made that the Secretary of State will exercise his right to purchase the Southern Punjab Railway on December 31, the sum payable to the Company being five and a quarter million sterling. The total main line mileage is 428 miles. As the Government are to take over the Burma railways next January, the end of the financial year will see only three big railway systems under company management, namely, the Bombay, Baroda and Central India, the Bengal-Nagpur, and the Bengal and North-Western. I remember, more than twenty years ago, having to meet the charge of a young, hot-headed Indian student-politician, that the Government's record in the matter of railways alone was enough to condemn it to all eternity. I wonder what he thinks about it now. Sir John Simon remarked to a witness the other day that India is full of minorities. It is full of them, also of a great many other things.

British India Trade Returns.

The Trade Returns for September show imports of private merchandise totalling Rs.20,71 lakhs, or an increase of Rs.30 lakhs compared with August, while the exports and re-exports of produce and manufactures totalled Rs.24,84 lakhs, or a decrease of Rs.2.10 lakhs compared with August. Taking imports and exports of treasure and currency notes into account, the total visible balance of trade in September was Rs.3,34 lakhs in favour of India, compared with Rs.4,47 lakhs in August, and Rs.5,65 lakhs in September a year ago. The visible balance of trade for the six months ending September was Rs.25,94 lakhs in favour of India, compared with Rs.17,32 lakhs in the first six months of last year.

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General News.

We had very heavy rain in Calcutta last Friday, and more on Saturday; so as almost to give the impression that this year's monsoon had forgotten how to stop. It does seem to have stopped at last, and the air is a little cooler. So, at least, a man remarked to me yesterday, but I could tell him that a chemist in Park Street still had his prickly heat advertisement at his door. We are looking forward to the Cold Weather, which should be a livelier one than the last; for Lord and Lady Irwin are to be here from December 12 to January 2. The Viceroy's illness prevented His Excellency from visiting us a year ago. After all, there is to be no band playing in the grounds of the Victoria Memorial, for no one wants it enough to be ready to pay for it. An acute shortage of petrol is reported from Darjeeling; influenza is rampant in a *taluka* in the Central Provinces; and I think that is about all the Indian news of the week.

BURMA RICE.

(From a Correspondent.)

It is greatly to be hoped that the recent shrinkage in the quantity of rice exported from Burma does not signify a permanent decline in the trade. From April to August last the value of the exports aggregated only Rs. 12 crores as against Rs. 18 crores in the corresponding months of the previous year. This is a big drop, and it is reported to be due to the competition which Burma nowadays has to face from some of the southern European countries, and from Siam and Indo-China. Countries such as for example, Germany, the Netherlands and Italy, which have been always prominent among the consumers of Burma rice, are now said to obtain a good portion of their supplies from the European producing countries. Similarly Japan, China, and other eastern consumers, including even Ceylon, are taking rice in increasing quantities from Siam and Indo-China. In the case of Japan the reduction in the quantity of Burma rice imported is very marked, the total being only one-seventeenth of the total for the corresponding months of the previous year. Undue importance ought not, of course, to be attached to the returns for a period so short as five months; and it may be that the figures for the complete year will give a difficult result. But all the same the reduction is a little startling, for rice is the all-important crop in Burma. It "dominates the agricultural energies of the country," the Agricultural Commission said the other day, and this is unquestionably the case, seeing that of the 20 million acres of cultivable land in Burma 11½ millions are under rice.

Mr. C. M. Young, Secretary of the Army Department, left Delhi on October 28 for a tour of the North-west Frontier.

Sir Leslie Wilson, the outgoing Governor of Bombay, is now on the second stage of his farewell visit to Sind, and on November 3 visited Sukkar.

Mrs. Irani, wife of a Bombay merchant, returned to India from Persia by aeroplane. She flew from Teheran to Bushire, 750 miles, and is the first Indian woman to fly. Mrs. Irani is reported to have enjoyed the trip and soon shook off her nervousness.

The Secretary of State for India has appointed Mr. D. T. Monteath, O.B.E., as his Principal Private Secretary; and as his Assistant Private Secretaries, Mr. J. P. Gibson and Major G. H. G. M. Cartwright (temporarily).

Raja Sir Rampal Singh, a member of the Council of State, has withdrawn his resignation of the presidentship of the Oudh Hindu Sabha, having heard that the reports of the Sabha's connexion with the Hartal and black flag demonstrations on the Simon Commission's arrival at Lahore were misleading.

THE STATUTORY COMMISSION.

Final details of the Commission's provincial tour programme are now available, being supplementary to the provisional itinerary published in *THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA* on September 20.

From Poona, as already announced, the Commission proceeded to Lahore and then to Karachi. The remainder of the itinerary is as follows: Peshawar: November 16 to 19. Delhi: November 21 to 27. Lucknow: November 28 to December 11. Patna: December 12 to 20. Calcutta: December 21 until Christmas holidays. Shillong: January 2 to 11. Calcutta: January 12 to 27. Rangoon: January 29 to February 14. Madras: February 18 to March 3. Ootacamund: March 4 to 11. Delhi: March 25 to April 11. Bombay: April 13.

The place indicated in each Province is the Headquarters at which the Commission will spend the greater part of its time.

Not the least instructive, if a somewhat neglected, feature of all such inquiries is the innumerable brochures compiled for the investigating bodies by official and other authorities on various aspects of the particular problems under review. The mass of such material placed at the disposal of Sir John Simon and his colleagues on the Commission and the Committee of the Central Legislature naturally attains formidable dimensions. Of the separate official memoranda those compiled by the Government of India are of outstanding interest and importance. For example, there is a comprehensive review of the system of administration in the North West Frontier Province, where the Commission is at present engaged in hearing oral evidence. Another memorandum discusses the claims which have been made for the redistribution of provincial territories on racial or linguistic bases, e.g., the transfer of Sylhet from Assam to Bengal, amalgamation of Oriya-speaking peoples, and formation of separate provinces for Tamils, Andhra, Kanda and the district of Delhi.

Another note explains the position of the Governor in regard to Indian States not in direct relation with the Governor-General in Council. Then there are short sketches on the existing reformed Constitution and on the operation of the Constitution in the Central Government.

One memorandum relates to the development and working of the representative institutions exclusively devoted to the subject of communal disorders. Communal representation in legislatures and local bodies are also dealt with in a separate note. The progress of education in British India during the decade of 1916 to 1926 is recorded in a memorandum. Next is the question of proposed legislation to debar Courts from premature interference with legislatures. Questions of Coorg, Andamans and Nicobar Islands and other Agency work are also dealt with in separate notes.

Elaborate memoranda are given on financial subjects dealing with financial relations between the Government of India and Provincial Governments under several heads. Some instances are given in which the question of powers of the Government of India of administration or of control over particular subjects has arisen during the working of the existing reforms. Another note gives a summary of the action taken upon the Muddiman Reforms Enquiry Committee Report.

The questions of introduction of reforms in Baluchistan is dealt with in one note. There is a memorandum on the representation of commerce, industry, labour education and other interests in the Provincial and Central legislatures and another on the position of High Courts. A note deals with the thorny question of the Meston Settlement and revision of sources of revenue between Central and Provincial Governments. The system of administration in Ajmer-Merwara is separately dealt with.

There are also memoranda on the superior civil services in the India and the Public Service Commission and on the status and position of India in the British Empire.

"INDIA; THE NEW PHASE."

BY SIR VALENTINE CHIROL.

The Westminster Library has added a very useful little volume to its series. There are in this country many people who are quite conscious of its great responsibilities in India, but have not time for any exhaustive study of Indian conditions or Indian political problems. The great War brought India nearer home to all of us when an Indian army was brought over to Europe at the beginning of the War and Indian troops stood shoulder to shoulder with our own on the battlefields of France, gallantly filling up, in circumstances peculiarly trying to them, the gaps in the "thin red line" during the winter of 1914-15, until Kitchener's armies and the Dominion contingents could be fully equipped and trained to take the field.

It was in recognition of India's war services and of the real enthusiasm with which they were rendered that the Prime Minister, then Mr. Asquith, gave his solemn promise that Indian affairs would henceforth have to be regarded from a new angle of vision. The Declaration of British policy in 1917 and the Government of India Act of 1919, constituted, as most Englishmen believed, the generous fulfilment of that promise. But a large section of politically minded India thought otherwise, and, as India was moreover suffering then (like the rest of the world) from severe War shock, the introduction of the new reforms provoked widespread opposition and was followed by a violent agitation, under the name of Non-Co-operation, which threatened at times to develop into a quasi revolt against British rule. The ordinary Englishman was at a loss to account for so perplexing a reaction to the liberal policy of Parliament and the legislative measures, which went, he thought, very far to meet the legitimate demands of Indians for a larger share in the government and legislation of their country.

The two authors of a little volume bearing the above expressive title have undertaken to provide English readers, whose minds have been often confused and almost bewildered by these untoward developments, with a clear and very simple exposition of what has happened during the last ten years in India. They have each had a long experience of public affairs out there. One of them, Sir Stanley Reed, who was for many years Editor of the *Bombay Times of India*, a leading English newspaper, has made a special study of Indian economics and of the highly technical question of Indian finance and currency. He is standing as Conservative candidate at the next General Election for the Stourbridge division of Worcestershire, and though India is not likely to bulk very large in the minds of his constituents, he has doubtless been impressed, as he canvassed them, by the lack often of the most elementary understanding, not only in Worcestershire, but all over the country, of the issues which the coming Parliament will have to face when the Simon Commission has completed its arduous inquiries in India and drawn up its momentous report on the workings of the reforms during the last decade and the measures to be adopted in view of the modifications that experience may show to be possible and desirable. Mr. Cadell, on the other hand, contributes the intimate knowledge of Indian administration which he has gained in the course of a distinguished career as a member of the Indian Civil Service. Their collaboration has been so successful that it is difficult to trace the contributions which each of them has made to their common task, and quite impossible to assign any greater measure of credit to the one or to the other for their joint work. All that one need say is that they have together produced a little book which can best be described as an admirable text book for the average British citizen who is conscious of his share in the country's heavy responsibilities for a

remote dependency with a population of over three hundred million, more distant from him in race, religion and social institutions than it is even geographically.

The New Phase outlines briefly but carefully the general scheme of reforms which it inaugurated, and describes, equally simply, the variety of circumstances which caused or intensified the storm of opposition they met with. Other aspects of the present situation are dealt with in a series of short chapters: the position of the largely autonomous native States which represent one third of the total area of India and one fifth of the population, whose relations with the rest of British India under direct British administration are now being examined afresh by the Harcourt Butler Commission of Inquiry; the question of Indian defence which is being brought into the foreground by the demand for the complete "Indianization" of the Indian army, until recently almost exclusively British controlled and officered; the needs of Indian agriculture on which more than three-quarters of the population are directly or indirectly dependent for their existence, and those of the new industrial India, mainly a modern product of Western importation that received a tremendous impetus during the Great War and has now derived a fresh stimulus from fiscal autonomy and tariff protection; and, last but not least, education and social progress on which alone political advancement can be securely based.

The impartiality displayed by our authors has kept them off controversial lines which are often too prominent in both Indian and English writers. They have confined themselves, as far as possible, to a statement of facts and conditions which can challenge none but the most extremely partisan criticism. This little book has, we repeat, been clearly written for the guidance of English readers who want enlightenment in the simplest shape as to the present situation in India and our national duties towards her. We wish it all the success which it amply deserves.

INDIAN NOTES.

(Continued from page 571).

ment, the mutual recriminations and flat denials of statements made by either party which are such outstanding features of the earlier evidence show clearly that Sir Charles Fawcett will have difficulty in confining the discussion to three specific questions which the Committee is required to answer. Nor, as we have previously remarked, is there so far the slightest disposition on the part of those conducting the operatives' case to agree to accept the Committee's findings. Meanwhile that the state of the industry is still precarious is evident from the evidence given by Sir Joseph Kay last week, when the former Chairman of the Millowners' Association produced a balance sheet for the Bombay mills showing an aggregate loss of seven lakhs last year, after allowing for depreciation.

The Right Rev. Dr. George Herbert Westcott, Bishop of Lucknow, of Allahabad, and for nearly forty years in the service of the Church in India, who died in January last, aged 65 years, left personal estate in England of the net value of £5,716. Probate of his will has been granted (as regards his English property) to the Public Trustee, as attorney for the Administrator-General of United Provinces of India, named as executor of the Will. His bequests included: 10,000 rupees to the head of the Cawnpore Mission (S.P.G.) as to 5,000 rupees for the Cawnpore Indian Pastorate Fund, and as to 5,000 rupees to the Westcott Fund; 5,000 rupees to the Lucknow Cathedral Building Fund. The following bequests to the Diocese of Lucknow (as endowments of which the income only is to be used): 10,000 rupees to the Indian Clergy Fund; 10,000 rupees to the Additional Clergy Fund; 10,000 rupees to the Preparation of Candidates for Holy Orders; 10,000 rupees for the support of mission work in Bulandshahr, or other parts of the diocese; 10,000 rupees for the scholarships for European or Anglo-Indian children; and 10,000 rupees for scholarships for Indian Christian children.

"India: The New Phase." By Sir Stanley Reed, K.B.E., and P. R. Cadell, C.S.I., C.I.E. (The Westminster Library. Philip Allan and Co., Ltd. 3s. 6d. net.)

EDUCATION IN INDIA IN 1925-26.

The appointment of an Education Committee as an auxiliary to the main inquiry with which the Statutory Commission is charged lends additional interest to the annual report on the progress of education in all the provinces of British India in 1925-26 now available. The functions of the Auxiliary Committee, as was pointed out in *THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA* of August 16, are primarily to advise the Commission respecting the growth of education, consideration of which forms one of the most important of the terms of reference to that body.

During the year 1925-26 there was an exceptionally large increase in the number of scholars under instruction. The number of recognised institutions increased by 9,362 and the number of scholars by 690,967, the corresponding increases during the previous year being 9,371 and 513,778 respectively. The number of scholars reading in recognised and unrecognised institutions increased by 700,049, as against an increase of 498,988 in 1924-25. The number of recognised institutions and the number of scholars increased in all the provinces, but out of a total increase of 9,362 institutions as many as 3,550 were opened in Madras. This province also showed the largest increase in the number of scholars, 156,121, but was closely followed by the Punjab with an increase of 140,250 scholars.

The percentage of males under instruction in recognised institutions to the total population was 6.5 as against 6.0 in 1924-25, and the percentage of females under instruction was 1.3 as against 1.2 in the previous year. The rise of 0.5 per cent. in the percentage of males was the largest increase recorded in any year during the last ten years, and though the percentage of 6.5 is still far from satisfactory, it compares very favourably with the figure for ten years ago, which was only 4.7. Unfortunately, the percentage for females has risen extremely slowly. It was 0.9 in 1916 and after ten years it has increased to only 1.3.

As has been pointed out in successive reports, while the numbers reported to be reading at school show satisfactory increases, the duration of school life in the primary classes continues to be distressingly short. All the reports from the provinces show that the problem of stagnation in the lower classes is still a pressing one.

It is sometimes assumed that if compulsion could be universally adopted, wastage would disappear, but, while compulsion will prevent the large withdrawals which take place from each class, it cannot entirely eradicate stagnation. The Punjab and other provinces have been discovering that one cure for the evils of stagnation lies in better schools, with larger and better trained staffs. The necessity of eliminating the single-teacher school of moderate size is being increasingly recognised in the provinces and in the 500 single-teacher schools of any kind.

The total expenditure on education has increased by the very large figure of Rs.1,90,90,310 as against an increase of only Rs.97,11,973 in the previous year. To his increase Bombay contributed Rs.37½ lakhs, the Punjab 29 lakhs, Burma 27 lakhs, Madras 26 lakhs, and Bengal 21 lakhs. The average annual cost per scholar to Government varies in the provinces from Rs.18-8 in Bombay to Rs.2-13 in Bihar and Orissa. In the vast, sparsely populated area of Baluchistan the cost to Government is as high as Rs.45-8. The total cost per scholar varies in the provinces from Rs.36-4 in Bombay to Rs.10-9 in Bihar and Orissa, the total cost in Baluchistan being as much as Rs.84-11 per scholar.

The number of secondary schools increased from 10,053 to 10,837 and the number of scholars reading in them from 1,547,601 to 1,716,147. The total expenditure rose from Rs.5,89,17,635 to Rs.6,31,10,572. The largest increase in the number of scholars occurred in the Punjab, in which province there was an increase of as many as 84,532 boys reading in secondary schools. But this large increase was mainly due to the conversion of 525 primary schools into lower middle schools, which are classified statistically as secondary.

The Director of Public Instruction, Punjab, discussing the problem of communal institutions in the Punjab, writes as follows:—

"This state of affairs is most dispiriting and reveals the unhealthy atmosphere in which a large proportion of the rising generation is receiving its training. Much has been said and written in recent years on the subject of communal tension, but it is peculiar that the problem of communal schools has not been subjected to a closer scrutiny. Conditions in the Punjab being what they are, it is at least open to question whether it is advisable for boys to be trained in a narrowly communal environment from the cradle to early manhood." The remedies suggested are a closer scrutiny of applications for recognition and grant-in-aid in the case of those schools where the main motive appears to be that of competition; and greater encouragement to public authorities to institute schools which will appeal to all communities. Another serious evil which is discussed in the Punjab report is the insecurity of teachers in communal schools. Some action has already been taken in order to lessen the evil, by making it a condition of recognition and admission to the grant-in-aid list that the standard provident fund rules should be accepted. Other remedies discussed are the introduction of incremental scales of pay for all posts and the giving of some rights of appeal to teachers who are dismissed without due notice or without sufficient reason.

The number of primary schools for boys in India increased from 150,957 to 157,350 and their strength from 6,457,591 to 6,884,786. The largest increases in enrolment occurred in Madras, the United Provinces and in Bihar and Orissa. In Madras the number of schools increased by 3,287 and their strength by 138,959. In the United Provinces the number of schools increased by 870 and their strength by 76,750, and in Bihar and Orissa the number of schools increased by 1,129 and their strength by 63,703. There has been a satisfactory increase of 32 municipal areas and 175 rural areas in which compulsion has been newly introduced during the year 1925-26, but there has been no move forward in Bengal and Assam and no legislation to enforce compulsion has as yet been introduced in Burma.

The Punjab has made rapid progress in the introduction of compulsion, especially in rural areas. In Madras, although only 5 more municipalities and 2 rural areas introduced compulsion during the year under review, sanction was accorded to the levy of an education cess in as many as 18 taluk board areas and 6 municipal areas and by the end of the year 25 municipalities and 95 taluka boards were levying the cess—a necessary, if not universally recognised, preliminary which affords the means of obtaining the funds required for the introduction of compulsion. *Festina lente* is a sound principle in compulsory education as in other activities of life.

Bengal, which has hitherto sanctioned no scheme of compulsion under the Bengal Primary Education Act of 1919, has a new Primary Education Bill under consideration. The draft Bill "takes as the obvious basic necessity the raising of additional revenue by local taxation." In the United Provinces 5 new municipalities introduced compulsion during the year and, though the progress made has shown great variation as between board and board, it is reported that the progress made in the municipalities which had already introduced compulsion has generally been good.

The Director of Public Instruction in Burma does not appear to be hopeful about the introduction of compulsion in Burma and states that "It does not appear that in those provinces, where Acts are in force, elementary education prospered more than elsewhere, and perhaps we are fortunate to have escaped an Act." The problem is complicated in Burma by the existence of some 17,000 private Monastic Schools which cannot be ignored in any scheme of compulsory education.

The number of recognised institution for girls rose by 1,135 to 27,110, and their strength increased by 65,510 to 1,060,104. The percentage of girls under instruction to the total female population is highest in Madras and Burma (2.3) and lowest in the United Provinces and the Central Provinces (0.5). Madras has the largest number of girls at school, nearly 490,000, and Bengal comes next with 100,000 less. Bombay is third on the list and Burma fourth. Co-education is general in Madras and Burma, 53.9 per cent. of the girls in Madras and 75.1 per cent. of the girls in Burma being in schools for boys. But in Bengal, which has the largest number of separate schools for girls, only 14.3 per cent. are in boys' schools, and in the Punjab only 3.5 per cent. Of the total increase of 127,049 girls in recognised institutions as many as 110,637 were reading in primary schools, and of the total increase of 65,510 in the strength of girls' schools 54,230 were confined to the first two primary classes.

There has been a rapid expansion of Muhammadan education in recent years. With the exception of the provinces of Bombay, Bengal and Assam it is only in the sphere of higher education that the Muhammadan community is backward. In Madras, the United Provinces, Burma, Bihar and Orissa and in the Central Provinces the percentage of Muhammadan pupils under instruction, both for boys and for girls, is higher than the percentage for all communities taken together and in the Punjab Muhammadan boys are on a level with the male scholars of all communities. In Bombay, Bengal and Assam the percentage of Muhammadan pupils under instruction is lower than the percentage for all communities together.

Owing to differences in the manner of classification in the provinces it is difficult to give accurate figures for the total number of depressed classes under instruction. The majority of the provincial reports, however, now classify "untouchables" or outcast Hindus separately from Aborigines, Hill Tribes and other backward classes. Leaving aside Burma, where there are no untouchables, and Assam in which province it is impossible to distinguish between the large numbers of Aborigines and Hill Tribes and the actual untouchables, the total number of depressed class pupils reading in all classes of institutions in the remaining seven provinces was approximately 667,000. The percentage of depressed class pupils under instruction to the total depressed class population of these provinces was 2.3 as against the all-India figure for all communities of 4.0. The number of depressed class pupils has shown a satisfactory increase, but much leeway has still to be made up and in all provinces, except Bengal, the number of scholars reading at the secondary and University stages is depressingly small. In Bombay there was an increase of nearly 6,000 depressed class pupils under instruction, and the Director of Public Instruction, Bombay, reports that "the prejudice against the depressed class children is lessening. In the Deccan there is little doubt that these communities are sharing in the general awakening of the backward classes. There are fewer signs of any such awakening in Gujarat." The Director of Public Instruction in the United Provinces also reports that caste prejudice is breaking down and states that "there is now no strong opposition to these boys reading in the ordinary board schools and a number of high caste boys were found to be reading in a number of schools for the depressed classes."

ARABIA—AN UNBIASED SURVEY.

Under the heading of "Arabia—An Unbiased Survey," Mr. Amin Rihani lectured to the Central Asian Society at Burlington House on November 7. Brigadier-General Sir Gilbert Clayton, High Commissioner-designate for Iraq, who was in the Chair, before introducing the lecturer, mentioned the loss which the Society had sustained in the recent death of Lord Carnock. He then spoke of Mr. Rihani as having attained some eminence as journalist and author.

The lecturer began by referring to his parentage. It was at the age of ten that he had left Syria for the United States of America. His love for Arabia was not derived primarily from Arabic sources, for what had first fired him were the writings of Washington Irving and Carlyle. Then came Burton, who brought Arabia to him; Doughty, however, carried him to Arabia. His intellect was, therefore, a complex of the East and the West, for although his point of view might be that of an Arab, his intellectual heritage—which was Anglo-Saxon—made him place the attachment to truth above all racial, religious, and political attachments.

In an interesting way Mr. Rihani developed the question of the accessibility of truth. Was perfect impartiality possible on either side in, say, an Anglo-Arabian or an Anglo-Egyptian dispute if the points of view clashed? The Arab who went on a *ghazzu*, for instance, could see the truth only in the loot: he could not see it in the other man's right of possession. And the man in possession, whether herding his camels or ploughing his field or just sitting upon his pile, could not see the truth in the circumstances that drove the other man to the *ghazzu*. In the highest summit of human development, however, force should be condemned, and it was from this summit of civilisation that he carried in his heart a beacon to light his way through Arabia.

He went to Arabia, he claimed, with no preconceived ideas: he came out of Arabia with no misconceived opinions. Before he landed in Jidda he had an exaggerated notion of ex-King Husain's power (an error for which the British Government was responsible). He soon found that little way outside Mecca and Madina did the Sharif's writ run: beyond that limit were tribes out of his hand and not yet in Ibn Saoud's. These tribes were in the hand of the devil. They represented ignorance in arms, without a hand to control them, not a mind to direct them for their good. The Harb and the Ataibah and the Juhainah, as well as the Sharifs of Zu Hasan round Lith and Qunfudha, were all out for loot.

In the Yaman, however, between Aden and Sanaa, the position was worse. For there were ignorance and fanaticism in arms, and some of it under the protection of the British Government. The Imam Yahya, moreover, was using the power which he had against the Idrisi of Asir. The "happy Yaman" enjoyed a mediæval social condition—no schools, no hospitals, no doctors, no drugs, not a decent inn.

When he arrived at Sanaa, the Imam was away, and the lecturer was held in captivity for seven days. He had been suspected by the British in Aden, and was now suspected by the Imam at Sanaa! A letter of introduction from King Husain was useless, because although several flattering attributes had been ascribed to the bearer of it, it omitted to mention his name! But finally it became known that "the bearer of the letter is Amin Rihani, and he is suspected by the British Government." He then was able to interview the Imam. After explaining that he was a "self-appointed missionary of civilisation," Amin Rihani pleaded for an understanding between the Yaman and the British Government and for a treaty with King Husain: he appealed for education and peace.

The lecturer then developed his idea of a Yamani-British reconciliation. This might easily be achieved, in his opinion, by the cession of the Protectorates, which were not only a blot on the British escutcheon—their rulers having been corrupted with gold and titles—but were also unnecessary, in view of the Air Force, as a protective zone round Aden. All that was required by the British was a breathing space of, say, ten or twenty miles as far as Lahaj, for instance, in one direction. The rest of the Protectorate should be turned over to the Imam—an act which would be befriending the general tendency in Arabia towards solidarity and unification. For all the Arabs of the Peninsula, with a few exceptions, would sooner or later come under the rule of the two biggest leaders, Ibn Saoud and the Imam Yahya.

Turning to Central Arabia, Mr. Rihani narrated the history of British-Najdi relations. The friendship between the two peoples went back to the days of Faisal, grandfather of the present King Abdul Aziz. Whereas men like Palgrave and Wallin, emissaries of foreign Powers, had been unsuccessful politically, the Englishman, Pelly, was in 1865, successful. An agreement was signed between him and the Amir Faisal. Subsequently Sir Percy Cox, in 1915, signed an agreement with the Wahhabi monarch; and later still, in 1925 and 1927, Sir Gilbert Clayton was similarly successful. But Sir Gilbert had recently returned from Jidda with an empty portfolio. Why?

The lecturer then examined the present relations between Iraq and Najd. King Ibn Saoud, he said, had put an end to the *ghazzu* in Najd and in the Hijaz. Did similar conditions obtain in Trans-Jordan and Iraq? For the better control of the tribes the British Government in Iraq had built three outposts some miles (30 to 70) from the border line. The lecturer then showed how the Wahhabis based their objections to these posts on Articles 2 and 3 of the Protocol of the Treaty of Muhammarah. It had to be borne in mind that there were no boundary lines in Arabia as they were understood in Europe: the Arabs could recognise as possible boundaries only certain land marks, principally watering places and glens of pasture.

Over the wells in the rhomboid the Amarat and Dhafir, of Iraq, and the Mutair, of Najd, had long fought. The permission which was given in the Protocol of Ujair to Najdi tribes to use neighbouring wells in Iraq territory, in case of necessity (provided that said wells were nearer to them than the wells within the borders of Najd) did not specify the location of such wells. They might be within any distance. This second clause of the Protocol in fact, because of its loose phrasing, afforded no hope of peace and order. Mr. Rihani then turned to the Third Clause, and examined the problem of the Shammar of

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Iraq. He disputed the wisdom of building police posts to control the Shammar some five hundred miles away from their base, or *dira*, for a party going forth on the *ghazzu* could not travel fifty miles without being detected by the Desert Patrol of the Government. Why could not the Iraq Shammar be like the Syrian Shammar, who were now "brothers with the people of Najd"? But the people of Iraq were not hostile (on the whole) to the people of Najd: King Faisal and King Abdul Aziz had recently exchanged letters of friendship, and the Baghdad Press had been warned to cease its attacks on the Wahhabis. It was for the British Government to bring the drama to a happy ending, and so not only preserve the friendship of sixty years between the British and the Wahhabis, but also consolidate its position in the Near East.

In the subsequent discussion, Mr. Cunningham Graham, author of "Mogreb et Acksa," compared the raiding in Arabia to what took place in, and was the curse of, Morocco. He thought the lecturer's suggestions for the preservation of peace in Arabia quite admirable.

Lord Lamington inquired whether Mr. Rihani was satisfied that, if the British were to relinquish certain tribes to the Imam Yahya, they would not be persecuted. To this the lecturer replied that he was so satisfied, that the Imam might have trouble with the subsidised tribes, but that he was fitter to rule them.

Mr. G. M. Lees, speaking with considerable knowledge of Arabia and of the Arabs, remarked upon the difficulty of understanding the Arab "mentality"; nor did he believe in the possibility of a united Arabia. The Arab felt that he was, given money and arms, a better man than the European; and this fact caused difficulty. Mr. Rihani's ideal was, however, an admirable one and something to be aimed at.

In conclusion, the Chairman dissented from the notion of the Oriental's having a different mentality from that of the Occidental. All the Arab wanted was to be treated courteously and to be told the truth. And, finally, he remarked that, although unable to bring back from Jidda any written agreement, he cherished King Ibn Saoud's word that the differences which had arisen were "differences between friends."

THE BRITISH SCHOOL OF ARCHÆOLOGY IN JERUSALEM.

We have received the Report of the British School of Archæology in Jerusalem for the season 1927-28, from which we learn with pleasure that the year has been one of substantial progress and unusual activity. Early in 1928 the Director, Mr. J. W. Crowfoot, arranged for the excavation of the Shubkah Cave near Lydda. Regular excavation was begun in April at Jerash, on the side of the Church of Saint Theodore. This excavation at Jerash (an account of which is to be included in the *Quarterly Statement* for next January of the Palestine Exploration Fund) involves costs that are borne in the following proportion: five-sixths from funds raised on behalf of Yale University, and one-sixth by donations to the British School from the Craven Fund of the University of Oxford, the Schweich Fund of the British Academy, the Byzantine Research Fund, and Mr. Henry J. Patten of Chicago, a Foundation Member of the School.

Since last September the Director of the School has been directing the Palestine Exploration Fund's excavation in the Tyropœon Valley at Jerusalem.

Many students of the School have been admitted or re-admitted—such as Mr. Hine, working at Beisan under Dr. Alan Rowe; the Rev. Dr. J. Chitty, who in 1927 explored the cave Church of Saint Theoctistus at Dair al-Mukalik, and has since explored and partly excavated the monastery of Saint Euthymius at Khan al-Ahmar (a few miles from Jerusalem), and the *Laura* of Saint Firmin in the Wadi Suwainit and the Monasteries of the Jordan Plain; Lieut.-Commander A. G. Buchanan, who worked at Jerash; Mr. A. H. M. Jones and Mrs. Jones, who

worked at Jerash and Khan al-Ahmar; Miss D. A. E. Garrod, who, coming to Palestine from Iraq, excavated the Shubkah Cave near Lydda, to which she hopes to return next spring; and Mrs. George Woodbury and Mrs. Woodbury, who worked at Shubkah Cave.

It can thus be seen, from the number of students and the variety of their work that the claim that the British School is performing a public service is fully justified. But it is obvious that for the continuance of this excellent work, funds are necessary. Unfortunately the Government Grant of £500 has not been renewed, and the School now depends entirely on voluntary contributions. This School is extremely well run, and expenses are kept at a minimum. It is, therefore, incumbent on those who can afford to see the history of the Holy Land uncovered, to subscribe to the funds of the School, which we commend to our readers.

As the Report says, in pointing out the opportunities that exist in Palestine, if only subscriptions are more liberally made:—

Palestine still yields valuable and significant evidence for sacred and profane history alike, almost wherever the surface is broken. It is a "promised land" to scientific research to-day, as to its invaders in antiquity, and to pilgrims in mediaeval times, and it is a region for whose recovery to civilisation our own country has been made responsible to all nations. It will be a disgrace as well as a disaster if British scholarship and research fail to take their share in this enterprise of exploration.

The Annual General Meeting of the School was held last month in the Rooms of the Society of Antiquarians, Burlington House, where Lord Plumer presided.

In moving the adoption of the Report, the ex-High Commissioner for Palestine said that from his experience during the time that he was High Commissioner in Palestine, he could assure the subscribers that nothing could exceed the zeal and energy of the Director (Mr. Crowfoot) and those associated with him in carrying out the work entrusted to them. The British School of Archæology was a distinct asset to the British Administration in that country. Other nations had parties at work, and it would be nothing short of a calamity if the British dropped out of what might almost be described as a race among the nations. The museum for Jerusalem, the magnificent gift of Mr. Rockefeller, would undoubtedly attract a very large number of scientific men, archaeologists, and historians from all parts of the world, and we should feel ashamed if, among all the nationalities that were represented in connexion with the work of archaeology, there was no British school. It all depended on the question of funds. Up to last year the British Government gave a subsidy of £500 a year towards the school. But for the last two years it did so after extreme reluctance, and the last letter that he received on the subject as High Commissioner made it perfectly obvious that it was hopeless to expect that that grant would be continued. It was, therefore, essential for subscribers to do their best to secure an assured income for the purpose of carrying on the work of the school, which was very important from the point of view of British prestige in Palestine.

Sir John Chancellor, High Commissioner Designate for Palestine, seconded the adoption of the report and said that he could assure them of his warm support of the work of the School and he wished it the greatest success.

A description of the School's excavation at Jerash was given by Professor J. L. Myres, who founded his stimulating address upon the notes of the lecture which Mr. J. W. Crowfoot delivered to the Orientalist Congress at Oxford. This lecture was summarised in THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA of September 6 last.

During the meeting drawing and plans of the Church of Saint Euthymius at Khan al-Ahmar, and its mosaic pavements were exhibited. They attracted considerable attention, on account of their transitional features, between classical Roman design and Arabesque ornament.

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SOME QUEER CUSTOMERS IN PERSIA—II.

Two Sabzavari Merchants.

By H. GASCOIGNE HART.

If you look at the map of Persia, you will see that there is a small town called Sabzavar, on the Khorasan Way—a way that is as old as man—four hundred miles eastward from Teheran.

Sabzavar means "the green place"; yet few Persian towns are situated in so barren and dreary a region. There are but two gardens in the neighbourhood; the villages are treeless, scarcely to be distinguished from the plain; and the drab monotony of the landscape is relieved only in spring-time by scattered patches of green where young wheat, cotton, or opium poppies are growing. Eight miles away to the north is a range of jagged hills; while to the south, beyond a desolate salt-marsh, stands the tall, dark, forbidding Mountain of the Ewe.

Nor does the climate make amends for these depressing natural features. True, the autumn weather is delightful—as it is nearly everywhere in Persia—and the winter less rigorous than at Mashhad. But spring and summer are made hideous by frequent sandstorms, which come on without warning, and rage sometimes for three days on end.

I was returning from a ride one morning when the air was so clear and the sky so blue that even the grim Sabzavar landscape was pleasing to the eye. A lark sang above me. A couple of blue jays flew across the road. Two miles away the crenellated city walls, with a wind-tower here and there, were clear cut against the sky. A post-carriage drawn by four horses was jogging towards me. I could see the glint of sun on the harness.

With incredible swiftness the picture was blotted out! In front of me was nothing but a dark red pall. The air, at first strangely still, began to move in little puffs. Then came the howling, raging wind. The sun was veiled; the light grew dim. Sheets of sands whirled past—blinding sand—sand—more sand. Instinctively I bent forward, screwing up my eyes; while my horse tossed his head in irritation.

Making my way painfully back to my house, I found chairs, tables—everything in fact—covered with fine, red-brown dust, although the windows had been closed.

Much of his dusty atmosphere, much of his dreary environment, has entered the soul of the Sabzavari. Even his speech is affected: he has lost the sweet-sounding cadences of the Persian tongue; and his broad provincial accent makes his conversation difficult to follow. And he has none of the gaiety of the Shirazi; none of the industry of the Isfahani; none of the alert, malicious humour of the Teherani. Instead, he is full of self-complacency. A fanatic without zeal, he fails to grasp the spirit of his religion, and clings tight to the dead body of form and ceremony. Such a man is tempted by narcotics. Wine is forbidden by the letter of Islamic law; so he indulges in *shira*, a particularly noxious form of opium. Fully seventy per cent. of the people of Sabzavar are victims of this loathsome drug.

Among those who eschewed opium was a stout, rosy-faced young fellow in the twenties, called Abdul Husayn. He was a merchant only in name, for he liked an open air life and spent most of his time riding to and from from a village that he had inherited from his father. Now and then he came to me for a loan. One morning, however,

when I asked him how much he wanted, he shook his head.

"No—it's not that. An American doctor is staying with you, isn't he?"

"Yes; Dr. C—. He's on his way to Mashhad."

"Will you give me a letter to him?"

"For yourself?"

"Yes, Aqa."

Why, you look the picture of health! What is the matter?"

Abdul Husayn's rosy cheeks grew rosier. "I'm not well—I'm really very ill," he stammered.

So I gave him the letter.

Six months later he came to see me again.

"Will you translate this for me?" he asked, holding out one of Dr. C—'s prescriptions.

As the only person at Sabzavar able to write both English and Persian, I was often called upon to translate prescriptions. Taking the slip of paper, I read, under Abdul Husayn's name: "Aromatic Pills."

"I—I can't translate it!" To hide my merriment, I got up and looked out of the window. "Are you ill again?" I asked, when I had recovered.

"Oh, no!" he replied. "Thanks to Allah, those pills cured me; and then I gave a few that I had left to my sister-in-law, who had been ill for years. All the Sabzavar doctors had treated her in turn without effect. She must have died, but for those pills. Now she is well. Mashallah, they are wonder-working pills! Another lady, the wife of—"

While Abdul Husayn was speaking, I seemed to hear Dr. C—'s voice:

"There are a number of Persians," he had said, "who come to me when they have nothing the matter with them at all. If I were to tell them that their ills were imaginary, they wouldn't believe me; and they might go to some quack who would make them really sick. I'm in a quandary. So I just give them some of these—" holding up a bottle of pink pills labelled "AROMATIC PILLS"—"and tell them that they will soon be O.K. The pills are mostly sugar and are quite harmless."

"What was your complaint, Abdul Husayn?" I asked quietly.

He hesitated, confused; but I pressed him for an answer.

"The malady-of-ideas" (Neuroses).

"What did you think?"

"I thought," he said, blushing, "that my hands were swelling."

"They are!" I retorted, unfeelingly. "And they have been ever since I have known you. In fact, your whole body is swelling. You should remember Saadi's maxim:

Eat not so as to cause satiety,

Nor yet so little as of want to die."

Abdul Husayn once made me very angry. My cow had lost her calf, and her milk had run dry. He offered to keep her in his village, where he had good grazing ground. When, a few months later, she was sent back to me, there was a place on her neck which had been rubbed bare. He had allowed my milch cow to be yoked to a plough!

Another Sabzavari merchant, of whom I saw a great deal (for his office was in the Bank serai) was Hajji Mirza Sharifan.

He always put me in mind of a big, friendly cat—

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something in his nature, I suppose; for he was well made and good-looking enough. His ample person was enveloped in a flowing brown cloak, even in the hottest weather; and he wore a large white turban, like the rest of his kind, who are so partial to the trappings of their faith that they dress like mullahs, except for their shoes. His face was round and sleek; his eyes a soft brown. He wore a beard, of course—"the badge of the dignity of manhood," according to Muhammadan tradition. His voice vibrated softly.

"*Khoda hafez!*" (God guard thee!) he greeted me, the first time he entered my office. To a Believer he would have said: "*Salâmun alaikum!*" (Peace be unto thee!) But his fanaticism wouldn't allow him to say those words to me.

Now *Khoda hafez!* is really a parting salutation. I rang my bell.

"Hajji Aqa wishes to go. Open the door for him," I said to the ferrash who answered the bell.

Hajji Aqa went; and the next time he came he salâm-ed. "You have heard, I suppose, he said pleasantly, "that I am one of the most devout and most reputable of the Sabzavar merchants."

I bowed.

"My bills are first-class paper. Have you mentioned that in your information list?"

"Oh, my list's all right!" I replied evasively.

Ramadhan came—the month when fasting is enjoined. Hajji Mirza Sharifan went on a pilgrimage to Mashhad; for the Faithful on a journey need not fast. And although they should afterwards fast a like number of days, no Muslim acquaintance of mine ever did.

After his return he brought me a turquoise—a fine stone, of a deep colour, blue as the Persian sky.

"Your kindness is very great, Hajji Aqa," I said; "but I make it a rule never to accept a present from any customer of the Bank."

Hajji Mirza Sharifan bridled.

"Aqa Rais," he protested, "it is not as a customer that I am offering you this trifle, but as a friend back from a journey."

"I am sorry, I began; "but—"

"Aqa," he interrupted persuasively, "surely you can waive your rule in favour of your landlord."

He had only a quarter share in the serai, but still—I accepted the turquoise.

He was in my office the next morning almost as soon as I arrived.

"Here are two bills on Mashhad, two on Teheran, and one on Shahrud, he said briskly. "Are you a buyer?"

"Yes," I replied slowly, taking the bills from him and looking at the amounts. "Mashhad *three shahis, Teheran four shahis, and Shahrud three shahis, discount."

"Oh, no!" he returned. "You must give me better rates than those."

"It wouldn't pay me."

"Two, three and two shahis."

"Hajji, you know that I do not haggle."

"I think you ought to make a reduction in favour of your landlord," he remarked. And then he sat back, smiling. Was it imagination, or did I hear him purring?

He left me reluctantly, taking his bills away. Later in the morning I sent back the turquoise with a message to the effect that on second thoughts I had come to the conclusion that it would be a mistake to depart from my rule. He was somewhat offended, and didn't come to see me for a fortnight. When he did come, he brought another batch of bills.

This time we agreed upon the rates, and he sealed the bills. Pushing them aside he looked up.

"Aqa," he said, "what is your opinion concerning the next world?"

"I haven't been there," I replied shortly, seeking to avoid an argument.

* Three shahis equal $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., etc.

"Nor I." He smiled, and then looked grave. "But I know what happens to us after death. We Muslims—"

"Hajji," I interrupted. "I came to Sabzavar to deal in financial transactions, not to speculate on conditions in the world to come."

But that day Hajji Mirza Sharifan was in a mood to display his conversational powers. He was not to be silenced.

"Do you know," he asked, "that a hare changes its sex? It is male one year, and female the next."

"Bosh!"

He shook his head. "It's true, Aqa. It must be true; for I read it in a book."

Several years after I left Sabzavar, I heard that Hajji Mirza Sharifan had gone bankrupt.

NEWS IN BRIEF.

The Acting Governor of Angola, Dr. Damas Mora, will represent the colony at the Congress of Tropical Medicine in Cairo.

The French Acting High Commissioner for Syria has prorogued the Constituent Assembly, which has been sitting in Damascus, for a further three months.

A pronounced earth shock was felt at Tifis and in the surrounding district on November 5. The epicentre is calculated to have been some sixty miles from Tifis.

The League of Nations Mandates Commission on November 7 ended its examination of the report of the British Government on Iraq in 1927.

Demonstrations against Belgrade and the present régime in Yugoslavia occurred at Zagreb on the occasion of the anniversary of the advent of the Soviet régime in Russia.

Fleet Orders notify that medical officers desiring to compete for the 1928 award of the North Persian Memorial Medal should forward copies of their articles to the Medical Director-General of the Navy through the usual Service channels before January 1, 1929.

Tirana is now supplied with electricity by a company founded entirely with Albanian capital. The town was first illuminated by electricity on November 5, on which day the first daily newspaper in Albania, the *Gazetaera*, was published.

According to a message from Trebizond, 800,000 Turks living in the Caucasus under Bolshevik rule have decided to send delegates to Mustapha Kemal Pasha to ask facilities for their emigration en bloc to Turkey.

A felucca, or native sailing-boat, transporting a number of girl flower pickers across the Nile near Abu Zabal, capsized in mid-stream on November 8. It is estimated that twenty-eight were drowned.



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Book Reviews

WAHHABI ARABIA.

"*ARABIA OF THE WAHHABIS.*" By H. St. J. B. Philby. (London: Constable. 31s. 6d.)

We have waited long for the finishing touches to the famous story of Mr. St. John Philby's mission to Sultan Ibn Saoud in 1917-18—the second volume of "*The Heart of Arabia*," it will be remembered, ended abruptly with his return to Riyadh, after the very fruitful journey to Southern Najd, in the middle of *Ramadhan*. This new and final volume, which is most excellently produced, with a truly magnificent map and several photographs and drawings of designs, begins exactly where the second left off, in *Ramadhan*, which in 1918 happened to fall in June and July. As a matter of fact, this incidence of the month of fasting in midsummer provided Mr. Philby with a fresh and unique opportunity for describing the fortitude of the Wahhabis, and particularly for extolling the personal example of the great Imam, Abdul Aziz ibn Saoud. The reader is enabled, therefore, at the very beginning of this book, to recapture the atmosphere of the strange, dour country of Najd.

First of all, however, it should be remembered that this volume has a singular value in that its author was the last European to study Najd as it had been more or less unchanged for centuries before the advent of the motor-car to the inner deserts of Central Arabia. Mr. Philby saw Najd, in fact, much as Doughty or Niebuhr saw it, and as he himself says in his Preface, Arabia can never be the same again—"the canons by which formerly we were wont to judge Arabian events and tendencies are no longer applicable."

The curtain on this Third Act of the great drama of the emergence of the Wahhabis rises, then, with the description of *Ramadhan* and of the *Id*. Always on Mr. Philby's stage one looks for the towering figure of the Imam, and one notes that during these midsummer months at Riyadh he was able, among other things, to deliver himself of dicta on the subject of the *Hanbali* school and of the Shiah schism. According to the Wahhabi leader, the Muslim faith remained as the Prophet preached it for some three centuries after his death: then, however, were disseminated all manner of heresies and perversions which are now, of course, anathema to the Wahhabi. And of the Shiahs, at any rate of the Shiahs of his own Hasa, Sultan Ibn Saoud said that he would like to have "the whole lot of them" demolished.

But the very purpose of Mr. Philby's mission to Riyadh—the attacking by the Wahhabis of the pro-Turkish Ibn Rashid at Hayil—suffered delay after delay in its attempted fulfilment. For one thing, Ibn Saoud had no very great quarrel with Ibn Rashid; for another, he wanted, rather, to attack the Sharif of Mecca or Shaikh Salim of Kuwait, who, by the bye, was apparently playing a very double game by the British, in that the blockade was thwarted by his allowing supplies into the pro-Turkish interior of Arabia. At last, however, the fateful day for the campaign on Hayil arrived, and full of hope the author set out from Riyadh on August 5. His route to the north lay through the old Wahhabi capital of Dariya, Jubaila, Ayaina, and then through the district of Western Mahmal until the country of Washm was reached. This was an important stage, for Shaqra, a town of considerable importance in commercial relations with the Persian Gulf, was the *rendezvous* of Ibn Saoud's contingents for the attack on Hayil. In Washm, a self-contained district, it is interesting to notice that a kind of desert art exists, and it was there, too, that Mr. Philby heard such poetry as reminded him of the great pagan part of the Arabs. Obviously this district was not so fanatical or bigoted as other parts of *Wahhabi-land*: of Shaqra, for instance, it is recorded that tombstones (sandstone slabs set on end) were permitted! At Shaqra, incidentally, King Ibn Saoud

declared that he coveted no title nor any territory outside the boundaries of his birthright in Najd. The passage is worth quoting:—

As for Mecca he had no desire whatever to be its master—all that interested him therein was the House of God, and that only in that it was incumbent upon him as a devout *Muslim* to visit it once in his life for a period of ten days at the outside. The forts and palaces, erected by his ancestors at Mecca, Madina and Taif, merely reminded him of an episode in the past history of Najd, and he had no desire to reoccupy them.

On the expedition went to Wushaiqir, where the author was joined by one with whose name all readers of the first two volumes of this record are familiar, and who since the War has become a prominent figure—Dr. Abdullah Said. It was this Moslawi who made Mr. Philby's next few weeks seem the more pleasant, although he could never see much good in the Englishman's preference for day-marching! By no other means, however, could the British emissary from Baghdad add to the store of the world's geographical knowledge, and by insisting on his preference he did unquestionably achieve an invaluable scientific object.

At Anaiza, the author's memories were naturally full of Doughty, for whom his reverence is as complete as is his suspicion of Palgrave. Anaiza he found a delightful city, of boundless hospitality and of most unbigoted ways. It was for him as enchanting as Buraida was subsequently churlish. But the beauty of Buraida, as a spectacle, a beauty which Doughty, who suffered extremely therein, conjured up unforgettably, does not escape the reader in Mr. Philby's very sober and exact description of this town of the Qasim.

But farther than Buraida in the expedition against Hayil Ibn Saoud would not let his British guest go, whether or not because he feared a repetition of the fate of Captain Shakespear at the battle of Jarrab in 1915 is not made clear. Our author had, therefore, to content himself with a tour of the Khubub. His feelings may be imagined. On September 9 the war-flag of Ibn Saoud went through the city gate of Buraida northwards—

The die was thus cast for a struggle which was to decide the fate of Arabia probably for a generation and possibly for much longer, and which raged over the face of the desert in the desultory fashion of Arabian warfare until 23rd December, 1925, when the green banner of *Wahhabi-land* was hoisted for the first time on the flag-staffs of Jidda. Peace was then at long last to descend upon the great peninsula which had not known peace since the beginning of time, but in September, 1918, one could only look down an endless vista of wars without knowledge of what lay beyond it. And for ten long months it had been my single-hearted endeavour to direct the steps of Ibn Saoud into that dreadful avenue. The stakes were big. The hegemony of Arabia would be the winner's prize.

It is to be recorded that Mr. Philby does not, happily, often so project himself to the future, or write of the recent past with knowledge of the immediate past; but keeps for the most part close to direct narrative.

The actual result of that battle against Hayil is, of course, well known. The Wahhabis missed a great opportunity—although the *Ikhwan* obtained the loot they wanted—and the chance of demolishing the Rashids did not recur during the War—not until 1921, in fact. Ibn Saoud himself, however, was by no means so disappointed at the result of this battle as was Mr. Philby, and invited the author to march up to meet him at Qusaiba, in the northern Qasim. It was between Shiqqa and Qusaiba that Mr. Philby encountered the worst of all the deserts he has ever crossed—a desolate wilderness in which nothing was living beside himself and his companions. It was "the very archetype of the perfect desert of human imagination, of which even Arabia can surely boast but few examples."

At Mashquq he again met Ibn Saoud, returned from the indecisive battlefield. The Wahhabi monarch was then,

apparently, in very bitter mood against the Sharif—largely on account of his attacks on Khurma—and even went so far as to say that a secret understanding existed between Mecca and Hayil, although King Husain was fighting for the Allies and Ibn Rashid for the Turks. But a few days later this bitterness became intenser when the British delegate to Najd communicated the decision of the British Government that the campaign against Hayil should not be proceeded with on account of the possibility of upsetting King Husain. This news involved the return at once of Mr. Philby to Baghdad; and so, on October 4, 1918, he set out for the coast, his final interview with the Sultan being of the pleasantest nature.

His "homeward" route lay through Zilfi and the *Najud*. By accident he nearly traversed Artawiya, the very fanatical fountain-head of the *Ikhwan*, where the Mutair, under Faisal al Dawish, might conceivably have detained him. But he successfully skirted this settlement, and then struck straight across the desert highway to Kuwait, meeting, incidentally, several picturesque *Suluba* on the march, and, at the end of it all, Shaikh Salim himself, who by no means appeared, by his manner and courtesy, the villain of the piece, which everyone in Najd, including the author himself, had declared him to be. And it was at Kuwait, where he arrived on October 16, that he learned, what to him was the quite staggering news, that General Allenby had the Turks on the run, and that his own particular aim had, therefore, been virtually achieved. To the author it seemed that the War was indeed over.

The main value of Mr. Philby's record will probably be found to be geographical. His story is not a tremendously dramatic one, like that, for instance, of T. E. Lawrence: nor can it be claimed that it is unfolded with literary art. But his assiduity was tremendous, his enthusiasm unflagging, and his observation very keen. The duty of geographical record which Fate had imposed upon him he most faithfully discharged; and it was a very considerable obligation. That these three volumes on Najd are assured of a permanent niche with the classical books on Arabia admits of no doubt whatever; they are in truth monumental.

A POSY FROM THE PUNJAB.

"ROMANTIC TALES FROM THE PUNJAB." By the Rev. C. Swynnerton Illustrated. (Oxford University Press. 10s. 6d. net.)

We have to thank the Oxford University Press for this first instalment of a comely edition of Mr. Swynnerton's extraordinarily satisfactory book, which has unaccountably been allowed to go out of print. It is offered to the public at a season when the purchase of gifts is in the air. This is fortunate, for no judicious person can well hesitate to take the hint. It will be a welcome acquisition for all young persons, and an equally welcome one for their seniors.

It is some fifty years now since Mr. Swynnerton took down these tales, and this probably accounts for the title, which is somewhat misleading. For, although romantic tales are prominent, we also find in plenty high comedy, farce, and dry humour. He jotted down the stories from the lips of travelling story-tellers or villagers in North-West Punjab, and has been unusually successful in preserving the flavour of what he heard. The feeling that we are listening in our own tongue, to the racy Punjabi of the narrators is ever present. And, apart from their value as a serious contribution to the study of folk-lore, the tales are quite first-class, whether, to mention a few, they deal with the wild romance of that splendid Ishmaelite, Raja Rasalu; the delicate story of Heer and Ranjha; the rollicking fun of the knaveries of Eesara and Caneebara, who remind us at every turn of Potash and Perlmutter; the lovely tragic legend of that gallant pair of lovers, Sahiba and Meerza; or the effectual cure of a Prince's too amorous tendencies. And good measure is made better by the inclusion of some of the little anecdotes, full of genuine Punjabi humour, which are current in every

village. As it is impossible in our space to begin to do justice to the longer tales by quotation, we should at least like our readers to appreciate the anecdote of the Buneyrwal whose wife had been drowned, with many others, in a sudden flood. He was searching for her body when he was met by a countryman who asked him why he was searching up-stream. "Ah, sir," answered the wretched Buneyrwal, "you did not know that wife of mine. She always took an opposite course to everyone else. And, even now that she is drowned, I know full well that, if other bodies have floated down the river, hers must have floated up!" Or the tale of the preacher, in the full flow of his eloquence, exclaiming on seeing a poor farmer weeping copiously: "Ah, you sinner, you are crying, are you? My words have struck home to you, have they? You begin to think of your sins, do you?" with the disconcerting reply: "No, no; I was not thinking of my sins at all. I was thinking of my old he-goat, that grew sick and died a year ago. Such a loss! Never was a beard so like the beard of my old he-goat as yours."

We feel sure that this volume will receive a very general welcome and that its readers will look forward eagerly to his successors. The charm of the book, we should add, owes not a little to the numerous delightful illustrations, by Moolchand of Ulwar, which are entirely in harmony with the literary contents.

C. S-W.

THE NEW ROUMANIAN CABINET.

The following is the list of members of the new Roumanian Cabinet, approved on November 11:—

Dr. Julius Maniu	Prime Minister.
Dr. Alexander Vaida-Voevod	Interior.
Professor George Mironescu	Foreign Affairs.
M. Albert Popovici-Tasca	Finance.
M. Junian	Justice.
M. Ion Mihalache	Agriculture.
M. Sever Dan	Public Health.
Professor Costakescu	Education.
M. Raduceanu	Labour.
M. Halippa	Public Works.
M. Madgearu	Commerce and Industry.
M. Auriel Vlad	Fine Arts.
General Cikoski	War.
General Alevra	Communications.
M. Bocu	} Without Portfolio.
M. Nizescu	
M. Saveanu	

ORIENTAL MANUSCRIPTS.

The *Times* states that the trustees of the British Museum at their meeting on November 10 received a number of important gifts, including a collection of 57 Oriental manuscripts, formed and presented by an anonymous donor. Forty-seven of the manuscripts are Persian and are remarkable for their antiquity and beauty. Several are exquisitely written and richly illuminated, such as a copy of the *Divan* of Jami, copied A.H. 895 (A.D. 1489-90) in the poet's lifetime, and one of the same poet's *Yusuf u Zulaikha*, of about the same date, which bears the name of the calligrapher Sultan; two fine copies, one dated A.H. 859 and one of the 16th century A.D., of works by Sadi, and two, of the same periods, of the *Divan* of Hafiz, the latter having "The Rubaiyyat" of Omar Khayyam written in the margins. The remainder include works by a number of classical Persian poets and prose-writers, including a copy of Jami's *Munsha'at*, written in A.H. 898, the year of his death.

Among the antiquities added to the collections are a series of 25 Cappadocian tablets from Kul Tepe, near Kaisariyah, some in an East Semitic dialect, and throwing light on the language; a plasma intaglio of the third century B.C., representing a young warrior, or perhaps Ares, seated on a rock; a Græco-Roman sard intaglio with a representation of Asklepios and the young Telesphoros, a rare subject in ancient gems, an unusual alabastron of Rhodian fabric, or of Italian work under Rhodian influence, sixth century B.C.; and a late archaic terra-cotta antifix, with a Satyric mask in relief.

H.M.S. *Lupin*, Commander Sir John Alleyne, D.S.O., D.S.C., completed refitting at Colombo on November 10 in readiness to return to duty in the Persian Gulf. The *Triad*, Captain Hector Boyes, C.M.G., Senior Naval Officer, and *Crocus*, Commander B. O. Bell Salter, have been cruising in the Gulf and arrived on November 3 at Basidu from Hanjam. The other ship of the Division, the *Cyclamen*, Commander the Hon. W. S. Carson, was already at Basidu.

THE WEEK AT HOME

London, Tuesday Morning.

After Ten Years.

Armistice Day, with its noble conception of the Two Minutes' Silence, fell this year on a Sunday, and the tenth anniversary of that fateful time seemed, therefore, charged with a special current of meaning. Not that the feeling of remembrance was intenser, nor even that it was put on a different plane—although everyone who could be present was, I think, present at his or her local War Memorial, or at some larger Memorial; but somehow the nation's act of homage to those whose memory in this generation must always inspire—die out the intervening years how they inexorably will—seemed to take on a fresh blossoming, to exude a new fragrance.

Perhaps—one cannot analyse these things—it was due to the fact that so many who were too young to understand the War were present at Memorial Services, to catch, however dimly, some of the meaning of the sacrifices made by parents and relatives before they could comprehend; perhaps it was the opportunity given, the obligation imposed, to assist at a religious service where formerly one had remembered in silence and alone; perhaps the individual heart changes, to merge in the greater sorrow of a people. However this may be, it is good to know that the British people does not forget, and that on November 11, at any rate, if on no other occasion, it can still commune with its own soul.

De-Rating.

There may be men in this country who understand the details of the De-Rating scheme of the Government, but unhappily I am not of them. In company with many other ignorant people, I had imagined that that locality which itself would benefit by the process of de-rating would alone suffer a change in its rates. Now, however, it appears that many localities which cannot benefit will have to pay additional rates. That there is a flaw in this now rapidly growing impression is sincerely to be hoped, but there is no question that alarm is genuine, and that if thousands of votes are not to be lost to the Government, prompt explanation is necessary.

There is nothing, whether in foreign politics or domestic reform, so likely to arouse antagonism to the Government of the day as an increase, in whatever cause, in the amount which the small ratepayer has to pay. The cry of Governmental ineptitude has already gone up in the country, even in Conservative circles, which assert that the Bill, however excellent in conception, will have the result (so far as they can foggily see) of introducing the principle of taxing one locality to relieve another.

Unemployment.

The shadow of unemployment in this country grows larger rather than smaller, and the debate in the House of Commons, whose power to deal with the problem is most variously assessed, was read with eagerness even by

those who believe wholly in the principles of letting every industry work out its own salvation, in accordance with the laws of supply and demand.

Mr. Clynes, for the Labour Party, opened an attack upon the Government, but his main suggestion appeared to be only that Great Britain should reconsider her commercial relations with Russia. Mr. Churchill, in a very moderately-worded reply, mentioned the Government's proposed remedies. These are: Derating of industry and agriculture, Extension of Exports Credit Scheme, Safeguarding, Empire Settlement, Extension of Electricity Supply, Enlargement of Land Drainage and Coast Erosion Schemes, and transference of workers from stagnant to active districts. This is certainly an energetic programme, but nobody, I think, imagines that it can radically alter the position, which is most depressing to all parties. In their heart of hearts most men probably realise that unemployment is a matter for the nation, not for any party.

Of the Conservatives' programme it has to be said that it does not command the acceptance of the whole party; some of the speeches of the Lancashire Conservative members, for instance, were irrefutable evidence that the Government has lost caste in north-western England. The present Administration has obviously many furrows to plough if it is to return in force at the next General Election. Speaking of the Election, by the way, I may recall that a very widespread impression exists that there will be a stale-mate next Summer; I do not share it, but it is certainly prevalent among many shrewd observers.

Lord Birkenhead's Progress.

Lord Birkenhead's desertion of the political world in favour of the financial is fluttering the doves considerably. It is significant that he has immediately attached himself to businesses with which Lord Melchett and Mr. Solly Joel and Mr. Abram Lyle are closely concerned. If Lord Birkenhead was in search of money—and no public man, perhaps, has ever before so blatantly confessed that he was—he certainly must be given the credit of knowing where to find it.

This growing passion of the business-man to secure the services of politicians—an inversion of what the ordinary man in the street had conceived to be the way of efficiency—is arousing both misgiving and hilarity. One likes the *Manchester Guardian's* suggestion of the inquiry which in future will be made to all applicants for a big position in the City—"What was your last Cabinet job?"

But Lord Birkenhead is not wholly lost to us. He has it seems, promised now and then to write for the newspapers, so that we shall still have the benefits of the working of his astute mind. And if these Press contributions happen to bring in some not entirely despised gains, what of that? Shall we not be grateful?

The Lord Mayor's Show.

It was on the jolliest of November days last week that the Lord Mayor's Show came to delight the hearts of young and old. There was a seasonable nip in the atmosphere; and the air was keen and dry, so that the smell of the roast-chestnuts which were, perhaps, unusually abundant on the comforting portable fires of the vendors, seemed very good. That smell with the crowds and the sights combined to engender a real feeling of holiday.

The Show itself was a strange mixture—I suppose it always is—of beautiful and tawdry. Advertisement of wares moved next to illustration of worthy work. The horses were possibly what the majority of people admired most. But the whole thing is such a hotch-potch that it is unique.

With the grumblers, however, who complain of loss of time, the holding-up of the traffic, postponed lunches, and the rest of it, London in general has no sympathy. The Lord Mayor's Show is an institution, and it would take a Turkish President to abolish it.

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PERSONAL AND GENERAL

TO-DAY

November 15, 1928 (New Style).

November 2, 1928 (Old Style).

Jumada II, 1, 1347 A.H., of the Muslim Calendar.

Kislev 2, 5689, of the Jewish Calendar.

Lady (Charles) Low sailed from Tilbury in the P. and O. s.s. *Kaisar-i-Hind* on November 9 for Bombay.

The Queen of Yugoslavia entertained ex-King George of the Hellenes at luncheon at Claridge's Hotel on November 10.

Sir Valentine Chirol leaves London this week by the P. and O. s.s. *Narkunda* for India, where he will be spending the winter.

Commandant Comte Roman Michalowski, Military Attaché at the Polish Legation, left London on November 13 to take up his new duties at the Polish Legation at Bucharest.

A dance will be held, under the auspices of the London Cyprus Brotherhood, at the Royal Hotel, Woburn Place, Russell Square, on Saturday, November 24, from 8 p.m. until 12 p.m.

Mr. Sydney Waterlow was received in audience by the King at Buckingham Palace on November 5, and kissed hands upon his appointment as His Majesty's Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary at Addis Ababa.

The Bishop of Colombo, Lady Stalbridge, Sir William and Lady Haldane, Sir Robert and Lady Johnstone, Sir Alfred and Lady Ashbolt, Sir Thomas Clement, and Mr. Justice Riche sailed from Tilbury on November 10 in the Orient liner *Orama* for the Mediterranean ports and the East.

Colonel Josiah Wedgwood, M.P., returned last week from Roumania, where he made a short stay. On November 3 a luncheon was given in his honour by M. Duca, Minister of the Interior, and in the afternoon he was received by the Prime Minister, M. Vintila Bratianu, who the same evening handed in the resignation of the Cabinet to the Council of Regency.

The King has granted permission to the following to wear the foreign decorations that have been awarded to them in recognition of valuable services to the countries concerned:—

Order of the Nile (Egypt), Third Class: Major Basil Hugh Campbell Lea-Wilson, R.A.M.C. Fourth Class: Captain Victor Charles Brind, D.S.O., M.C.

Order of Ismail, Fourth Class: Colonel Bertram Henry Samuel Romilly, D.S.O.

Sa'idi Order (Muscat), First Class: Mr. Bertram Sidney Thomas.

THE CHURCH OF ST. GEORGE AT TROODOS, CYPRUS.

WANTED!

A permanent church on Troodos for the needs not only of residents (military and civilian) but of the visitors who are coming in growing numbers each year to this popular hill station of the Near East.

It is proposed that a stone building be erected on a site, to be allocated by the War Office, near the Parade Ground, at a cost now estimated at £800.

The Special Committee includes H. L. Jones, Esq., Major L. F. Layton, O/C Troops, Norman Petrides, Esq., Dr. A. H. Unwin, Henry Williamson, Esq., and the Chaplains of Nicosia (Rev. H. Suxton) and of Limassol (Rev. L. Lindsay).

The Managing Director of the Cyprus Asbestos Co. has kindly promised a generous cash contribution and also building materials produced by the Company at exceedingly low price.

Contributions should be sent direct to the TROODOS CHURCH FUND, c/o H. L. Jones, Esq., Ottoman Bank, Nicosia.

Captain and Mrs. Duncan McCallum have moved from No. 9, St. Leonard's Terrace to No. 7, Cheyne Walk, S.W.3, which is now their permanent address.

On November 18, at 3.45 p.m., at 111, Campden Hill Road, W.8, Sirdar Ikbal Ali Shah will lecture to the British Muslim Society on "The Truth about Muslim Modernisation." Lord Headley will preside.

Dr. W. T. H. Williamson, senior assistant in the Department of Agricultural Chemistry in the Edinburgh and East of Scotland College of Agriculture, has been appointed to the position of chief chemist in the Egyptian Ministry of Agriculture at Cairo.

The annual reunion dinner of the British Serbian Branch of the British Legion will be held on December 1 at the Victoria Mansions Restaurant, Victoria Street, Westminster. The President, Dr. Alice M. Hutchison, will be in the Chair. All who served in Serbia are invited, together with their friends. Tickets may be obtained from Mr. J. R. Chappell, 123, Queen's Road, W.2.

After hearing Ismet Pasha, the Turkish Prime Minister, speak in explanation of the Government's plans for the coming Session, the Turkish Grand National Assembly in Angora on November 8 gave him a unanimous vote of confidence, and passed the Bill exempting founts of the new Latin type to be adopted for printing Turkish from Customs duties.

Where to stay in the East

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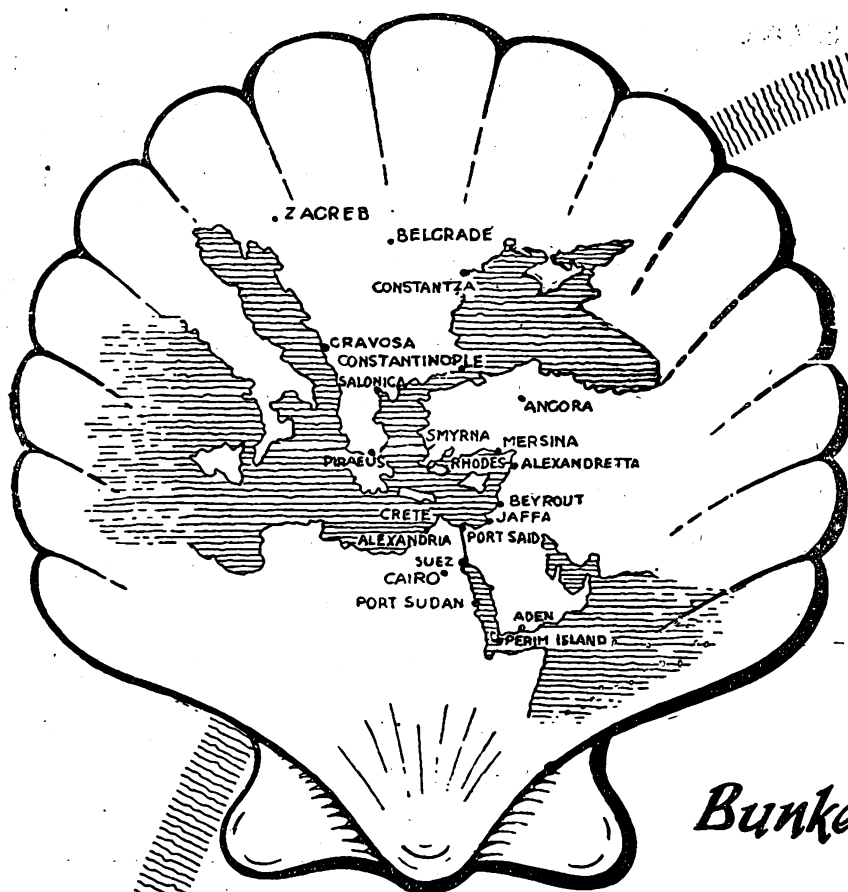
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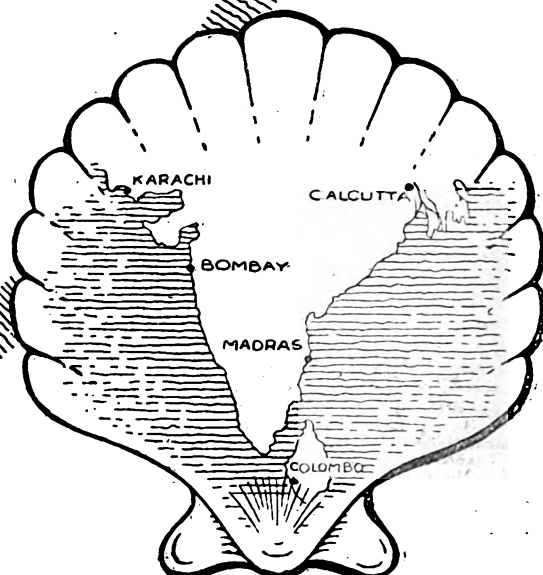
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SHELL



Commercial and Financial Section.

NOTES AND NEWS

170, Strand, London, W.C.2,
Tuesday Morning.

The Roumanian Loan Position.

The interaction of political developments in Roumania on the loan negotiations is naturally the point on which interest abroad will immediately be focussed. After long and exceedingly difficult negotiations the Bratianu Administration had at length brought matters to a point when the conclusion of a loan was practically a *fait accompli*. To achieve this it was necessary for the Government to make various concessions. The strongest objections had been raised to the resumption of the payment of dividends on Roumanian pre-War stocks to German holders but when it ultimately became obvious that in the view of the foreign financial houses a settlement of this question was a *sine qua non* before a new loan could be negotiated the Government yielded, and, as a matter of fact, the convention embodying this point was signed in Berlin on November 10 after M. Bratianu's resignation. This convention provides for the payment by Germany to Roumania of 75,500,000 marks over a period of four years by annual instalments, while on Roumania's part any claim to German property in Roumania not yet liquidated is waived while the service of the pre-War stocks is to be resumed in accordance with a fixed schedule. Whether M. Bratianu also intended to meet the hostility of the mining companies by a timely revision of the unpopular Mining Law will not now be known. As I pointed out last week, a statement appeared to the effect that the Law was to be modified, but it may, as I suggested, have been merely a *ballon d'essai* to smooth the course of the final negotiations; at any rate there is no evidence that any steps had been or were about to be, taken to that end. Whatever the position is in this respect, however, the fact remains that at the time of the fall of the Administration a loan was on the verge of being concluded. Probably, if matters had been allowed to take their course, we should have found that the leaders would have made the revision of the Mining Law a condition of assistance. But speculation on this point is now fruitless.

M. Maniu and the League.

The future course of Roumania's loan negotiations must now be somewhat uncertain, for the very good reason that it is bound to be much easier for a Maniu Administration to raise a foreign loan than it was for the late Government. If the loan which M. Bratianu was negotiating had gone through it would have been found that the terms of the issue were more unfavourable than those of recent Near Eastern loans which have made their appearance under the ægis of the League of Nations. This particular question is dealt with elsewhere in these columns this week, and I shall, therefore, make no further reference to it except to point out that of the two factors which presumably principally affected the terms—Roumania's internal and external position—the first, which is by far the most important, has been removed to all

intents and purposes by the change of Government. Whether M. Maniu will be agreeable to adopt the policy which is undoubtedly favoured by his party of following the course of Greece and Bulgaria and using the good offices of the League of Nations to obtain financial assistance must remain to be seen. There are points for and against each course, which, one would imagine, will be weighed very carefully before a definite decision is reached. It has to be borne in mind as regards the present negotiations that Roumania's position under the new régime is very different from the point of view of foreign financial houses from what it was before. One can adopt a parallel from this country to illustrate the case. Suppose that a British Government was negotiating a treaty and that the Opposition declared that it would abrogate it on entering office. Obviously that would make the course of the negotiations extremely difficult. I admit that it is not a fair parallel, but it is near enough to illustrate my point. The houses with which M. Bratianu was negotiating may take the view that the altered circumstances permit a modification of the loan terms, and so by the continuance of the negotiations M. Maniu might be able to obtain financial assistance on what he would regard as equitable conditions. A point in favour of this course which is bound to have its influence is the certainty that recourse to the League, while it will mean better terms than are now proposed, will certainly entail considerable delay. No loan so far negotiated through this medium has been a speedy transaction, and Roumania's need for a loan is urgent. This urgency may be the culminating factor.

The Mining Law.

The advent of the Maniu Administration has given rise to a much greater feeling of confidence in Roumania abroad, for the very good reason that the policy of the National-Peasant Party as outlined and approved at the "Parliament" of the Party held at Bucharest last July shows a very different attitude towards outstanding questions from that adopted by the late Government. Particularly is this the case with regard to foreign assistance which the Party, it was made clear, are prepared to welcome as necessary for the country's development. Nothing in recent years has done more to destroy Roumania's credit abroad than the ill judged Mining Law. The whole question of economic regulations was dealt with in a report presented to and passed by this "Parlia-

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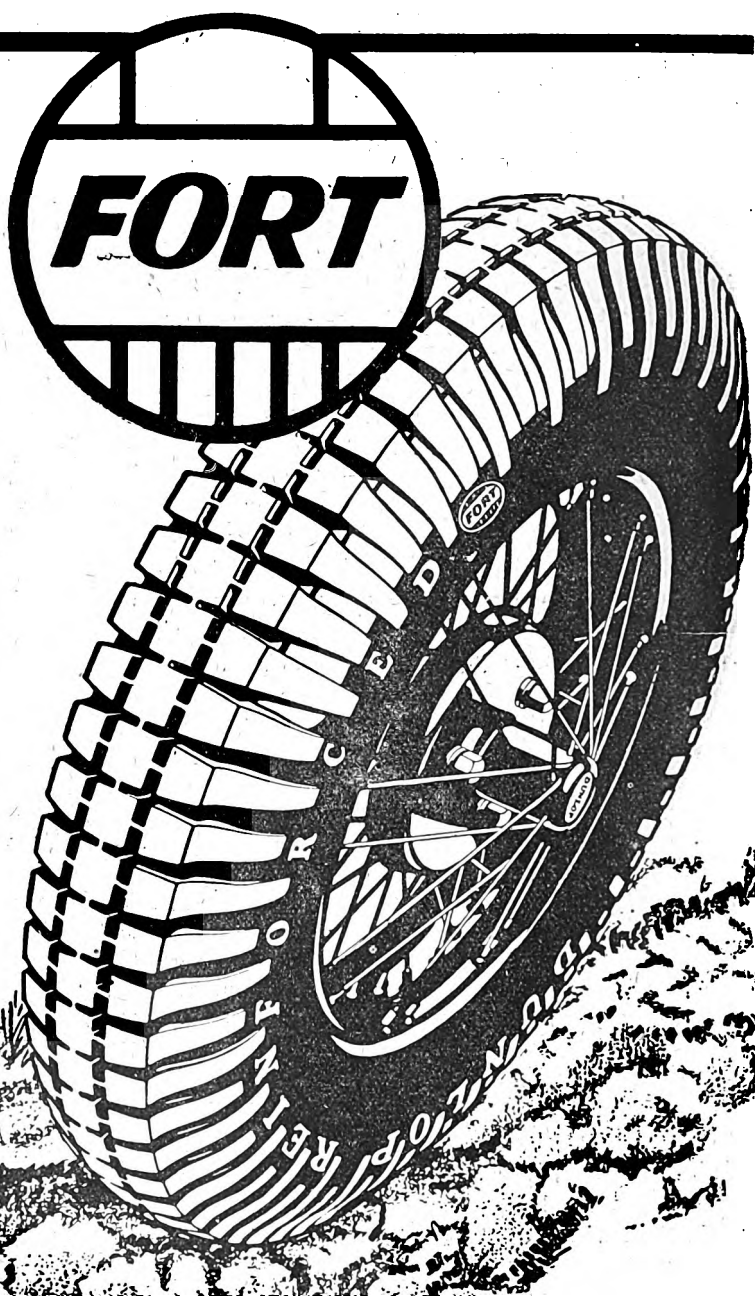
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A general banking business with Roumania is conducted and correspondence from those having interests in that country is invited.

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ment," and it may be of interest at this juncture to outline some of the proposals which were put forward. In the first place there was the frankest possible recognition of the need for foreign capital "which we are not able to find in our country and must attract from abroad." To achieve this it is recognised that there must be equal treatment of foreign and native capital, and that it is necessary, *inter alia*, to suppress the special tax on the capital or revenues of foreign companies and to abolish the regulation fixing the proportion of foreign capital in companies constituted in the country. As regards the Mining Law the report states plainly that its "echo abroad has been so unfavourable for our country, and has caused such grave prejudice to our national economy" and that a number of modifications are necessary. Of those put forward special interest attaches to the proposal that in order to reconstitute the reserve of oil lands measures should be taken to intensify the work of exploration "by guaranteeing concessions to explorers and ultimately according them certain advantages." A further proposal is for the simplification "of the onerous formalities and the long delay for the recognition and the validation of rights acquired and the speedy elaboration of a mining survey to offer to the foreigner the security of the rights of property."

The Turkish Budget.

Details are now available of the Turkish Budget for 1929. The expenditure is estimated at £T220,297,208 and the receipts are put at £T220,291,300 thus leaving a small deficit. The expenditure shows an increase of £T13,000,000 on the previous Budget, this being accounted for principally by the allocations for national defence and for public works. The principal items in the Budget are £T55,817,510 for the Army, £T38,015,714 for the Public Debt, and £T36,617,638 for Public Works. The allocations in respect of national defence include, in addition to the Army Budget £T6,475,082 for the Navy, £T5,101,336 for military manufactures, and £T1,702,880 for the Air Service. One cannot help feeling that in Turkey's present situation the amount in the Budget allotted under these various heads to defence is rather out of proportion as the horizon in her part of the world is unclouded. Certainly it is hardly open to argument that it would be more in the real interests of the country if larger allocations were made instead for works of development, of the need of which recent events in Anatolia have made Turkey painfully aware.

Bengal-Nagpur Railway.

Very satisfactory results were obtained by the Bengal-Nagpur Railway for the year ended March 31 last. The gross earnings at Rs.9,16,23,492 were the highest on record, and while the working expenses were Rs.5,61,49,504, the net earnings were Rs.3,54,73,908 as compared with Rs.3,50,63,545. The development of the goods traffic was mainly responsible for the improvement in the results though the receipts from passenger traffic also rose. The goods earnings totalled Rs.6,30,41,176 as against Rs.5,54,37,793, while the passenger earnings were Rs.2,25,98,604 as against Rs.2,17,09,024. There was an increase in the tonnage of goods carried of 1,986,447 or

about 15 per cent., while the number of passengers carried increased by 1,292,953, or about 5.4 per cent. In addition to the guaranteed interest of £1 15s., the directors propose a further dividend of 15s. per cent. which with the similar payment for the half year makes a dividend of 5 per cent. During the year a number of new lines were opened, the effect of which on the earning capacity of the company will no doubt be dealt with at the coming meeting.

COMMENTATOR.

TELEPHONES IN GREECE.

While the use of the telephone has been slowly extending in Greece during the past few years, recently published statistics show that so far the use of this means of communication is still in its infancy in this country. Up to 1924 the telephone was only installed in six towns in Greece, and since then it has been introduced at Calamata, Herakleion, Rethymno, Volo, and Zante, but there are still about 20 towns with a population of 10,000 or over which lack a telephone. These include such important centres as Kavalla, Comotini, and Larissa. At the end of 1926 the total number of subscribers in Greece was 5,417, of which 659 represented public departments, and if from the balance allowance is made for the banks, legations, companies, newspapers, etc., it will be obvious that the number of individual subscribers must be very small. Evidently the modern Greek has still to be instructed as to the utility of being able to hear "Number, please?" at will. Within another year telephonic communications in Greece will be much improved, as under the contract obtained in May, 1926, by the New Antwerp Telephone and Electrical Works Company for the installation of a new telephone system in the country, the company undertook to establish a service in the chief towns by the end of 1929. Subsequently it is to undertake the construction of a network of long-distance communications so that all towns with a population of 10,000 shall be connected.

The India General Navigation and Railway Company has declared an interim dividend of 2½ per cent. on the ordinary shares and 2½ per cent. on the preference shares, both free of tax, payable November 23.

The directors of the Bank of British West Africa have decided to pay an interim dividend of 2½ per cent., less tax, for the year ending March 31, 1929, payable December 1, 1928.

Acting under medical advice, Sir James P. Reynolds, Bart., senior partner in Reynolds and Gibson, the well-known firm of Liverpool cotton brokers, has retired from business as from November 12. Mr. E. B. Orme, a past president of the Liverpool Cotton Association, director of Martins Bank, Ltd., and a member of the Mersey Docks and Harbour Board, has joined the firm.

The Empire Marketing Board reports that the first direct shipment of oranges from Jaffa was made on November 3 by the Granada. This vessel is carrying 25,719 boxes for Glasgow, and 2,403 boxes for Bristol, and should arrive at the first-named port round about November 20, according to the time usually taken by the Jaffa Union boats. The total quantity exported this season by direct and transshipments amounted, up to November 5, to approximately 72,000 boxes. It is estimated that there remain to be shipped some 1,050,000 boxes. Shipments during the first three weeks of the present month are expected to be heavy.

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KHARTOUM, PORT SUDAN
SUAKIM, TOKAR,

LLOYD'S AGENTS MASSOWAH & JEDDAH

GREECE'S ADVERSE TRADE BALANCE.

The excess of the value of Greece's imports over her exports this year was substantially increased in July. The figures for that month (in thousands of drachmæ) were 973,902 for imports and 262,213 for exports, those totals being respectively the highest and the lowest for the month for the past four years. Converted into sterling at the mean rate of exchange for July, these totals represent £2,597,000 for imports and £699,000 for exports, the adverse balance being £1,898,000.

For the first seven months of the year the value of the imports (the figures representing thousands of drachmæ) was 7,310,442, that of the exports being 2,821,995, or an excess of imports over exports of 4,488,447. In sterling these totals represent roughly £19,495,000 for imports and £7,525,000 for exports, the adverse balance being £11,970,000.

Features of the import trade during the year have been the increases in metals, minerals, and oil, while there has been a marked decrease in the imports of food products. The position of the tobacco trade has affected the exports, the reduction in the case of tobacco representing 25.8 per cent. Other notable decreases have been in respect of wine, olives, and olive oil.

CYPRUS IMPORTS INCREASING.

The report on the trade of Cyprus for September, states that the value of imports during the month was £167,264, being £34,937 above the quinquennial average and £21,351 more than for September, 1927. The rise was due mainly to increases in timber, flour, tobacco and motor cars.

The value of exports was £105,341, £27,499 below the quinquennial average and £51,179 below the figures for September, 1927. The principal falling off is in silk cocoons, but as local buying for the Silk Filature is probably responsible the Colony will ultimately be the gainer. Contributory causes to the decrease were the continued holding up of barley and a poor carob crop. On the other hand there were satisfactory increases in the export of minerals, almonds, raisins and grapes, hides and skins. The first consignment of 18,000 oranges in the green state was shipped to Egypt on September 22. Twenty-six steamers arrived at Larnaca, 31 at Limassol, and 20 at Famagusta, as against the monthly average in 1927 of 27, 28, and 21, respectively.

Mr. W. Ross Munro, London manager, has been appointed general manager of the National Bank of India in place of the late Mr. W. J. K. Hegarty, and Mr. E. H. Lawrence, inspector of branches, has been appointed London manager.

TENDERS INVITED.

Tenders are invited for the following contracts, and must be made by the dates mentioned.
(Particulars of tenders marked D.O.T. are to be obtained from the Department of Overseas Trade, 55, Old Queen Street, S.W.1.)

EGYPT.

Scientific Instruments, Etc.—The Physical Department, Ministry of Public Works, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply and delivery of scientific and measuring instruments, wall clocks, etc. December 3. (D.O.T.)

Steam Lorry.—The Director-General, Tanzim Department, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of three steam lorries required for the Department. December 15.

Steel Book Cases.—The Egyptian Ministry of Public Works invites tenders for the supply and erection of 115 steel book cases for the Royal Library in Cairo. December 31. (D.O.T.)

Saddlery, Etc.—The Director of Equipment and Finance Department, Ministry of the Interior, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of various articles such as saddlery, fire-engines accessories, rest-house necessities, leather. November 24.

INDIA.

Electric Meters.—The Indian Stores Department, New Delhi, invites tenders for the supply and delivery of A.C. and D.C. meters. November 19. (D.O.T.)

TURKEY.

Field Telephone Wire.—The Direction-General of Posts, Telegraphs, and Telephones, Angora, invites tenders for the supply and delivery of 50,000 metres of rubber-covered field telephone wire. December 18. (D.O.T.)

Generator.—The Direction Générale des Chemins de Fer et ports d'Etat invites tenders for the supply and delivery at Haidar Pacha of a steam engine driven A.C. generator of 600 K.W. November 28. (D.O.T.)

PALESTINE.

Coal.—The Crown Agents for the Colonies invite tenders for 18,000 tons of large Welsh steam coal for the Palestine Railway. November 21.

FORTHCOMING SAILINGS.

The following are the sailings for the Near East and India, the ports of departure and closing dates for cargo being given in parentheses:—

Anchor Line.—S.s. Castalia for Bombay (Birkenhead, November 23). (For passenger sailings and dates see advertisement.)

Anchor Brocklebank Line.—S.s. Matra for Calcutta (Birkenhead, November 22); s.s. Malancha for Calcutta (Birkenhead, November 29).

Bibby Line.—S.s. Gloucestershire for Port Said, Port Sudan, Colombo, and Rangoon (Birkenhead, November 28).

British India Line.—S.s. Merkara for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, November 17); s.s. Hatimura for Bombay and Karachi (London, December 1); s.s. Morvada for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, December 15).

Cunard Line.—S.s. Bosnia for Casablanca, Gibraltar, Genoa, Leghorn, Naples, Palermo, Messina, Catania, Corfu, Bari, Venice, Trieste, and Fiume, also at Gruz and Ancona, if inducement. This steamer also closes in Glasgow on November 22 for Casablanca, Gibraltar, Corfu, Bari, Venice, Trieste, and Fiume, also Gruz and Ancona, if inducement (Liverpool November 24, and Swansea 27); s.s. Bantria for Patras, Piræus, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, and Constantza (Glasgow, Swansea, and Liverpool, December 8).

Johnston Line.—S.s. Aviemore for Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Bourgas, Varna, and Constantza (Liverpool, December 1).

P. and O. Line.—S.s. Rawalpindi for Bombay (London, November 23); s.s. Nellore for Calcutta (London, November 24).

Prince Line.—S.s. Scottish Prince for Tunis, Malta, Alexandria, Jaffa, Haifa, Beyrout, and Cyprus (Manchester, November 17); s.s. Algerian Prince for Tunis, Malta, Alexandria, Jaffa, Haifa, Beyrout, Tripoli, Alexandretta, and Cyprus (Manchester, November 24).

Ellerman and Papayanni Lines.—S.s. Mardinian for Patras, Piræus, Volo*, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, and Constantza (Liverpool November 17, Swansea November 17); s.s. Dido for Gibraltar, Malta, Alexandria, Jaffa*, and Haifa* (Liverpool, November 27); s.s. Castilian for Malta, Alexandria, Jaffa*, and Haifa* (Liverpool, December 1); s.s. Algerian for Algiers*, Smyrna, and Constantinople (Liverpool December 1, Swansea December 1); A steamer for Malta, Alexandria, Jaffa*, and Haifa* (Liverpool, December 1). *Subject to sufficient inducement. Cargo taken on through Bill of Lading to:—Algerian ports via Algiers; Moroccan ports via Gibraltar; Tripoli (Barbary) via Malta; Syria and Cyprus via Alexandria; Greek outports via Piræus or other convenient port.

ANCHOR LINE

LIVERPOOL TO BOMBAY.

KARACHI via Bombay, calling at Gibraltar and Egypt.

LARGE STEAMSHIPS. UPPER DECK CABINS.

MODERATE FARES.

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Indian Government Vouchers accepted.

Passenger sailing dates:—

*CASTALIA ...	Nov. 27	*BRITANNIA ...	Dec. 31
*MASSILIA ...	Dec. 11	*ASSYRIA ...	Jan. 11

*First class passengers only. Specially low fares. †Calls Port Sudan.

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ANCHOR LINE,

48, FENCHURCH STREET, LONDON, E.C.3.

THE WEEK'S FINANCE.

(By Our Financial Expert.)

London, November 13.

The volume of business passing on the Stock Exchange is somewhat less than at the height of the recent speculative boom, but on the whole prices present a fairly cheerful appearance. There are no signs of an immediate revival of speculation in shilling shares and it is to be hoped that investors have acquired a better sense of values. In the main, British Government securities are particularly strong. This is the more noteworthy since Money Market rates are firm and gold exports continue from the Bank of England. There are still no fears, however, of an immediate rise in Bank rate; the Bank's gold position, already strong, has been fortified by the imports of Spanish gold which have been sent to support the peseta. Home rails have improved slightly. The decisive victory of the Republicans in the American Presidential Election was hailed as a bull point in the markets, several Anglo-American favourites advancing sharply. A number of miscellaneous industrials have shown to advantage, among them being tobacco shares and cable and wireless securities. The new capital market has been only moderately active during the week.

The Dangers of Mining Investments.

A mining enterprise has exercised a strange fascination over mankind from the earliest times. The precious metals especially have been universal symbols of riches, the most universally desired of all existing things. And what is true of the world in general is not less true of the investor in particular. Of all the companies and undertakings in the world he is frequently tempted to regard mining enterprises as offering the hope of the greatest return. It is true that from time to time a mining investment gives a glittering prize. But for every successful mining investment there are many that are not successful and a number that are simply disastrous. In the mining world the unexpected happens with disconcerting frequency. An extremely good year may be followed by one which, owing to circumstances which no human ingenuity could have foreseen, is extremely bad. The uncertainty, in fact, begins from the very day that the

investor takes up a mining share, for, apart from the Rand, it is impossible to estimate with an approach to accuracy the "lives" of metalliferous mines—that is, how long it will pay to work them. Even if all the factors within the control of an individual company leave nothing to be desired, the market for that company's product may be so adverse as to make the investment a source of anxiety. An illustration of this point is provided by the recent collapse in the price of tin. In short, mining shares are as unsuitable for the small investor as any investment can be. For them the only motto is: "Never put your money in any hope in the ground."

Hotel Shares.

During the past few years a number of the large London hotels have built up a position of steady prosperity. This has not unnaturally attracted the attention of investors, with the result that there has been a gradual widening of interest in these securities. The outlook for the London hotels for the coming year therefore concerns many investors. Speaking on this subject at the meeting of the Carlton Hotel Lord Lurgan, the deputy chairman, said that "the prospects for the coming year are quite good." Despite a certain extraneous inconvenience in the case of his own hotel, "the business done to date is in excess of that done over the same period last year." This is reassuring, and there can be no doubt that London retains a high place as an attraction for the foreign tourist in particular. Among the most attractive investments in the hotel group are the Savoy Hotel ordinary shares. During recent years a dividend of 10 per cent. has been paid and at the same time the company has built up a strong financial position. Thus the reserve and carry-forward equal nearly two-thirds of the ordinary share capital. At present the shares return £5 18s. per cent. The Carlton Hotel has also recently paid steady dividends, but the fact that the ordinary shares yield £7 2s. per cent. indicates that there is a somewhat more speculative element in them than in the Savoy Hotel shares.

Japanese Bonds.

Although recently the position in Japan has not been too hopeful the present situation contains signs of some improvement and promises rather better conditions for the future. Foreign trade figures, it is true, are still discouraging, and it appears that the adverse balance for the present year will be rather greater than that of last year. On the other hand, an investigation shows that the net profits of 1,200 industrial companies during the first half of 1928 totalled 298,864,000 yen, or 23,142,000 yen more than in the corresponding half of last year. This is evidence that a great number of industrial companies have consolidated their positions and set their operations upon a profit-earning basis. Moreover, unusually favourable weather during September improved the crop prospects very considerably. Official estimates for both rice and wheat show an increase on what was generally anticipated. The investor in Japanese securities has always to face the possibilities of earthquakes, which inevitably damage the financial and industrial fabric of the country and cause some dislocation in the working of its economic machinery. There is thus a speculative element in Japanese bonds. For those prepared to accept this, however, Japanese 6 per cents. finally redeemable in 1959, and yielding £6 2s. per cent., or the 4 per cents. finally redeemable in 1970, and yielding £5 18s. per cent., constitute foreign investments which are not without attractions.

The traffic receipts of the Egyptian Delta Light Railways for the ten days ended October 20 amounted to £E12,248, making the total from April 1 £E157,243.

The general rate for the conversion of Greek Customs, etc., duties from gold to paper drachmæ has been increased from 14 to 15 as from November 1.

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Regular Passenger and Freight Service from

RANGOON, CALCUTTA, and COLOMBO
To BEIRA, DELAGOA BAY, DURBAN, EAST LONDON
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Information for Freight and Passage may be obtained
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CALCUTTA—Andrew Weir & Co.
COLOMBO—Skrine & Co.
BEIRA—Beira Shipping Agency.
DELAGOA BAY—John T. Rennie & Sons.
DURBAN—Andrew Weir & Co.
EAST LONDON—Messrs. Dunn & Co.
PT. ELIZABETH—Mackie, Dunn & Co.

MOSSEL BAY—Messrs. E. Searle & Co.
CAPE TOWN—Thomson, Watson & Co.
HONG KONG—The Bank Line, Ltd.
BANGKOK—Siam Forest Co., Ltd.
SINGAPORE—Hattenbach Bros & Co.
MAURITIUS—Adam & Co.

LONDON—ANDREW WEIR & CO., 21, Bury Street, E.C.8

Near East Markets

ONION GROWING IN CYPRUS.

For a number of years the production of onions in Cyprus has been an industry of considerable value to the Island, and from 1904 onwards a substantial export trade has developed. Some particulars of the trade are given in a Supplement to the *Cyprus Gazette*, and the statistics given reveal the interesting fact that the United Kingdom has come to be the chief direct importer of Cyprus onions. Thus for 1927 the United Kingdom took 27,648 cwt. out of a total export of 36,777 cwt., Egypt and Palestine being responsible for most of the balance with 4,261 cwt. and 4,153 cwt. respectively.

Between 1901 and 1903 the exports varied in quantity from 14,696 cwt. and 18,560 cwt. and in value from £1,245 to £1,843. Then in 1904 there was a sharp rise in the exports, the total being 28,928 cwt., of the value of £2,991. Since that year the trade has had its ups and down, particularly during and after the War. In 1910 the exports reached their highest figure as regards quantity with 51,799 cwt., while 1926 was the record year as regards value, the exports for that year being 43,630 cwt., of the value of £8,044. Last year the value of the exports was £7,219.

Investigations are now proceeding as to the possibility of onion seed production on a commercial scale in the Island, and the Department of Agriculture has imported from Teneriffe small quantities of seed of the Crystal Wax, Red and White Bermuda varieties for a trial. If the quality of the seed comes up to the standard of that produced in Teneriffe, it is stated that there is little doubt that in the course of time Cyprus will enter the onion seed market.

CYPRUS CROPS.

The Cyprus Trade Commissioner has issued the following crop report for October:—

The wheat market is active and the price is up to 8s. per bushel. Owing to the bad harvests the stock of good quality wheat is rapidly diminishing. There is a steady demand for seed wheat. Barley prices continue to be firm at 3s. 4d. per bushel. Offers are poor, but the demand is regular. Prices of oats are settled at 3s. per bushel. Offers are poor, but the demand is on the increase. The old stock of potatoes is nearly exhausted. The new crop is expected towards the middle of November, and prospects are promising. The high prices of last month for carobs, 22s. to 23s. per kantar, are still maintained.

The picking of cotton is nearly completed. The crop is fair, and prices are 3s. 4d. to 3s. 8d. per stone. Tobacco is 4d. to 6d. per lb. Oranges are a poor crop, but the quality is high. No prices are yet quoted. The export of lemons to Roumania, Egypt, Greece, as well as to the United Kingdom has begun. Prices fluctuate between 12s. and 15s. per 1,000. The demand may exceed supply. Onions are £6 per ton, rising. There is a good demand, and offers are satisfactory. As regards pomegranates, the Egyptian market has again been active. Prices are £4 10s. to £5 per ton, rising. Offers are good, and the demand is steady. The sesame crop is fair. The price is firm at 4s. per stone. There is a good demand, and offers are satisfactory. Stocks of cumin seed are becoming depleted. The price is £45 per ton. Grapes are an excellent vintage. The harvest is now over. Raisins are 1s. 4d. per stone.

During the year ended March 20 last 1,112 motor cars and 976 lorries and omnibuses were imported into Persia. The figures for 1926-27 were 1,330 and 967, for 1925-26 1,111 and 492, and for 1924-25 529 and 103 respectively.

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THE SMYRNA FRUIT MARKET.

Messrs. C. J. Giraud and Co., of Smyrna, report as follows for the week ended November 3:—

Sultanas.

The estimated sales to date total 31,050 tons, against 33,200 tons for the corresponding period of the previous year.

Closing prices Smyrna, per cwt. c.i.f. London, for types 12 to 18 are:—28s.; 29s. 6d.; 32s.; 34s. 6d.; 38s.; 43s.; 52s.

Market Conditions.—The market continues ruling very quiet. Views held on future prospects are somewhat divided. Native dealers argue that two-thirds of the crop has now been disposed of, and show no anxiety to press the sale of stocks still on hand. Meanwhile demand is slow and prices show more of a tendency to sag than otherwise.

MARKET FOR SHOES IN ABYSSINIA.

The Ethiopians are beginning to look upon shoes as necessities rather than luxuries. With a gradually increasing purchasing power there is a growing demand for shoes (says the United States Minister Resident and Consul-General at Addis Ababa, Mr. Addison E. Southard, in a recent report). The Ethiopian market is yet in its infancy for manufactured goods, with prospects for an early and very considerable expansion.

The population is estimated at 10,000,000, of whom more than nine-tenths live on the soil, mainly as herdsmen or peasant farmers, who are not yet buyers of shoes. Probably a half-million of the population, comprising mainly the city and town dwellers, may be considered as actual or fairly early prospects for shoes.

The importations of shoes for the current calendar year will, it is estimated, amount to 40,000 pairs, mainly from France, with some British shoes, and minor quantities from Germany, Italy, Greece, and Egypt. In addition, the home industry, located mainly in small shops of hand workers, produces about 10,000 pairs per annum, made to order.

The local classification is boots and shoes after the British method. About two-thirds of the Ethiopian demand is for shoes, and one-third for boots. Perhaps half the shoes sold are in patent leather or black dull leather with patent leather tip or trimming. The Ethiopian young man particularly fancies this style for dress wear. The ordinary black "box calf" boots are favoured, as also are boots of such leather in the three usual tan shades of leather. Canvas and cloth shoes of any sort are rarely worn. Lace boots and shoes are preferred to those with buttons. Rubber heels are known but not widely used, as the frequently rough and muddy streets and roads make the all-leather heel preferable. The French lasts are most in favour for both men's and women's shoes—that is, the long pointed toe cap style.

Roumania's maize crop is estimated at 25,369,000 double centals, which is equal to 71.8 per cent. of last year's crop and 60.2 per cent. of the average crop for the past five years.

Yugoslavia's maize crop is estimated at 20,629,000 double centals, which represents 97.8 per cent. of last year's crop and 66.8 per cent. of the average for the past five years.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

Country.	Method of Quoting.	Parity of Exchange.	Latest Quotation.
Alexandria.....	Piastre to £	97½	97½
Amsterdam	Florins to £	12.107	12.08
Athens	Drachmæ to £	25.22½	375
Belgrade.....	Dinars to £	25.22½	276½
Berlin	Marks to £	20.43	20.36
Berne	Francs to £	25.23½	25.19½
Bombay	Sterling to Rupee	18d.	18 1/16 -3 32
Brussels	Belga to £	35	34.90
Bucharest	Lei to £	25.22½	806
Budapest	Pen to £	27.82	27.81
Calcutta	Sterling to Rupee	18d.	18 1/16 -3 32
Constantinople	Piastres to £	110	965
New York	Dollars to £	4.86 2-3	4.84½
Paris	Francs to £	25.22½	124.10
Prague	Kronen to £	24.02	163½
Rome	Lire to £	25.23½	92.55
Sofia	Leva to £	25.22½	67½
Taheran	Krans to £	48	49½
Vienna	Sch to £	34.58	34.50
Warsaw	Zlotv to £	25.22½	43 3/16 -7 16

Motors and Motoring.

By G. B. B.

Hooting.

The protest against unnecessary "hooting" by motorists, which was first made in this journal and immediately afterwards taken up by several daily papers, seems to have been fairly successful. There are still a few young and inexperienced drivers who cannot refrain from sounding the horn at every opportunity, but the majority of those who used to press the alarm button as a matter of course are now refraining from doing so, to the added comfort of every road user. It seems that the authorities are going to take the matter up. At first sight that seems not only unnecessary but also to be viewed with regret. It seems, again at first sight, that the good spirit of the motoring public has been aroused, and that they might be trusted to look after the matter for themselves. But a moment's reflection will bring us up against the problem of the new motorists who seem to argue that the makers would not put a horn on a car if it were not to be used on every possible occasion. No, I think we must be prepared to have this subject of noise make a punishable matter, and that in the future we shall be as liable to be fined if we have a noisy hooter as we should be had we a noisy exhaust.

Draughty Cars.

A useful hint has been given by a contemporary which says that drivers who have recently become aware of uncomfortable and unaccustomed draughts in their cars should investigate the fit of the floor boards. Frequently it is found that, owing to warping, orifices have appeared and although the effects are not noticed in the summer, the setting-in of colder weather makes their presence apparent in the shape of undesirable air currents which attack the anatomy in most unexpected places. It pays, at this time of the year, to cover the whole flooring with linoleum surmounted with matting. This not only excludes upward draughts, but protects the feet against the effects of cold air playing under the car. Incidentally, an old woolly hearthrug is just the thing to put on the floor of the driver's compartment.

The S.O.S. Saloon Roof.

The patentee of the "S.O.S." sliding saloon roof—the initials stand for "Sun or Shade"—should find a ready sale for his production. He claims that nothing so completely perfect in "sunshine" saloons has yet been offered to the motoring public. It combines the advantages of both the open and the enclosed car. He adds that the opinion of the trade is unanimous that this double opening roof and the method of its manipulation are the best yet devised. It consists of sliding roof panels and, open or shut, does not alter the line of the body. Nothing is visible that is different from a car with a fixed roof. The waterproof fabric and the inside roof lining disappear from sight as the roof is drawn open and the inside of the roof, when it is closed, has exactly the same appearance as that of a permanently fixed roof on the most luxurious car. As far as I can see, the S.O.S. roof is all that it is claimed to be and merits the attention of all motorists.

New American Models.

The Scottish Motor Show has afforded an opportunity for examining some of the new American models, and our manufacturers consequently, will be able to incorporate some of the changes in design, if they think fit, in their next year's models! The Buick has come out in a new style with a new shape for the shell surrounding the radiator and a modified form of filling cap. The Cadillac and La Salle have adopted a good deal of chromium plating, and these cars are well worth examining closely, as the new gearboxes contain a rather ingenious piece of mechanism which does away with the necessity for double clutching when changing down. This facilitates gear changing a good deal, and consequently will appeal to the less-experienced and less competent driver. The Chevrolet has a new design of radiator, but otherwise remains unchanged, and the Studebaker, the Erskine and the Chrysler have also been greatly altered. There is some discussion as to whether the new lines are, after all, an improvement. I take it that this is really a matter of opinion, some holding that the new design is far more artistic whilst others do not view the change with approval. A new-comer to Europe is the De Soto, which rather resembles a Chrysler in appearance. It will be interesting to see what results will be obtained with this car on our roads. The general opinion seems to be

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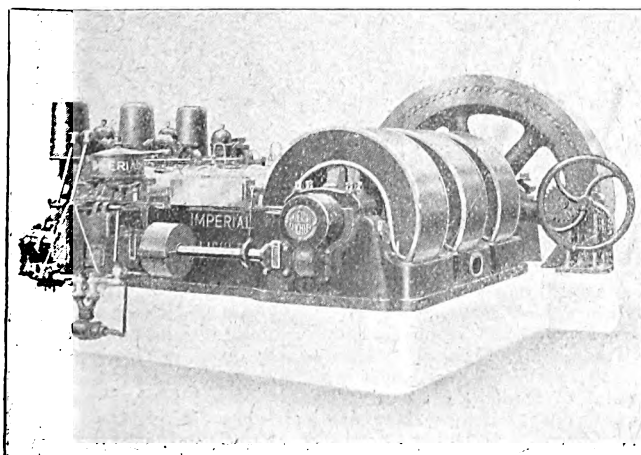
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Motors in Great Britain.

It is interesting to note that receipts for motor vehicle licences issued in this country for the nine months ended August 31 last, amounted to £23,313,000. This was a gross total, subject to rebates, refunds, cost of collection and administration and the portion due to the Exchequer under the Finance Act of 1926. During that period, the total number of motor vehicles running on the roads, excluding those operating under trade licences, was 1,996,000. That total includes 691,000 motor cycles, 294,000 motor goods vehicles, and 93,000 motor hackney vehicles, so that altogether we had about 877,000 privately owned motor cars in use. During the three months ended August 31 last, 76,478 motor vehicles of all kinds were registered for the first time, of which about 40,000 were private cars.

FURS IN GOOD DEMAND.

The report of the London Fur Trade Association (Inc.) on the October raw fur skin sales states that they attracted a large attendance of buyers from all countries. The offerings were for the most part of moderate dimensions and, on the whole, a firm market prevailed. Competition was strong for the finer furs, which maintained or even exceeded their previous values. The North American staple articles were generally unaltered, but most Russian furs were cheaper in the absence of competition from the United States. So far as the European market is concerned, the present level of prices is unlikely to show any material alteration in the near future, and, should the American situation improve, values may be expected to harden.

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Port Sudan: The Egyptian Library, Post Office Box No. 44.

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Jerusalem: B. Y. and W. A. Said, 23-24, Jaffa Road.

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Constantinople: The Anglo-American Book and Newsagency, 18, Rue des Petits Champs, Pera.

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BULGARIAN MARKET FOR AGRICULTURAL MACHINERY.

According to an American Consular Report a small market exists in Bulgaria for agricultural implements. Although most of the population is engaged in agricultural pursuits, the farmers in general are conservative, do not take readily to the use of new methods of agriculture, and not much progress has been made in the introduction of modern farm equipment. The Government, however, encourages the adoption of scientific methods of farming and there is a trend toward the use of modern implements and machinery. The farms are small, ordinarily not exceeding 10 acres in extent, but there is a fairly large number of farms over 200 acres in size, and the topography and climate are both, on the whole, suitable for extensive agriculture.

Of pre-War sales of threshers it is estimated that 90 per cent. was of American types, but since the War the market has turned to European makes, principally owing to better credit terms. Threshers are generally purchased co-operatively and are seldom, if ever, rented out. Sometimes the owner will thresh for other farmers, taking a percentage of the grain, from 10 to 12 per cent., for his services. Instances are known of dealers using machines from stock in this manner.

Bulgarian import statistics do not show the number and types of implements imported. The agricultural machinery imported in 1927 was valued at 748,780,704 leva (£1,308,195). Germany was the chief source of supply, furnishing a value of 322,129,269 leva, followed by Austria (98,543,283 leva), and Czechoslovakia (71,877,306 leva).

NEWS FROM ALL SOURCES.

The commercial treaty concluded between Bulgaria and Turkey last February came into force on October 1.

It is announced that the Greek Government has decided to proceed with the extension and improvement of the port of Salonika.

The Indian and General Investment Trust has declared interim dividends on the preferred stock at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum and on the deferred stock at the rate of 14 per cent. per annum, payable December 11.

A regulation has been passed by the Iraq Council of Ministers prohibiting the importation into Iraq of knives known locally as "Um al Yay" and all clasp-knives more than 3 inches in length. ("Um al Yay" are knives fitted with springs which prevent the blades, when opened, from closing.)

Messrs. Helbert Wagg and Co., Ltd., announce the numbers of 445 bonds amounting to £51,470 of the Roumanian Four per Cent. External Loan of 1922, which have been drawn for repayment at par on December 1, 1928. Drawn bonds with coupons 13 to 40 attached should be presented at their counting-house, 41, Threadneedle Street, E.C., on and after November 19, 1928.

The Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway Company announces the payment in January next, in addition to the half-year's guaranteed interest of £1 10s. per cent., of an interim dividend of £1 10s. per cent. in respect of the profits for the year 1928-29.

The Director of Agriculture in Cyprus has recently imported from Sierra Leone a quantity of seed of two of the best types of limes in cultivation for trial in Cyprus. Experiments will be made with this tree in the Kyrenia District and, if successful, it is thought that Kyrenia growers will confine their attention to lemons and limes rather than go in for orange cultivation as has been suggested.

We regret to announce the death, on November 8, after a very brief illness, of Mr. R. W. Matthew, C.M.G., Director of the Trades, Empire and Economic Division of the Department of Overseas Trade. Mr. Matthew, who was only forty-nine years of age, joined the staff of the Department in December, 1917, after a successful career at the Board of Trade, where he had served as private secretary to four successive Presidents, Mr. Sydney Buxton (Lord Buxton), Mr. John Burns, Mr. Runciman, and Sir Albert Stanley (Lord Ashfield).

Company Meeting.

BENGAL DOOARS RAILWAY.

A Record Year.

The thirty-eighth ordinary general meeting of the Bengal Dooars Railway Company, Ltd., was held on November 13 at the offices of the company, Gresham House, Old Broad Street, Mr. Robert Miller (the Chairman) presiding.

The Secretary (Mr. F. J. Horne) having read the notice convening the meeting and the auditors' report to the stockholders,

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said:—It is my privilege to record that results for the year under review have again proved to be satisfactory, a record in the history of the company having once more been established. The gross receipts from all sources reached the sum of Rs.25,12,207, as compared with Rs.23,43,707 for the year to March 31, 1927, an increase of Rs.1,68,500. The working expenses were Rs.12,98,574, against Rs.12,33,690, an increase of Rs.64,884, the balance, net earnings, being Rs.12,13,633, or an increase of Rs.1,03,616 over the previous year.

I do not propose to go into a close analysis of the various heads under which our earnings and expenditure are set out on the printed revenue account, but, as you will have seen, the principal increase in earnings was in goods traffic, which shows Rs.18,78,691, as compared with Rs.17,18,858, an increase of Rs.1,59,833. All general merchandise commodities showed increases with the one exception of jute, which, as the result of a fall in prices and the consequent holding up of stocks, showed a decrease of Rs.33,601. The principal increase was in food grains, in consequence of the growth of the population of the Dooars. This I think we may consider satisfactory, as an increase in population must in the future react favourably on our traffic.

With regard to expenditure, this increased by Rs.64,884, being Rs.12,98,574, as compared with Rs. 12,33,690, but the percentage on gross earnings was reduced by .95 per cent., being 51.69 per cent. against 52.64 per cent.

I would here like to say that as a result of the heavy increase in traffic and necessary renewals of our equipment, we have been obliged to supplement our rolling stock.

Included in our capital expenditure during the year under review is the cost of a new tank engine for the Chalsa Metelli branch. Two new engines with tenders have been shipped during the past few days. Four new third-class bogie carriages are under construction and will shortly be completed, and 50 covered goods wagons will be ordered in the near future. This is all to the good as an indication of the steady improvement in our business.

If you will turn to net revenue account No. 9, you will see that the net earnings for the year reached Rs.12,13,633 (as compared with Rs.11,10,017), of which, after deduction of Indian income tax and super tax Rs.1,16,738, there remains Rs.10,96,895, which at the rate of exchange of 1s. 6d., equals £82,267 2s. 6d. This with the addition of exchange differences, interest earned, and the balance brought into the account from the previous year, gives a total of £131,867 13s. 5d.

After payment of the dividend on the preference stock £14,400, carrying the sum of £4,000 to reserve for income tax, and writing off an amount of £125 1s. 7d. from suspense account, a balance of £113,342 11s. 10d. remains. From this an interim dividend of 4 per cent. was paid on April 25, 1928, on the ordinary stock, absorbing £16,000, and £20,000 has been carried to reserve, leaving a balance of £77,342 11s. 10d. to be dealt with.

Before proceeding with the question of the final dividend on the ordinary stock, I would like to make a few remarks upon the subject, which unfortunately is always before us, of floods and flood damage. At our last meeting I was able to tell you that, as a consequence of the protection works which had been erected, very little damage had been done during the monsoon season. I am now, I am glad to say, in the position to report that during the latter part of 1927 the damage to the railway from floods was slight and that such damage was made good and further protection works were undertaken during the dry season.

These works held most successfully during the wet season of 1928, resulting in large deposits of silt and the deviation, away from the railway, of the river. There has, I am glad to say, been no interruption of traffic.

For this relief from flood damage we are greatly indebted to the foresight, energy, and tenacity which have been displayed by our manager and engineer-in-chief, Mr. Polwhele, and his staff in handling a very difficult position, and the Board desire to convey to Mr. Polwhele and his staff (European and Indian) an expression of their appreciation.

You will probably have seen in the Press the published reports of our traffic returns. At October 13 our gross receipts showed a small increase over the corresponding period in 1927. The traffic prospects are, generally speaking, favourable, and if the River Teesta continues to flow as it has recently been doing, expenditure will be materially reduced, which will have the effect of increasing our net profits. It is, of course, impossible to forecast what may happen during the next flood season.

We have given the most careful consideration to the subject of payment of dividend and have, in all the circumstances, decided to recommend an increase of the bonus distribution on the ordinary stock by 1 per cent., by the payment of a final dividend of 4 per cent. and

a bonus of 3 per cent., making, with the interim dividend of 4 per cent. paid on April 25, 1928, a total distribution of 11 per cent. for the year, and leaving a balance of £49,342 11s. 10d. to be carried forward, against £47,196 7s. 5d., brought in from the previous year.

Sir A. K. Muir, Bart., seconded the resolution, which was carried unanimously.

COMPANY NOTES AND REPORTS.

DACIA ROMANO PETROLEUM SYNDICATE.

The report of the Dacia Romano Petroleum Syndicate, Ltd., for the year ended December 31, 1927, states that the directors have under consideration a scheme for reconstruction, details of which are not yet complete. The production of crude oil for the year was 36,698 tons. As the production from the wells has increased, the directors considered it advisable to improve the efficiency of the refinery and to increase its capacity. This work is nearly completed and it should be possible to refine 6,000 tons of oil per month. The profit and loss account shows a loss for the year of £82,431 16s. 2d., consisting chiefly of charges for interest and depreciation.

The Cawnpore Electric Supply Corporation announces an interim dividend of 3 per cent. on the ordinary shares, payable November 23.

The Bulgarian Minister of Commerce and Industry is reported to have granted to a Belgian company permission to engage in prospecting for petroleum in departments of Roussé, Chumène, Plévéne, and Tirnovo, covering an area of 100,000 hectares.

It is announced that Major T. F. Chipp, M.C., D.Sc., Assistant Director of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, is to arrive in Cyprus this week to consider, in collaboration with the Director of Agriculture, the general botanical problems of the Island. Major Chipp will leave Cyprus for the Sudan on November 23.

Mr. Demosthenes Basil Muratti, of Avenue du Roule, Neuilly-sur-Seine, France, tobacco and cigarette manufacturer, who died on September 11, domiciled in England, left personal estate in England of the net value of £28,951. Among other bequests he left £100 each to the Greek Church, Bury New Road, Higher Broughton, Manchester.



The Postal Account

It is often supposed that to live a long way from the nearest branch of a bank, or to be constantly unable to go to the bank in person, is a handicap to the enjoyment of the full advantages which, it is admitted, a banking account offers. Perhaps it is assumed that to conduct an account by post involves 'more letter-writing', or is costly, or is not welcomed by the Bank. It is the aim of the Westminster Bank to dispel such misconceptions by a leaflet entitled *The Postal Account*, which explains the convenience of the method, and offers some clear suggestions.

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THE LIVERPOOL COTTON MARKET.

Messrs. Reynolds and Gibson report as follows for the week ended November 7:—

Egyptian Futures.

Sakel Contract.—Although values in this market show a further moderate decline on the week, the undertone remains steady, surprisingly so in view of the curtailed character of trade support accorded and recent easier tendency in the American markets. Consistent liquidation of near positions has again been a feature, but with Novembers running between 35 and 40 points under January spot houses have become interested, and unless tenders of White cotton are allowed through at reasonable differences the current position will probably close up during the next week or two. The stock of tenderable Sakel cotton (as distinct from Sudan) in Liverpool is dangerously small, and it is difficult under present conditions to visualise how additional supplies are going to be attracted here; in the first place we are again running 25 points below Alexandria (exclusive of shipping charges), secondly it would cost approximately 18.50d. to bring F.G.F. cotton here for tendering purposes. It is becoming more and more apparent that the whole basis of our contract requires reviewing; certain qualities, such as White Egyptian varieties, could be readily eliminated, and mixed cottons which have to date been leniently treated, should in future be placed outside the contract. In the meantime the market will continue to miss business; at present our sphere of usefulness either from a trade, importing, or speculative point of view is certainly restricted through the foregoing reasons. Throughout the week the Alexandria market has maintained a steady level; exporters at the other side report a moderate demand, arrivals are beginning to attain heavy figures, and unless a distinct revival in the offtake occurs during the next two or three weeks values will probably be affected by the weight of the movement. Trading in new crops has commenced, November, 1929, Alexandria to-day being quoted at approximately 40 points over the equivalent Liverpool position. At this difference we advise sales at the other side and purchases locally, as there will probably be many opportunities during the summer months of reversing the straddle at a reasonable profit. Sentiment at this side still inclines to the "bearish" side, but we prefer to advise a neutral attitude for the time being, as the recent action of the market rather inclines one to the view that values would react quickly to any stimulating outside influences.

Upper Contract.—The market continues to feel the pressure of the crop movement, and with straddle support on a much reduced scale, values are beginning to show weakness. The open straddle account appears to have attained unwieldy proportions, and, as mentioned in our previous reports, we strongly advise those who consider our present premium over American values reasonable to study carefully the situation before entering into commitments. Large imports will be attracted to this side during the next few weeks at a tenderable basis, and as the trade demand will be influenced to some degree by the present cheapness of American staples, we cannot anticipate spinners' takings being on a sufficiently large scale to prevent the local stock weighing heavily on the market.

Egyptian Spot.

We have experienced another quiet week in this department, the main features being the steadiness of Sakels and the comparative weakness of Uppers and Pillion. This is of course understandable as, in spite of a very moderate offtake for the higher priced cotton, the local stock of Sakel has shrunk to absurdly small dimensions and the available supply of this cotton—at from 50 off to 150 on November contracts—is a very limited one. On the other hand, a record crop of Upper Egypt cotton is beginning to make its weight felt, and at the same time American staple cotton is being offered at a basis which appears most attractive to consumers who, when the difference has become sufficiently tempting, have in recent years made considerable inroads into the available supply of Upper and Zagora qualities. There is another possibility which has to be borne in mind. With the present full premium which Liverpool maintains over Alexandria considerable quantities of Upper cotton are likely to be attracted to this market for tendering against our contract. This was done very successfully last year, and it is more than probable that history will repeat itself in 1929. Hence, the opinion is gaining ground that Uppers, which a short time ago looked very reasonable at 200 over American contracts, are at the moment overvalued.

The local spot inquiry has been rather featureless, and Sakel, particularly, has moved off very slowly. If anything, there still appears to be some slight increase in the demand for the finer qualities, but elsewhere there has been practically no change. A few lots of new crop Sakel have appeared on offer and both grade and staple have been found to be satisfactory. The usual steady inquiry for cotton at from 10½d. to 12½d. has continued. Uppers have chiefly been in request at from 25 off to 25 on, but there has been some improvement also in the demand for the better cotton: Pillion at from 12d. to 13d. has been in moderate request. We are of the opinion that Pillion cotton this season will meet with an increased amount of attention from spinners, provided always that the premium over Uppers is maintained at a reasonable difference.

White Egypt at from 17d. to 18d. have been inquired for, but

the better cotton has again been neglected. Other specialities have been ignored this week. Sudan Sakel has moved off very slowly, but the basis has remained firm. Egyptian c.i.f. business has been rather patchy. Forwardings to spinners last week were returned at 6,775 bales Egyptian and 850 Sudan. Estimated spot sales, 1,700 bales Egyptian and 450 bales Sudan. Quotations of Sakel have hardened 5 points, with Fine and Extra 45 points dearer. Uppers show a reduction on balance of 35 points, and Pillion is 35 to 45 points lower on the week. F.G.F. Sakel to-day, 17.80d. F.G.F. Upper to-day, 11.80d. F.G.F. Pillion to-day, 12.60d. nominal.

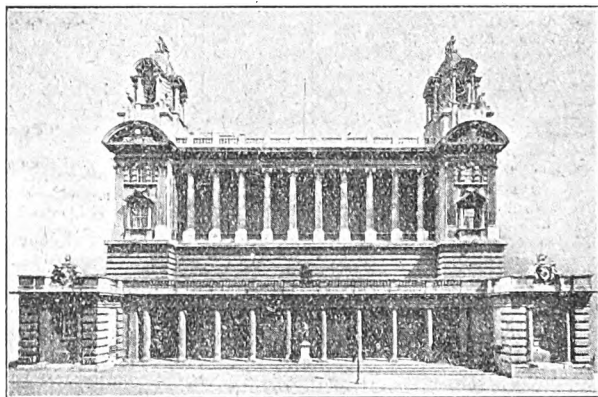
THE EGYPTIAN MARKET.

The Alexandria Commercial Company, in their report for the week ended November 1, state:—

The market during the past week has been rather quiet. The week's summary of price movements is as follows:—Sakellaridis: November, 35.01 dollars, 0.29 dollars down; January, 35.75 dollars, 0.10 dollars down; March, 36.15 dollars, 0.22 dollars down; May, dollars, 0.09 dollars down; February, 23.05 dollars, 0.07 dollars down; April, 23.35 dollars, 0.11 dollars down; October, 24.25 dollars, 0.10 dollars down.

Sakel.—There is nothing new to report. Demand from abroad continues to be fairly satisfactory, but not by any means sufficient to absorb the daily increasing arrivals, and with holders in general disposed to sell, there is no disposition to try to raise prices. The local speculative element is not, for the moment, very active, and operations during the week have been limited to some straddle buying of January Sakel against sales of February Ashmouni. Sakel crop estimates have lately shown a tendency to run to bigger figures, and the general idea is now round about 2½ million kantars.

We do not look for any great change in prices in the near future. Looking at the position from a commercial point of view, the present difference between Sakel and Ashmouni would seem to be too wide, but, nevertheless, there does not appear to be much likelihood, for the time being, of any serious narrowing of the straddle. Local speculators still have a weakness for Sakel and, in our opinion, they could come in and support the market in case of any depreciation in values. The Sakel/Ashmouni straddle (January/February) stands at 1,270 points against 1,273 points last week and 824 points at this time last year.



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Uppers.—Hedge selling against arrivals has continued on a big scale, but the good demand from spinners and the firm tone of the American markets have prevented any decline in prices. Some reports from Upper Egypt predict that the crop this year will prove to be a record one, and figures as high as 4 million kantars are mentioned; in our opinion this figure is rather too high. With the present narrow straddle difference between Ashmouni and American, and the good demand for the Egyptian staple, we do not foresee any decline in prices of Ashmouni; on the contrary, we look for a gradual improvement as soon as the crop movement slackens down. The Ashmouni/American straddle (December/December) stands at 324 points against 307 points last week and 801 points at this time last year.

The week's receipts amount to 519,063 kantars against exports 249,120 kantars; the stock in Alexandria stands at 2,609,722 kantars.

Spot.—Business continues brisk at Minet el Bassal and the past week has been a busy one. Sales amount to about 34,600 bales, of which we estimate 14,800 bales Sakellaridis, 17,100 bales Ashmouni and Zagora, 1,800 bales Pilon, 500 bales Nahda, and 400 bales other varieties.

Sakellaridis: Continues to meet with an improved demand, and quite a good business has been done, chiefly in the medium qualities, though the better grades have also been dealt in. The really low grades at present are neglected. Spot differences are unchanged for the medium qualities, whilst the top grades are slightly dearer. Extra qualities continue in demand and excellent prices were paid for the Domains cotton at this week's auction.

Ashmouni and Zagora: Continue in good request for all grades except really low cotton, though the medium qualities have enjoyed

the greatest demand. Spot differences are without much change, but with a tendency to ease for Fully Good Fair and below, of which there are now large quantities on offer.

Pilon: Although quite a fair business has transpired, the turnover has been much less than last week. All styles have been dealt in, but the medium qualities have attracted more attention. Spot differences are unchanged.

Up-country: Business up-country is very active and prices dearer, in many instances, than those ruling at Minet el Bassal have recently been paid; this has been especially pronounced in the case of Nahda cotton and certain good crops of Sakel. In Upper Egypt the congestion mentioned in our previous reports continues. All the ginning factories are absolutely full of cotton, and in view of the fact that nearly all are working day and night, arrivals in Alexandria will continue to be heavy for still a few weeks.

The Greek Ministry of Transit and Communications is inviting tenders for the erection in Athens of a broadcasting station.

The Madras Electric Supply Corporation announces an interim dividend of 2½ per cent., free of tax, on the ordinary shares, payable November 24.

Yugoslavia's exports in September last amounted to 447,182 tons, of the value of 692,300,000 dinars. Wheat exports represented 138,300,000 dinars, building timber 89,200,000 dinars, and hops 58,800,000 dinars.

Stock and Share Markets.

LONDON EXCHANGE		Prices on Nov. 12	INDIAN EXCHANGES.		Prices on Oct. 17
Government Stocks.			Government Loans.		
Egyptian 4 p.c. Unified Debt ...	85xd		3½ Government Paper ...		78 5 16
Do. Pref. 3½ p.c. 1890 ...	74½				
Do. Turk 4 p.c. 1891 ...	90				
Do. 3½ p.c. Eg. Trib. Bonds '94 ...	84				
Bulgaria 4½ p.c. Gold, 1907 ...	29				
Do. 7 p.c. ...	89½				
Greek 5 p.c., 1881 ...	71				
Do. 5 p.c., 1884 ...	71				
Do. 4 p.c. Rentes, 1889 ...	57				
Do. 5 p. 1890 ...	71				
Do. 5 p.c. Funding Loan, 1893 ...	71				
Do. 4 p.c. Rents, Loan, 1902 ...	61				
Do. 4 p.c. Loan, 1910 ...	61				
Do. 5 p.c. Loan, 1914 (Lon. issue) ...	76½				
Do. 7 p.c., 1924 ...	100½				
Do. 6 p.c. St. Bds. ...	92½				
Palestine 5 p.c. ...	104½				
Persia 5 p.c., 1911 ...	89½				
Roumania 4 p.c. Ext ...	73				
Do. 4 p.c. Consolidation ...	48				
Do. 4½ p.c. 1913 ...	50½				
Sudan 5½ p.c. Guar. Bds. ...	108½				
India 3½ p.c. ...	71½				
Do. 3 p.c. ...	61				
Do. 5½ p.c. ...	103				
Do. 4½ p.c. ...	92½				
Turkish 4 p.c. Unified ...	23½				
Banks.			Banks		
Agri. Bank of Egypt ...	8		Imperial Bank of India ...	1,502½	
Bank of British West Africa ...	4½		Bank of India ...	96	
Bank of Roumania ...	86 3		Central Bank of India ...	24	
Barclays Dom. Col. Pl. ...	27 9				
Chartered Bank of India ...	21½				
Eastern ...	7 1/10				
Hambros ...	11 xd				
Ionian Bank ...	7½				
Imperial Bank of Persia ...	11½				
Land Bank of Egypt Ord. ...	19				
Lloyds ...	65 9				
Mercantile Bank of India A ...	34½				
Do. B ...	31½				
National Bank of Egypt ...	36½				
National Bank of India ...	52½				
Ottoman Bank ...	14				
P. and O. Bank Corporation ...	9				
Westminster ...	20½				
Land.			Coal.		
Kassala Cotton ...	6 6		Baraboni ...	1	
Latifiyah (Iraq) Estates ...	4 6		Bengal ...	400	
Sudan Plantations ...	4 1/16		Burrakur ...	114	
Mines.			East Indian ...	174	
Balaghat Gold Mining ...	6 9		Equitable ...	184	
Burma Corp. ...	14 3		Pench Valley ...	25	
Champion Reef Gold ...	10 1/4		Ranegunge ...	17½	
Mysoore ...	15 9 xd		Standard ...	154	
Nundydroog ...	18 -				
Ooregum Gold Mining Ord. ...	13 3 xd				
Oil.			Cotton.		
Anglo-Egyptian B ...	27 1/2		Bengal Napur ...	20	
Anglo-Persian Ord. ...	4 17 3/4		Bombay Dyeing, etc. ...	248½	
Do. 8 p.c. Cum. 1st Pt. ...	29 6		Bowrah ...	330	
Do. 9 p.c. Cum. 2nd Pt. ...	29 -		Buckingham and Carnatic ...	185	
Do. 5 p.c. Debs. ...	97½		Cawnpore Textiles ...	11	
Do. 6½ p.c. Notes ...	7 9		Century ...	467½	
Brit. Burmah ...	10 1		Central India ...	512	
Burmah Oil Co. Ord. ...	26 6 xd		Elgin ...	91	
Do. 8½ Cum. Pref. ...	10½		Khatau Makanji ...	87½	
Hamilton's Oil Concessions ...	14 1½		Muir ...	325	
Phoenix Oil and Transport (l.p.) ...	7 9		New Ring ...	289	
Do. (l.p.) ...	5 29 3/4		Phoenix ...	386	
Shell Transport ...	11 6		Svadeshi ...	478½	
Steaua Romana ...					
Railways.			Jute.		
Assam-Bergal ...	94		Alliance ...	606½	
Bengal Doonars ...	180½		Barnagore ...	327	
Bengal Nagpur ...	102		Budge Budge ...	603½	
Egypt Delta Light Rly. ...	4½		Clive ...	471	
Nizams Gtd. ...	236½		Dalhousie ...	634½	
Ottoman (Smy. t. Aid) ...	42 6		Delta ...	679	
Do. 5 p.c. 1st Deb. ...	70½		Fort Gloster ...	1,084	
Do. 6 p.c. 2nd Deb. ...	62½		Gourepore ...	594	
Piræus Athens and P. 1st Bds. ...	56½		Howrah ...	61	
Southern Punjab ...	192		Kamarhaty ...	789	
South Indian ...	123		Kanknarrah ...	628½	
Rubber.			Khardah ...	100	
Ceylon Para Rubber Ord. ...	9½		Kinnison ...	1,225	
Doolkalla (Ceylon) Rub. Est. ...	19 -		National ...	574	
Grand Cent. (Ceylon) Rubber ...	25 3		Standard ...	568	
Hewagum Rubber Co. ...	10 9		Union ...	884	
Kepitigalla Rubber Estates ...	1 4½				
Malayalam Rub. and Produce ...	32 6				
Shipping.			Miscellaneous		
Anchor 5½ p.c. Prf. ...	81		British India Corporation ...	31	
Cunard ...	32 6		Bengal Paper Mills ...	34	
Furness Withy ...	39 -		Bengal Timber Trading ...	245	
Khedivial Mail Ord. ...	2		Burn and Co. ...	395	
P. and O. Deferred ...	57 -		Cawnpore Sugar ...	26½	
Tea.			Champaran Sugar ...	124	
Assam Co. ...	2 5/32		Howrah Oil Mills ...	84	
Bengal United Tea Ord ...	23 3/32				
Bramaputra ...	31				
British Indian Tea Ord. ...	3 15 16				
Cachar and Doonars Tea Ord. ...	24				
Carolina ...	3½ xd				
Ceylon Tea Plantations Ord. ...	5 3/16 xd				
Consolidated Estates ...	31				
Darjeeling Co. ...	22				
Dimbula Valley (Ceylon) Ord. ...	31				
Doonars Tea Ord. ...	31				
Doolookram Tea ...	1 3/16				
Doom Doorra ...	4 3/16				
East Assam ...	44				
Empire of Ind. ...	2 9/16				
Halem Tea ...	2 3/16				
Imperial Ind. ...	24				
Jhanzie Tea Association ...	51				
Jokai (Assam) Tea Ord. ...	3 13 16				
Jorehaut ...	44				
Lanka Plantations Ord. ...	1 29 3/32				
Lungla (Sylhet) Tea Ord. ...	1 3 3/32				
New Dimbula ...	6½				
Nuwara Eliya Tea Estates Ord. ...	5½				
Neddeem ...	2 13 16				
Ouvah ...	33				
Pabhojan ...	6 7/16				
Standard ...	6 xd				
Scottish Assam ...	21 1/16				
Scottish Tea and Lands ...	33 1/16				
Upper Assam ...	2 27 3/32				
Insurance.			ALEXANDRIA		
General Accident Fire and Life (£5, £1½ paid) ...	14 1 16		Prices on Oct. 26, supplied by G. L. Mortera, Alexandria & Cairo.		
London & Lancs (£5, £1 paid) ...	30½		Agricultural Bank of Egypt ...	474	
Royal Exchange (£1) ...	61		" " Fond. ...	4815	
Sun Fire £10 (£2 paid) ...	40		Alexandria Water Co. ...	£17 11 3/4	
Trade Indemnity (£10) ...	15½		Assoc. Cotton Ginners ...	£11 16	
Miscellaneous.			Behera Ord. ...	£2 1/4	
Alexandria Water Co. ...	17½		Ciments d'Egypte ...	Fr. 128	
Associated Cotton Ginners ...	23 3/32		" Div. ...	185	
Dunlop Rubber ...	25 9		Comptoir Fin. & Com. d'Egypte ...	£ 5 16	
Egyptian Hotels ...	7 -		Credit Foncier Egyptien ...	Fr. 123	
Do. Markets Ord. ...	16 -		" Fondateur ...	250	
Do. Salt and Soda ...	30 -		Crown Brewery Priv. ...	Fr. 152	
Mortgage Co. of Egypt 5 p.c. Pref. ...	81		Frigorifique d'Egypte ...	£311 3/4	
Oriental Telephone ...	3		Immeubles d'Egypte Soc. An. des. ...	174	
Waring & Gillow ...	15 9		Land Bank of Egypt Actions ...	£18 15 16	
			" Parts de Fond ...	£202	
			Menzaleh Canal Navigation ...	Pt. 187	

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CEBU	KOBE	RANGOON	TSINGTO
COLOMBO	KUALA	SAIGON	YOKOHAMA
DELHI	KANGSAR	SEMARANG (Java)	ZAMBOANGA
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Reserve Fund - £425,000

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†KALYAN	9,000	Nov. 15	Nov. 15	Straits, China, Japan
NARKUNDA	16,500	Nov. 16	Nov. 23	Australia via Bombay
†RAWALPINDI	16,600	Nov. 23	Nov. 30	Bombay and Karachi
†NELLORE	7,000	Nov. 24	Dec. 1	Colombo and Calcutta
†SCATHAY	15,000	Nov. 30	Dec. 6	Colombo & Australia
†MOREA	11,000	Nov. 30	Dec. 7	Bombay and Japan
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MERKARA	8,235	Nov. 17	Nov. 17	Madras & Calcutta
†KALYAN	9,000	Nov. 14	Nov. 23	East African Ports
MATIANA	9,066	Nov. 24	Dec. 1	Bombay and Karachi
*MASULA	7,261	Nov. 24	Dec. 1	Madras and Calcutta
MARGHA	8,258	Nov. 24	Dec. 1	Madras and Calcutta
MORVADA	8,193	Dec. 8	Dec. 15	Madras and Calcutta
MALDA	8,000	Dec. 12	Dec. 21	East African Ports
*HATIMURA	6,666	Dec. 12	Dec. 22	Bombay and Karachi
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edTrafford Hall	5,321	Nov. 24	Bombay & Karachi
feCity of Calcutta	7,679	Nov. 26	Bombay & Calcutta
eCity of Sparta	5,415	Dec. 4	Colombo & Calcutta
/City of Poona	7,485	Dec. 15	Bombay & Karachi
/City of Baroda	7,129	Dec. 22	Bombay & Colombo
City of York	7,844	Dec. 22	Colombo & Calcutta
City of Cairo	7,882	Jan. 4	Bombay & Karachi
City of Manchester	5,564	Jan. 4	Colombo & Calcutta
City of Harvard	7,071	Jan. 16	Colombo & Calcutta

(b) Calls Marseilles. (c) Calls Naples. (d) Calls Port Sudan. (e) Calls Madras. (f) Sailing direct from Marseilles.

MARSEILLES TO STRAITS, CHINA, JAPAN.

City of Pekin	6,960	Dec. 13	Singapore, Manila
City of Baroda	9,670	Dec. 22	Hongkong, Shanghai

LONDON TO SOUTH AFRICA.

City of Valencia	7,329	Dec. 22	Cape Town, Algora
City of Palermo	4,699	Jan. 7	Bay, East London and Natal

MEDITERRANEAN and LEVANT.

Mardinian	2,429	Nov. 21	Smyrna & Constantinople
Dido	3,554	Dec. 1	Malta and Alexandria

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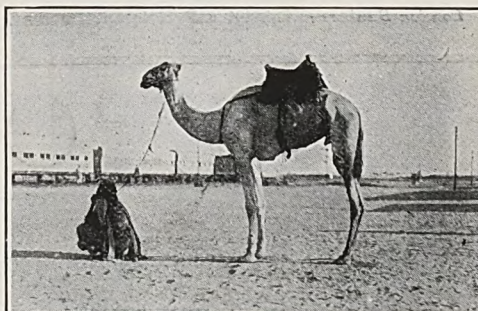
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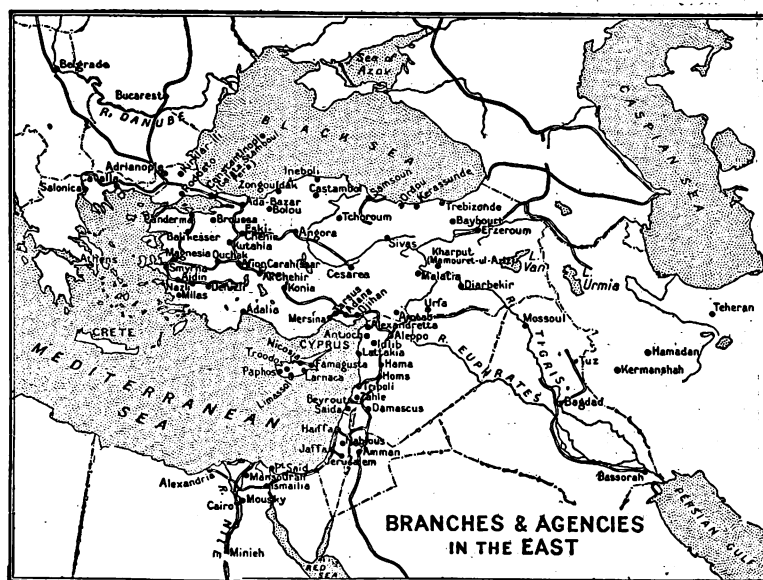
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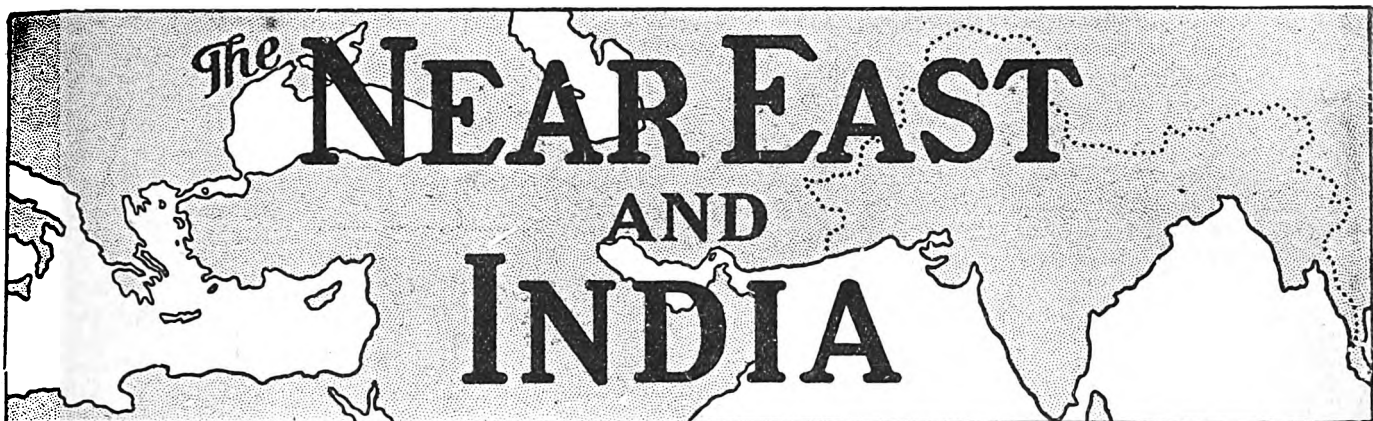
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Notes of the Week.

Serbs and Croats.

Although the negotiations undertaken by M. Savchitch to bring about an understanding between the Belgrade Government and the Peasant-Democrat Coalition have achieved as yet no concrete result, his efforts have not only prevented the breach between Serbs and Croats from becoming wider, but have also brought about a more accommodating frame of mind on the part of the Serbs. It is now acknowledged more or less generally by the latter that the Vidovdan Constitution will have to be modified, and the Government is understood to have informed M. Savchitch that it is prepared to replace the existing highly centralized system of administration by the grant of wide autonomy to the different provinces, in so far as may be compatible with the unity of the State. At the same time it would agree to new elections, but on the condition that a previous understanding were reached between the various parties as to their respective attitudes towards the Constitution. In other words, the Radical Party is anxious to insure that the existing basis of the Constitution be retained, and that any modifications shall be made strictly within the four corners of the Constitution. The next step lies with the Croats, who, so far, have proved themselves less amenable to M. Savchitch's influence than the Serbs. The Belgrade Government has, apparently, thought better of its decision to prosecute Dr. Matchek and M. Pribitchevitch for making incendiary speeches; but any success scored by the moderates in the Cabinet provides the extremists with a further incentive to intrigue for a reconstruction of the Ministry in order to have a homogeneous Cabinet of their own political complexion. Dr. Koroshetz's task in these circumstances cannot be an easy one, and his precarious position does not conduce to the exercise of constructive statesmanship. In the meantime there is always the danger that the Croats, finding that their tactics have reduced them largely to impotence, will seek a way out of the *impasse* by more aggressive measures.

Flint and Tinder.

The boycott would seem to rank high in Croatian statesmanship. It is a favourite weapon among the Chinese—the only people who are able to use it with complete success—and Indians; but it hardly conforms with the Western conception of politics. The Croats have boycotted the Skupshtina and Belgrade, and now their leader, Dr. Matchek, has boycotted matches. The occasion is the Swedish loan negotiated by the Belgrade Government. The Swedish Match Company is to have a monopoly of the manufacture and sale of matches for thirty years and will advance the Government on loan £4,500,000 at six-and-a-quarter per cent. interest. The Peasant-Democrat Party is opposed on principle to this loan, and, being unable to bring about its rejection in Parliament, proposes to stultify the monopoly by boycotting matches. All good Croats are required to give up using them, and to revert, if necessary, to the flint and tinder era. Other methods of obtaining a light may be used, as far as they will go round the Croat population; but the Belgrade Government, not being in the habit of taking things lying down, has issued an order subjecting all these devices to the match monopoly tax. The struggle will presumably end in the continued use by the Croats of matches. There must be limits to the policy of boycott; otherwise, confronted with loans for the construction of railways and the stabilization of the currency, the good Croat may consider himself obliged to testify to his disapproval of these loans by refusing to use the railways or to handle money. Dr. Matchek and M. Pribitchevitch may think that they are following in the footsteps of Dr. Maniu; but, although the latter boycotted the Roumanian Parliament, he was careful not to lose touch with Bucharest or the people of the Old Kingdom. Croat dissent loses much of its force by the withdrawal of the injured Achilles into his tent. He will emerge one day, but in the meantime he is doing little to help his country's cause.

The Dead Sea Salts.

The new session of Parliament was not many days old when the small group of politicians which has displayed so much anxiety over the allocation of the Dead Sea concession returned to the charge, and the following day a meeting under the auspices of the Near and Middle East Association, drawing its inspiration apparently from the same source, discussed the subject. In answer to a question in the House of Commons Mr. L. S. Amery stated that he had received from the Palestine Government within the last few weeks a report giving its views on all the points of detail still outstanding, and he hoped shortly to come to a final decision in regard to the application, which had been accepted in principle some time back. From this reply it may be inferred that the long delay over the formal granting of this concession is now drawing to a close. Out of four tenders submitted, a year previously, that of Mr. Novomeysky and Major Tulloch was accepted in principle last December. In view of the potential importance of the Dead Sea salts and the variety of interests involved the drafting of a concession must be supposed to have taken some time. Having been drawn up in London, it would require to be submitted to the Palestine Government, which, it may be supposed, would want to go over of its own accord much of the ground already covered in London, in addition to breaking new ground itself, before being satisfied that provision had been made for all possible contingencies. There would presumably be constant reference to and fro between Jerusalem and London, and in these circumstances, with the summer holidays intervening, the long delay will have been explained. The uneasiness that it has caused may have been due in part to the economy of explanation practised by the Government, and this in turn will have been prompted, perhaps, in some measure by the unusual suggestion, which certain Members of Parliament were found willing to put forward, that a financial syndicate, which had failed to put in a tender, should, a year or more later, be allowed to supplant the tenderers to whom the concession had already been granted in principle. It would appear, however, that this suggestion was linked up with another movement for a "pooling" of the tenders with the idea of meeting any possible difficulty in regard to the requisite financial backing for the vast project involved. Apart from the financial attraction that the concession exercises, there has existed a genuine fear lest the Dead Sea salts should be allowed to fall into the hands of the German interests which have a virtual monopoly of the world's potash. There was no reason, however, to suppose that on this particular point the British and Palestine Governments would be less zealous of British and Palestine interests than the occasion obviously requires. The concession, it is to be expected, will fully safeguard all legitimate interests.

Government and Opposition in Egypt.

On another page we publish a telegraphic report, received from Wissa Wassif Bey, who was President of the Egyptian Chamber of Deputies that was dissolved last July, of a meeting held by former Wafdist deputies in a newspaper office in Cairo on November 17. Various meetings have been convened in different centres by the Wafd, and the attempt to invest this Cairo meeting with, as it were, parliamentary status will be regarded abroad as additional proof that Mahmoud Pasha's Government is not as arbitrary as its opponents represent and that it is using the restriction of popular liberty with commendable discretion. The resolutions passed at the meeting followed the lines that were to have been expected. Parliament has been suspended for reasons carefully set out in the Rescript ordering the suspension, and it is only natural that those whose action as deputies brought about the suspension should denounce the step. The world knows quite well that it is contrary to a Constitution to suspend Parliament, and is concerned mainly with arguments for and against the action. Mere denunciation or

appeals to the provisions of the Constitution itself do not carry the matter any farther. The Wafd has not been able to explain away the attitude of Parliament that reduced the government of the country under its own leader to impotence, and its appeals now to the British sense of fair play and love of liberty ignore the fact that there can be no outside intervention in what is for Egypt purely a domestic affair. It is of interest to note that the Government regards its position in the country as strong enough to allow it to contemplate with complacency the fulminations of its opponents, even when they arrogate to themselves the status of a non-existent parliament. The need for suppressing these demonstrations, which was held to exist for the first few weeks after the installation of a new and untried régime, has passed, and it is better that the widest possible scope should be given for the safety-valve of free speech, so long as it does not operate to the manifest prejudice of law and order. Public opinion in Great Britain is necessarily interested, as from a distance, in the Wafd in opposition, if only for the reason that it will be the first to welcome any change of mind or outlook which suggests that the unpractical policy of mere negation which was all that the Wafd in power could offer as its contribution to Egypt's welfare has been definitively abandoned.

The Syrian Political Problem.

The Syrian Constituent Assembly, which was suspended last August for a period of three months, during which time M. Ponsot, the High Commissioner, was to endeavour to find in France a way out of the difficulties that had arisen as between Nationalists and the Mandatory Power, has been suspended for yet another three months—ending on February 11, 1929. At this postponement of the solution no one appears to be much surprised; the President of the Constituent Assembly, for example, himself had anticipated it. It is interesting to notice, however, that Hashim Bey al Atassi has recently indicated one possible line along which Franco-Syrian relations may proceed. In an interview with *Al Ahrar*, of Damascus, the President of the Assembly has suggested that the articles to which the French took exception might have been treated of separately, and that the Constitution might have been left. He asked what the French would have lost by granting a free and independent Constitution, so long as the executive power remained in their hands. In other words, there is a tendency, if the President's reported words are any criterion, among the Syrian Nationalists to grasp at the shadow without worrying over much about the substance of independence. Such a conclusion, however, is not very convincing.

INDIAN NOTES.

Bombay's New Governor.

After the usual round of valedictory functions, Sir Frederick Sykes leaves London this afternoon to take up his duties as Governor of Bombay, probably during the most momentous years in the history of our oldest possession. Whatever objections there may be, from the standpoint of the individual to the custom which ordains that Viceroy's and Governors-designate shall devote a not inconsiderable part of the period between their appointment and departure to attendance at such gatherings, its observance on recent occasions has certainly been attendant with the happiest results. Virtually unknown outside army and aviation circles until June last, Sir Frederick Sykes has emerged from a trying ordeal in a manner which augurs well for the success of his term of office in so widely different a field. Unlike Sir George Schuster, now entering upon his new duties in the more rarified atmosphere of Simla, the Governor-Designate of Bombay is not altogether new to India, having served in the Intelligence branch of Army Headquarters at Simla during

the past decade. At the same time he will be the last to suggest that the knowledge so gained can compare with the accumulated experience of the great public service over which he will in part preside. In fact, it will probably be no small advantage to set out at a time like the present with a record in which the bitter Indian controversies have no place at all. For the rest he is known in this country as a man of the highest character, a distinguished soldier with considerable administrative experience, and a good sportsman in the truest sense of a much-abused term. Moreover, he has peculiar qualifications for assisting India's progress in at least two directions—aviation and broadcasting—where the need for his counsels is likely to become progressively greater. Those who have come into contact with the new Governor, who, during the past few months has proved himself to be a diligent student of Indian personalities as well as politics, have testified to his quickness of perception, sympathy, and sound and sober judgment. This is an equipment of the right kind. Whether Sir Frederick has the geniality and social gifts that will enable him to fill the place in public esteem occupied by Sir Leslie Wilson, or the restless energy and outstanding ability of Lord Lloyd is improbable. From our knowledge of the new Governor's record, we imagine that he will probably be found to perpetuate the best features of the administrations of each of his immediate predecessors—and if that proves to be the case Bombay may well count itself fortunate in its new Governor.

The Commission in Sind.

The visit of the Simon Commission to Sind has brought out into clear relief the acuteness of the differences between the Hindu and the Muhammadan communities in that Province. In no other part of India, with the exception of the small and politically backward North-West Frontier Province, where the Commission is now hearing evidence, is the preponderance of the Muhammadan population so great; yet the Muhammadans have as little control of the policy of the Government under whom they live as they have in the predominantly Hindu Provinces. This is in part due to their own backwardness, but chiefly to the fact that the Hindus are greatly in the majority in the Presidency of Bombay to which Sind is attached. Small wonder that the Muhammadans seek for the autonomy of Sind, while the Hindus cling to the Bombay connexion. They profess to do so, indeed, solely on the economic ground that Sind cannot stand alone. If, however, this were the sole reason, it is difficult to see why amalgamation with the Punjab should be objected to by the Hindus. The mercantile and above all the irrigation connexions with that province would be a strong reason for such amalgamation; but all parties in Sind are afraid of being swallowed up in the strong and virile Punjab. A point which is often overlooked is that the difficulties of the administration of Sind from a distant centre in an alien Province were formerly overcome by the grant of considerable independent, and indeed autocratic, powers to the Commissioner in Sind. We observe that even so well-informed an authority as *The Times*, according to a recent leading article in that paper, still labours under the impression that these powers still exist. In practice, however, these powers have been diminished or abrogated by the encroachments of the Bombay Secretariat and by the removal from his own control of various departments which are now administered by a centralised control, whether at Simla or at Poona. Such shreds of power as still remain with the Commissioner are liable to rouse objection either from the Muhammadan or the Hindu point of view, as being exercised without consultation with a local legislative assembly. It appears probable, however, that the demand of three-fourths of the population for a change in the administrative system cannot be permanently denied. The sole objection is the financial one; that we believe could be overcome by the creation of self-government in the first place on the smallest and least expensive scale, subordinate to the

Government of Bombay. Precedents that occur for such treatment are the smaller Provinces of Canada, or even the government of Ulster. It is in any case interesting to find that the Nehru Scheme, which was alleged to have been accepted with such unanimity at Lucknow, has been so entirely repudiated by each of the parties in Sind.

The Indian Match Industry.

When referring to the Indian match manufacturing industry a few weeks ago we mentioned that the Government of India had decided to accept the recommendation of the Tariff Board in favour of protection. Matches imported into India are already subject to a Customs duty of 100 per cent.; and the Government decided to maintain this duty and to convert it into a protective impost. A Bill having these objects in view has been accordingly submitted to the Legislative Assembly and has been adopted. The Government hope that they will not be required to keep the duty for very long at so high a level as 100 per cent. And they have also said that they will review the situation again if the great Swedish Match Company should endeavour to acquire a monopoly in India. During the debate in the Assembly a curious line of argument was advanced by Mr. Joshi, who represents Indian labour interests. This member favoured the Bill, but he thought that no fees should be paid to the directors of those manufacturing companies whose manufactures are protected by import duties. He accordingly proposed that the directors of Indian match manufacturing companies should be prohibited by law from receiving fees. Another member immediately countered this quaint proposal by saying that import duties benefit not only directors and shareholders but also workmen. To be logical, therefore, the amendment would require to provide that the workers in the match industry should agree to put into a common fund the difference between their wages as agricultural labourers and their wages as match operatives. This reply seems to have sufficed, and the amendment was rejected. The mover was good enough to make it clear that he did not want to deprive shareholders of their dividends; and for this concession he was thanked!

M. Venizelos, Greek Prime Minister, on November 15 approved the Minister of Health's proposal to tax bachelors and empowered him to draft a Bill in virtue of which the proceeds of this tax will be used for child welfare.

A Bill was introduced in the Greek Chamber on November 15 providing for the appointment of an Under-Secretary of State in the Prime Minister's Department. In the interests of economy the Under-Secretaryship of Agriculture is being abolished, and M. Pappadatos is being appointed to the new office.

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THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 1928.

ROUMANIA'S DIFFICULTIES.

Dr. Maniu's Government has no light task before it, if it is to win for Roumania in the family of nations the place that her size, resources and aspirations bespeak for her. The heritage to which the new Prime Minister succeeds is not a happy one. The Liberal régime, which has held sway for practically the whole of the ten years since the Armistice, prided itself on its business capacity, and, like many businesses, it had no soul. Rigid in its policy, cynical and severe in its methods, it followed with some degree of ruthlessness its own prescribed route, and would never allow that there was any need to consult either the opinion or the susceptibilities of others. The result has been that the end of the Liberal tenure of office finds the new provinces of Greater Roumania antagonistic, foreign opinion estranged, and only that section of the people of the Old Kingdom which is peculiarly dependent on the favour of the leaders of the Liberal Party inclined to regret the change of Government. Roumania, it is to be feared, has paid a heavy price for an unsympathetic administration. To the credit of the Liberals have to be reckoned the carrying into effect of agrarian reform and the extension of the suffrage; but both achievements have been to some extent stultified by the failure of the Bratianu régimes to live up to the spirit that lay behind the two movements. The distribution of land among the peasants was followed immediately by the studied neglect of agriculture and the favouring of industry at its expense; the widening of the suffrage was accompanied by the dragooning of the electorate and, if not the actual encouragement of an arbitrary and corrupt officialdom, at least a cynical indifference to its existence. The difficulties in the way of post-War Governments are a matter of common knowledge. The first need, however, of Greater Roumania was the consolidation of its component parts; the more mixed its population the more urgent a policy of general appeasement, and, if a highly centralised régime was considered necessary, the greater the deference that ought to have been paid to local susceptibilities by a bureaucracy recruited for the most part in the Old Kingdom. The outlook of the Bratianu régimes, unfortunately, was bounded by financial ambitions. The almost complete dependence of pre-War Roumania on foreigners for her economic development was rightly regarded as a slur on Roumanian capacity, but the remedy lay in a more gradual transfer of control into Roumanian hands than was aimed at by the Liberal leaders, who found in the creation of new enterprises a source of political strength and personal gain.

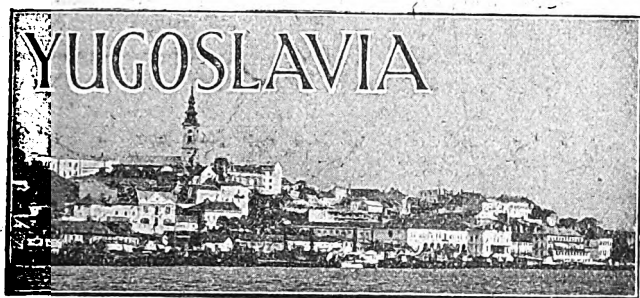
Agrarian reform in Roumania has had two important effects on the economic situation of the country. There has been an inevitable diminution of production as a result of the breaking-up of the large estates and their partition among peasant holders. The latter thought only in terms of their own requirements, and in any case lacked the wherewithal, in regard both to capital and to machinery, for production on the previous scale. The co-operative movement has helped to make good the lack of machinery and implements and to facilitate the marketing of crops;

but it has done little to remove the second handicap from which Roumania suffers. The Roumanian peasant is a person of simple tastes; he has been accustomed to a hard life, and when agrarian reform came to lighten his burden, he accepted the relief without acknowledging any responsibility on his part to produce more or to develop more wants. Roumania's purchasing power, however, is conditioned mainly by her agriculture, and it follows that the sudden expansion of industrial enterprise, at a time when the purchasing power of the country is either at a standstill or receding, places a premium on failure. Before the Liberal Party embarked on a far-reaching policy of industrialisation, it ought to have taken steps to foster agriculture and to raise the standard of living among the peasants. The wants of the latter—both male and female—would have compelled them to earn more money by more cultivation and would have provided a wider market for nascent industries. The new Government is pledged to devote more attention to agriculture than its predecessors did; it will also have to take this social problem into consideration. The lack of human sympathy, which was a characteristic of the Bratianu Governments, affected both the Roumanians of the new provinces and the minorities. Dr. Maniu can, therefore, be expected to adopt a more friendly attitude towards the latter. He will realise from his knowledge of conditions in Transylvania that the good will and contentment of the minorities are hardly less important for Roumania than the solidarity of the different provincial units.

So wide will be the demands on the new Government's sympathy that its danger will lie mainly in the temptation to promise more than it can reasonably be expected to fulfil. Dr. Maniu has it in his power to inaugurate a new era in Roumanian history. As the Liberals are identified with the disintegration of the old feudal conditions that existed at the formation of the Kingdom, so the advent to power of the National-Peasant Party should entail for Roumania the beginning of a truer conception of democratic institutions. It is unlikely that the Prime Minister will lend himself to a dictatorship of the peasantry, such as Stamboulisky sought to introduce into Bulgaria. On the other hand, he will have to guard against any violent swing of the pendulum from favouritism of the Old Kingdom to favouritism of Transylvania or the new Provinces. If he does not lose sight of the fact that he is the head of a united Roumania, his association with the peasants of the Kingdom should enable him to give to the Government's policy just that trend which the agricultural character of the State requires for the adequate development of its resources. The industrial development that he inherits from his predecessors is sound in principle, and by attempting to scrap it he would be guilty of as grave a mistake as the Liberals were in their efforts to force it at the expense of agriculture. For this reason he cannot afford to promise too much. He must necessarily take over much that the Liberals have bequeathed him, and does not start with a clean slate. In their omissions he will find ample room for the foundation of his new building alongside theirs; and only when his construction is far enough advanced to meet the more pressing needs of the nation, will it be necessary to consider whether the Liberal edifice has to be entirely demolished. Until then the needs of the moment will be met by a thorough cleaning of the premises. Dr. Maniu would seem to be making a beginning on these lines. The censorship is to be abolished, free elections are to be held, bribery and corruption are to be discountenanced. M. Bratianu could not risk any of these steps. When a party that owes its origin to a national revolt against oligarchy finds itself reduced to a small unit trying to stifle the expression of the popular will, its usefulness has been outlived. If, therefore, Dr. Maniu can avoid early mistakes of policy, and can give the Roumanian people an honest administration and a "square deal," he may secure for his National-Peasant Group as long a lease of life as the Liberals had in their day, until with changing conditions new forces arise to ensure the continued progress of the race.

*The Near and Middle East

From Our Own Correspondents.



Belgrade, November 15.

The Political Situation.

Until King Alexander returns from Paris no sudden change in the political situation in Belgrade is to be expected; but on his return in a few days' time it is fully expected that great changes will rapidly take place.

Relations between the four parties of the Belgrade Government are becoming more and more strained. M. Davidovitch has himself expressed discontent with the work of the present Government, and is spurring on his Ministers to get as much work done as possible in view, probably, of the necessity of showing some results when the elections, which cannot be much longer postponed, take place. There is fairly general dissatisfaction with the work of Dr. Koroshetz as Minister of the Interior and with that of the Minister for Agriculture, but so far it is understood that the Democrats could probably be satisfied by certain changes in the personnel of the Cabinet.

More striking are the differences which have arisen with the Muslims. While in most constituencies the Muslims worked hand in hand with the Radicals during the recent municipal elections, in Bosnia and Herzegovina their representatives, once elected, have refused in many cases to continue this co-operation and are joining forces with the Croat Peasant Party and obtaining thus in many cases complete majorities in the municipal councils. The Muslims claim that this is due to the unfair attitude of the Radical local Governors, who have completely alienated the followers of the Yugoslav Muslim Organization, and they demand the changing of the *Veliki Jupani* (Governors) of Sarajevo and Tuzla. It is understood that Dr. Spaho has threatened to withdraw his support from the Government, unless these changes are made. The Radicals, annoyed by the co-operation of the Muslim Organization with the Croat Peasant Party, refuse to agree, and Father Koroshetz is believed to have had difficulty in persuading Dr. Spaho not to withdraw immediately from the Government. This matter will have to be settled as soon as the King returns.

Other storms which have arisen for, apparently, comparatively trivial reasons serve to show how strained relations are becoming. M. Milan Grol, Minister of Education, was accused of having stated in a private meeting of the Democrat leaders that one of the Ministers of the present Cabinet was a "scoundrel." This called forth a storm of protest from the Radicals, who seemed to think that the cap fitted, and repeated demands for M. Grol's resignation. It is whispered that M. Grol referred to M. Dragisha Tsvetkovitch, Minister of Religion, who has also raised heated protests from a section of his own party for alleged interference in a most illegal manner with the working of the Nish District parliament.

A Basis for Co-operation.

It would appear that M. Savchitch has temporarily come to the end of his tether. He has been informed that

*Under this heading appear weekly or at regular intervals communications from correspondents in Egypt, the Sudan, Roumania, Yugoslavia, Greece, Bulgaria, Albania, Turkey, Cyprus, Palestine, Iraq, and Persia.

it is of no use for him to go to Zagreb until this Government has resigned and this Parliament has been dissolved. He is reported to be sorting out the mass of information that he has gathered in his interviews with the various party leaders, and to be preparing a report to give to the King on his return. His last interview was with Father Koroshetz, who gave an official reply on behalf of the whole of the four-Party Coalition to M. Savchitch's questions. This reply sets forth the terms on which the Belgrade Government is prepared to begin negotiations with the Zagreb parties. The main points raised were these. The Government is prepared to agree to elections' being held on condition that the issues they are intended to settle are fixed in advance. If agreement cannot be reached within the terms of the Vidovdan Constitution, they are prepared to accept its modification through the normal channels laid down in the Constitution itself, so long as the proposed changes tend, in their opinion, to strengthen the State. They are prepared to agree also to the present highly centralised system's being changed into one giving wide local autonomy and carrying the principle of decentralisation of power to the furthest limits compatible with the unity of the State. Elections should be carried through, if possible, by a Concentration Government, including representatives of the Peasant-Democrat Coalition. It is, perhaps, worthy of note that Dr. Koroshetz refuses steadfastly to give the views of his own party and speaks only in the name of the Belgrade Government. The views expressed by the Press of the Slovenian People's Party are often distinctly at variance with those of the Government, and *Narodni Politika*, Dr. Koroshetz's organ in Zagreb, published a striking article on the tenth anniversary of the Geneva Declaration (November 9) claiming that all Yugoslavia's difficulties date from the time when the Geneva Declaration, which anticipated a federally organised State, was neglected by the desire of M. Pashitch, supported by M. Pribitchevitch, and a centralised régime was instituted instead.

Within the Croat Coalition.

The *Prechanski* parties appear at first sight to be remarkably unanimous. True it is that Croat and Serb, townsman and peasant, rich and poor, they are unanimous on this point—that in no circumstances whatever can any negotiations be begun with the present Government, and that the first step towards a settlement must be the dissolution of the present Parliament. Their unanimity on this point is strengthened by their realisation that any sign of disagreement will encourage the Belgrade parties and tend further to delay a solution of the present crisis, and by the fact that none of their leaders, since the death of Stepan Raditch, is big enough and influential enough with the masses even to suggest negotiations with the present Belgrade Government, in face of the people's strong feeling against this step.

Nevertheless differences in opinion on constructive matters are to be traced between the different sections of the Peasant-Democrat Coalition. There is a more peaceful group led by M. S. Pcpovitch and M. Grisogon, and a more warlike one led by M. S. Pribitchevitch. In the ranks of the Croat Peasant Party itself there are the die-hards led by M. Predavatz, Krnyevitch and company, and the moderates M. Matchek, M. Kovatchevitch, M. Preka and others. These differences will become more obvious and more important, when once the first barricades have been broken down and negotiations between Belgrade and Zagreb have begun.

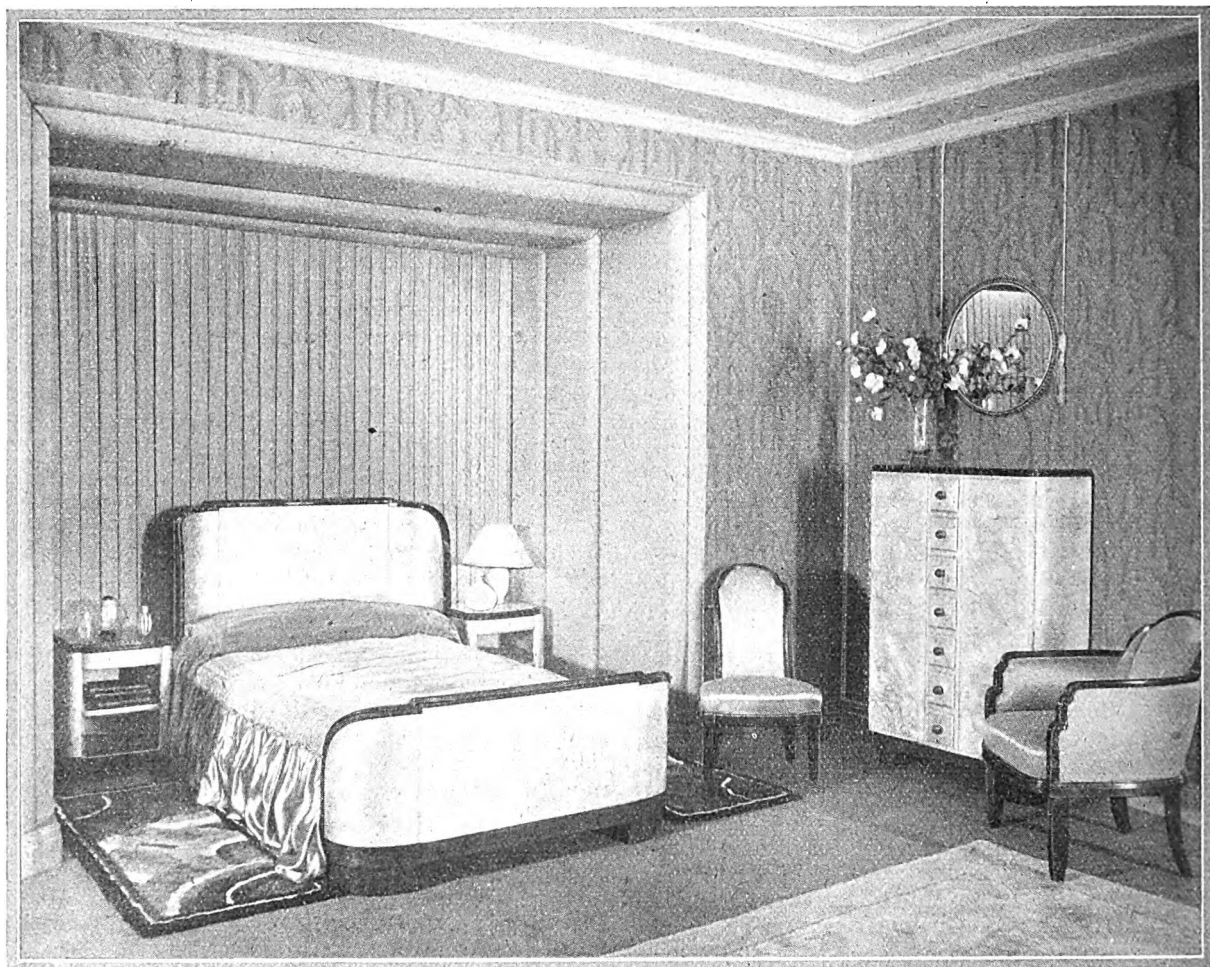
Priest and Police.

When a priest, Father Koroshetz, came to the Ministry of the Interior, it was generally expected that police administration would be improved and especially that a

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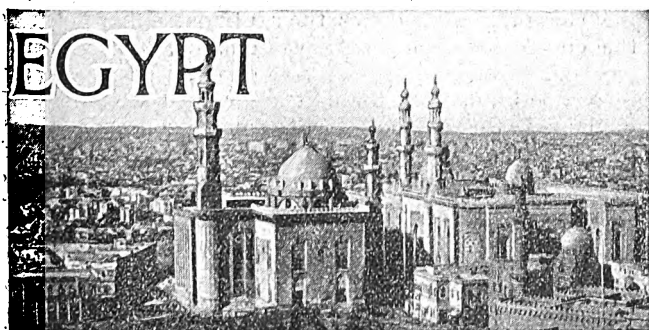
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tendency to brutality, which had from time to time been observed, especially in the suppression of political demonstrations, would be eradicated. But whether from design, or lack of control, or just sheer misfortune, his term of office has been marked by a whole series of incidents in which the police have dispersed demonstrations of nationalist or political organisations with great ferocity; firearms have been used and blood has been shed. Following on the anti-Italian riots which occurred when it was first proposed that the Nettuno Conventions should be ratified, the Ruski Tzar incident, and the ruthless dispersal of demonstrations in Zagreb immediately after the events of June 20—in all of which cases firearms were used and blood was shed by the police—similar scenes were witnessed in Liubliana when, after a lecture at the University on the eighth anniversary of the signing of the Rapallo Treaties, students demonstrating against Italy were dispersed by police with drawn sabres, and a youth was wounded by a revolver shot, and in Zagreb when a small group of Communists, celebrating the eleventh anniversary of the Russian Revolution, were violently dispersed. The people of Liubliana are especially incensed, since the Minister of the Interior responsible is their own leader and countless anti-Yugoslav demonstrations held in Italy are allowed to pass unnoticed.

A Timely Loan.

The day of reckoning which seemed to be drawing near in Yugoslavia, as in Roumania, owing to the financial difficulties of the Government, has been postponed by the conclusion of a 22,000,000 dollar loan for 30 years at 6½ per cent. issued at 90, granted by the Swedish Match Trust in return for the surrender to them of the monopoly of the sale and manufacture of matches in the Serb, Croat and Slovene Kingdom. Compared with earlier loans concluded by the Yugoslav Government these terms appear to be very favourable, although they are not so good as those obtained from the same Trust by the Hungarians. The Trust obtains a considerably higher rate of interest than it is paying its shareholders, and it remains to be seen how much extra they will be able to make from their more efficient methods of production and distribution of matches. It is certain that they will make enormous profits unless the Peasant-Democrat Coalition succeed in carrying out a plan formulated by M. Matchek to protest against the Belgrade Government's concluding this loan, despite the declaration of the Croats that they would not recognise it. The plan is that they should organise among their astoundingly well disciplined masses a boycott of matches and return to the use of the flint and steel not so long abandoned in Herzegovina.



Cairo, November 30.

The High Commissioner and Lady Lloyd returned to Cairo on Wednesday. They landed from the Orient Line Oronsay at Port Said, where they were officially received. After inspecting the Guard of Honour they left by special train for Cairo, where a large gathering of British Residents greeted them. Dr. Hafez Bey Affifi, Minister of Foreign Affairs, who had come up specially from Alexandria that morning, welcomed them on behalf of the Cabinet, and there were a number of Egyptians on the

platform, including General Mabruk Bey Fahmy, who presented Lady Lloyd with a bouquet of flowers.

Last night the Prime Minister came up to Cairo, and to-day the seat of Government was officially transferred from Alexandria, where it had been during the summer. King Fuad will, however, remain at Montazah until the end of the month, as the sea air is doing the Queen and the Royal children so much good. From time to time one or other of the Ministers will go to Alexandria to confer with the King, and there may be a Cabinet Council at Montazah later in the month. But the Government offices at Bulkeley are permanently closed for the winter season.

The Mixed Tribunals.

The cables are buzzing between Legations and their respective Governments as a result of the Note addressed to them by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on the subject of the Mixed Tribunals reforms. The Note calls the attention of the Legations to the circular letter on the subject addressed to them last December by the late Sarwat Pasha when he was Prime Minister, in which draft laws introducing certain reforms were communicated and the Powers asked to assent thereto.

The reforms include the transfer to the Mixed Courts of jurisdiction in such matters as white slave traffic, trading in noxious drugs, commercial frauds, adulteration of foodstuffs; an amendment of the Mixed Courts organisation law so as to bring it more into harmony with the provisions of the Constitution in the matter of the promulgation of laws; the abolition of assessors; the deletion from the Mixed Courts regulations of the provision that the Presidents and Vice-Presidents of all the Chambers must be European so as to make it possible for an Egyptian having the necessary qualifications to be elected by his colleagues to one of these posts; the creation of a fourth Appeal Chamber of three Counsellors; and permission to the members of the Mixed Bench to receive decorations.

The circular points out that although the situation is to-day not what it was a year ago, and the same urgency therefore, does not attach to the amendment of the Mixed judicial organisation law, nevertheless this amendment is necessary since the suspension of Parliament is only temporary. It also calls attention to the obstacles to financial and legislative reform in general which the Capitulations set up, and it advises the Powers that the Egyptian Government hopes in the very near future to be in a position to submit to them its proposals in regard to the substitution of some other régime which will harmonize better with the present day situation in Egypt.

There would appear to be little objection in principle to the introduction of any of the reforms now proposed, with the exception, perhaps, of liberty to be accorded to the members of the Mixed Bench to accept decorations from the Egyptian Government and the creation of a new Appeal Chamber composed of three instead of five Counsellors. It is not at all improbable that in the end a five-counsellor chamber will be agreed to, as in view of the vacancy caused in the Procureur-Generalship by the resignation of M. Van de Bosch, this will enable the responsible authorities to meet certain international difficulties arising therefrom. It is, indeed, considered possible that no conference will be held, but that a committee of legal experts will be constituted to work out the

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details of these reforms, and that it will be able to meet in the new year.

An interesting and unprecedented step has just been taken by the commercial communities of Alexandria in the matter of the economic and financial policy which the present Government has initiated. L'Union d'Alexandrie, the formation of which, by the leaders of all the important commercial communities of Egypt's second capital, I reported about a year ago, marked the resumption of its labours after the summer recess by passing a resolution approving the Cabinet's policy, and it authorised its President and founder, Emin Yehia Pasha, and its committee to wait on the Premier Mahmoud Pasha, and to present him with a copy of this resolution. This it did last Monday, when Yehia Pasha was accompanied by most of the members of the committee now in Egypt—among them Sir Henry Barker, Mr. Ralph Carver, M. Lascaris, M. Vatimbella, Baron Felix de Menasche, M. E. Bourre, Mohamed Mukbel Pasha, Ramadan Yussef Bey, Antoine Archache Bey, and M. de Semo. The Premier received them at his offices at Bulkeley and made a very friendly reply, thanking them for the sentiments to which they had given expression; he emphasised that the manner with which the Government had welcomed the creation of their Union proved the interest it took in every activity directed to the development of the resources of the country and the increase of the welfare of its inhabitants, and he added that the Union could ever rely on a ready and sympathetic reception from the authorities. The Premier ended with an expression of the hope that, thanks to the close co-operation of all elements of the country, without distinction, Egypt will attain further progress and prosperity under the guidance of its beloved sovereign. Apart from the fact that never before have the various communities taken joint action on a matter of this nature, the resolution of the Union d'Alexandrie is an interesting commentary on the propaganda which the Wafd is carrying out in Europe to discredit the Mahmoud Cabinet.

Medal of Good Will.

Another Egyptian decoration has just been created. A royal rescript institutes a series of medals called Medals of Good Will, for bestowal on Government employees, civil as well as military, as a mark of recognition of long and loyal services. There will be three categories, gold, silver and bronze. Gold medals will be bestowed only on those who have at least thirty-five years, silver ones on those having twenty-five years at least and the bronze on those having attained fifteen years in the service of the State. The medal bears in relief on one side the effigy of the King and on the other the Royal arms with above the name of the medal and beneath A.H. 1347. The medal will be worn on the left breast, hanging from a silk ribbon red between two lines of blue, after other Egyptian medals and decorations. It is also provided that these medals can be bestowed on members of the suite of Sovereigns, Princes and heads of Governments on the occasion of visits to this country or of the Egyptian Sovereign's visits to other countries. The reason for the creation of this new decoration is that whereas the various orders provide means for rewarding the higher categories of officials and civilians who render services to the State and Sovereign, they do not enable such recognition to be given to the lower categories, a fact which was forcibly brought home to the Palace in the course of the visit which King Fuad paid in the summer of 1927 to the European capitals.

The Turkish newspapers announce that the Director-General of the Bank of Industry and Mining has been dismissed from his post; adding that it is reported that nothing undertaken by this Bank so far has been successful. Among the industrial enterprises in which the Bank was recently stated by the ex-Director-General to be financially interested are the following:—a steel factory at Marash; electricity works and a big mill both at Malatia and at Akserai; and electricity works at Caesarea.

DEAD SEA SALTS.

The Near and Middle East Association held a meeting on November 12 to discuss "Concessions in Palestine." The gathering took place, by kind permission of Mrs. Cobham, at 14, Hans Crescent, S.W.1. Captain E. N. Bennett, who presided, referred to the just claims of the inhabitants of the Holy Land that they should share in whatever profits were extracted from the Dead Sea.

Lord Danesfort related the insistent efforts of a certain group of independently-minded men in the House of Lords and in the House of Commons to gain information from the Colonial Office about the concessionaires for this Dead Sea scheme. In his view the official replies had been entirely unsatisfactory, for there was an evident unwillingness to reveal either the reasons why Major Tulloch and Mr. Novomeysky, about whose record so little was known, or the financial backing which this favoured group enjoyed. What he and those who thought like him wished to have was some guarantee that the Dead Sea potash would never come under the control of the German potash monopoly, and to attain this end a British group of financiers and of scientists had been formed and had applied for the concession. Finally, Lord Danesfort remarked on the iniquity of the system by which so important a matter as the granting of this Dead Sea concession could be arranged by a Government Department, without Parliament's having any say. Whatever agreement was reached ought, in his opinion, to receive the sanction of Parliament before it became effective.

Sir William Beach Thomas, the second speaker, emphasised the enormous importance of potash in the development of agriculture. Cheap potash would not only revolutionise the lives of people, in say, Egypt, the Sudan, France, or Spain, but it would also tremendously help the British colonies, and might even people Australia.

Dr. Homer, a research chemist who was one of the original claimants for the concession, referred to the interest which she had maintained since 1916 in the possibility of freeing the world from the German potash monopoly. She had been connected with three different groups in applying for the Dead Sea concession, but despite her very favourable offer the concession was, it appeared, going elsewhere. Sinister forces were, she claimed, at work to prevent this concession from passing into British hands: no sooner was one bogey quashed than another was hastily erected. She could assure her audience that the Germans were doing their utmost either to prevent the concession from being worked, or, if it were to be worked, to secure its being worked in conjunction, not in competition, with the existing potash monopoly. She explained the reason for German concern: German potash at the mine head cost £4 18s. per ton, and Alsatian potash, under German control, £2 18s. 2d. per ton, whereas potash from the Dead Sea could (owing to the non-necessity of mining, of fuel and so on) be produced, according to her estimate, at well under £1 per ton. From the world point of view, therefore, and particularly from the local Palestine and Trans-Jordan, as well as from the British, point of view, it was essential to bar the possibility of the Dead Sea Salts' ever coming under German control.

The following were among those present: Viscountess Dupplin, the Hon. Lady White Thomson, Judge Hill Kelly, the Hon. Sir James and Lady Connolly, the Dowager Lady Boyle, Sir Edward Boyle, Baron Bonin, Sir William Clark, Sir Henry and Lady Penon, Dr. and Madame Felix Weiser, Orhan Halid Bey, Herr Karl Zeileissen, Lt.-Colonel and Madame Uggla, Mr. and Mrs. Montague Bell, Mrs. L. Cobham, Mrs. E. N. Bennett, Colonel and Mrs. St. John Cooke, Azzam Bey, Mrs. Lindsay Bashford, Colonel and Mrs. Ernest Taylor, Professor T. H. Norton, Captain Gordon Canning, Mrs. Favarger, Captain Walker, Captain Guy Onslow, Mrs. St. John Philby, Miss Sassoon, Madame Wolkoff, and Mr. Roland Michell.

CALCUTTA LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Calcutta, November 1.

The Statutory Commission.

An item of last Friday's news, namely, that Mr. W. T. Layton, Editor of the *Economist* and formerly Director of the Economic and Financial Section of the League of Nations, had been invited to assist the Statutory Commission as Finance Assessor, must have been welcome to anyone with a mind filled with the foreboding that the end of so much amateur tinkering of the constitutional pot in India would be acute financial disorder. I have called attention to the separatist tendencies in the Provinces, with new Governors and Executives and Councils, all as if the poverty of India was a fiction of the imagination. Mr. Layton, the report went on to say, will join the Commission in India early in January. Not a day too soon, but better late than never. It would have been better still, if one of Sir John Simon's colleagues had been chosen on his record as an authority in exchequer finance, but that is to cry over spilt milk.

The All-India Muslim Legislators' Association, whose deliberations have been conducted under the guidance and direction of H.H. the Aga Khan, in a revised memorandum for the Commission, remark that "the position of the Muslims of India at the present juncture is one of great difficulty, for while they are fully aware of the fact that peace and popularity with the sister community can be easily secured if they swim with the tide of boycott and non-co-operation, the stern voice of duty warns them; against the suicidal policy of allowing themselves to be exploited as pawns in the game by astute politicians who are seeking to establish an oligarchy and domination of their own in the name of democracy and freedom." That is, of course, no empty rhetoric, but as near the sober fact as one could expect to have the fact stated in a party document.

The wide-awakeness of these Muslim legislators, or of the Aga Khan, is still better seen in the following: "While the Association is not fully convinced that representative institutions are best suited to the traditions and genius of the peoples of India, or that the conservative soil of the East is congenial to the growth of representative institutions from the West, it is bound to take into consideration the success of such institutions in the Near, Middle, and Far Eastern countries. As Parliament appears to have committed itself to a policy of gradual development of self-governing institutions, it proceeds on the assumption that the next stage of development of responsible government would be on the lines of the Government of India Act of 1919. The subjoined memorandum, therefore, is a logical development of the Act, containing a statement of the safeguards designed to protect effectively the interests of the Muslim community in any scheme of reforms."

The Lloyd Dam.

On Saturday evening, in the presence of Sir John Simon and other members of the Statutory Commission, His Excellency Sir Leslie Wilson, Governor of Bombay, opened the Lloyd Dam at Bhatgar, thirty-six miles west of Poona. The dam is said to be the largest in volume hitherto completed in any part of the world. The figures are imposing enough: volume of masonry, 21½ million cubic feet; length, 5,333 feet; greatest height, 190 feet above the lowest foundation; depth of water above the lowest sluices, 143 feet; length of the lake, 17 miles; perimeter of lake, 46 miles, area of lake, 14.7 sq. miles; capacity of lake, 150,000 million gallons; catchment area, 128 sq. miles. The cost was one crore, seventy-two lakhs. A Companionship of the Indian Empire has been conferred on the engineer and designer, Hr. C. B. Pooley. One has known of men given knighthoods for much less "masonry."

Talking of one dam reminds me of another—the dam

across the Ganges that Sir William Willcocks has proposed for the irrigation of Central Bengal. Many readers of THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA would welcome the news that the India Office had this matter before it, and that Sir William Willcocks is to return to Bengal.

East Godavari Floods.

Telegraphic communication between Calcutta and Madras has been restored, and I myself had a telegram yesterday from Madras, but it will be fully two months, it is reported, before the railway line and the ruined bridges are rebuilt. Meanwhile the only way to Madras will be via Dhond and Manmad. The toll of the floods in human life is put at thirty-six, and there has been a heavy loss of cattle and goats. The damage to the crops is said to be slight, except in the neighbourhood of the rivers. Six bridges in all on the Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway have been washed away.

Sabarmati Satyagraha Ashram.

Strict morals, including celibacy, coarse food, and no spices, and hard work—that was to be the way of living at Mahatma Gandhi's Satyagraha Ashram at Sabarmati, but there comes a report from Surat that radical changes have been made. "It would appear," runs the report, "that ever since Mr. Gandhi retired from the *Ashram* about two years ago, he has been noticing undercurrents of resentment against the code of life and discipline at the *Ashram*, and the conviction grew on him that, although through his own personality the present *Ashram* life might continue undisturbed during his lifetime, there was trouble ahead." So changes are to be made. The condition of celibacy is to be abolished, and the name is to be changed from "Satyagraha Ashram" to "Industrial Home." A lamentable change, that last; the other change is perhaps not to be lamented. Men are men: it is never any use pretending they are not.

Mr. S. R. Das.

In the person of Mr. S. R. Das, Law Member of the Executive Council of the Governor-General, whose death occurred last Friday in Calcutta, Bengal has lost another member of a family distinguished at the Bar and in the Courts. Chittaranjan Das, the Swarajist leader, was his cousin, and he had a brother, a Judge in Rangoon, and a cousin, a Judge in Patna, the latter being Chittaranjan's brother. It seems only the other day that I attended a meeting at the Calcutta University Institute, organised by the young men as a send-off to the newly appointed Law Member, and listened to a speech, a good and sensible one, from him, and now Mr. S. R. Das also is dead. He had been very active up to the end in promoting a scheme for a Public School for Indian boys at Dehra Dun, having, it is said, collected twenty lakhs of rupees for it. Mr. Das's recent visit to England was in connexion with the selection of a headmaster for this school. India still, when she wants a good teacher, goes to England for him or her.

THE LATE LALA LAJPAT RAI.

THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA regrets to announce the death, which occurred suddenly from heart failure on November 17, of Lala Lajpat Rai, the leader of the Nationalist Party in the Punjab and of the Independent Party in the Legislative Assembly. One of the foremost supporters of the old Indian National Congress, Mr. Lala Lajpat Rai, who gave up a very lucrative practice at the Bar in the furtherance of his political activities, visited this country in 1901, with the late Mr. Gokhale and enlisted considerable support for the Indian Nationalist movement. Deported subsequently from India he went to America. After rendering loyal service to the Allies during the War, he returned to India after the cessation of hostilities and was a prominent figure, if playing a somewhat undecided rôle, in recent political controversies.

INDIA IN PARLIAMENT.

Except for a somewhat belated and unsuccessful effort by the Communist Member for Battersea N. during the debate on the Address, to enlist public sympathy on the hard lot of those of his "co-religionists" who might have found their activities curtailed by the Public Safety Bill, interest in Indian affairs since the House re-assembled has been confined entirely to questions and answers.

In reply to Mr. Day, Lord Winterton said that the Secretary of State had not yet received the conclusions of the Government of India on the Indian Cinematograph Committee's report, but that he would no doubt be notified in due course of the decision.

The pending inquiry into the vexed question of the Meston Settlement invests with particular interest the statistics elicited by Mr. Willoch respecting the revenue (both Central and Provincial) raised from land revenue and taxes on income, respectively, at various dates since 1913. The following are the figures:—Land Revenue: 1913-14, Rs. 32,25,68,961; 1920-21, Rs. 32,03,81,107; 1924-25, Rs. 35,83,58,138; 1927-28 (Revised Estimates), Rs. 37,35,69,600. Taxes on income: 1913-14, Rs. 2,90,51,573; 1920-21, Rs. 20,91,74,322; 1924-25, Rs. 16,21,23,951; 1927-28 (Revised Estimates), Rs. 15,96,42,000.

Lord Winterton, in reply to a supplementary question by Mr. R. Young, who had asked for particulars regarding the notice given to the Southern Punjab Railway of the Government's intention to exercise its right to purchase the line, refused to be drawn into any expression of opinion as to whether the decision marked a further step on the way towards nationalisation. "Generally speaking," he pointed out, "the policy of the Government of India in recent years has been to acquire these railways," and again emphasised that no adequate or fair comparison could be drawn between the condition of railways in India and this country.

Asked to state the number of cases during the last ten years in which Indian Ruling Princes have been deposed at the instance of the Paramount Power, or have abdicated, the Under-Secretary said that during the period mentioned one Ruler of an Indian State had been deposed namely, the Maharaja of Nabha, and four had abdicated—the Maharaja of Indore, the Rana of Bilaspur, the Nawab of Loharu, and the Jam of Las Bela. While declining to satisfy Mr. Saklatvala's curiosity as to the reasons which had decided the Government to take action in the instances in question, on the perfectly proper grounds that the query did not arise out of the main question, Lord Winterton added that the case of the Maharaja of Bharatpur did not fall within either category. Nor was the member for Battersea N. any more successful when he endeavoured to elicit "details of voting in the provincial councils and the Council of State in India for and against the motions to appoint Committees for partial co-operation with the Simon Commission, stating, in particular, votes for and against such resolutions by Government officials, Government nominees, elected representatives of select bodies and organisation, and elected representatives of general electorates open to all enfranchised citizens and giving particulars of the representatives selected to act on these Committees, as to the organisations that returned them, and the total number of electors in such organisations."

Instead of furnishing Mr. Saklatvala with what would have amounted practically to a Blue Book to himself, Lord Winterton merely referred his interrogator to the published proceedings of the Council of State and the Provincial Legislative Councils, and to Command Paper 2923 of 1927, showing the results of elections in India. The probably unconscious touch of humour residing in the last part of the Under-Secretary's reply, it is to be feared, was lost upon the hon. Member.

As was only to be expected, the Indian States Inquiry Committee's work has also come in for attention. In a written answer to Mr. Gardner, who asked whether the

Government was aware that the representatives of the peoples of the Indian States had been refused permission either to hear the arguments of Counsel for the Indian Princes, or to give evidence before the Committee and the reasons for such a course, "in view of the fact that there are treaty obligations by which the Indian Princes have agreed to secure the contentment of their peoples and to ensure justice in administration," Lord Winterton stated that the procedure to be adopted in regard to the taking and hearing of evidence was a matter for the Committee itself, and that the Secretary of State was not prepared to interfere with its discretion.

Although Lord Winterton was later able to assure Mr. Rennie Smith that the Committee's report would be submitted to the Secretary of State and not to the Government, he is not yet in a position to say whether the report and the evidence will be published or whether the Committee's recommendations regarding the economic and financial relations between the Government of India and the States will be placed before the Indian Legislature for its consideration and opinion.

As the result of a deputation introduced by Mr. J. H. Thomas to the Secretary of State last June on the subject of the Bengal Criminal Law Amendment Act, Lord Peel has written to Mr. Thomas stating that for some time past there has been no person in prison under the Act, and that the Bengal Government have now found it possible to release those few persons who were still under detention in their own homes or in villages. There are still a small number under obligation to report their movements to the police, although not otherwise under restraint, but even those it is hoped to release from their obligations in a week or two.

THE INDIAN STATES INQUIRY COMMITTEE.

As foreshadowed in THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA a fortnight ago, the Indian States Inquiry Committee has adjourned until November 22. At the last sitting on November 13, Sir Leslie Scott concluded his survey and exposition of the evidence submitted by the standing Committee of the Chamber of Princes and a large number of other rulers.

The printed material, examination of which by Counsel has already occupied fourteen sittings, covers over 3,000 folios of documented instances of defective working of the machinery by which the relations of the Princes and the Paramount Power are at present regulated and of alleged encroachments, by administrative action or British Indian legislation, on the rights and interests of the States. The last of the four volumes into which the material, for the sake of convenience, has been divided, on which Counsel was speaking before the adjournment, relates to a variety of economic questions in which it is held by the Princes that the interests of their States have suffered materially on account of policies adopted by British India in respect of excise, opium, customs, income-tax, posts, telegraphs and telephones.

After the adjournment it is understood that Counsel for the Princes, in the course of probably three more sittings, will bring into closer relation the legal and constitutional position as laid down by himself and other Counsel and the facts as set forth in the above mentioned printed material. As previously indicated his primary endeavour will be to show that the present system by which political relations with the States are conducted is unsatisfactory because it is at variance with the true constitutional position, and does not carry out the declared policy of the Crown to safeguard the rights of the States.

The French girls' school of Our Lady of Zion at Smyrna has been closed by the Turks.

Lieut.-Colonel Sir L. B. H. Haworth, Political Resident in the Persian Gulf, who recently received his knighthood, has retired and is returning to England shortly.

THE SERBO-CROAT CRISIS.

By C. D. BOOTH.

The past week has been characterized by one event of major political importance. King Alexander has gone to Paris, to consult his dentist certainly, but also, it is said, to take advice from French statesmen as to the best means of reconciling Serbia and Croatia. At the same time Dr. Antun Trumbitch, the Dalmatian associate of Dr. Matchek, is also in France seeking to present the Croat case in an unofficial way and thus to gain the indirect support of the Quai d'Orsay.

Whilst these negotiations are going on the situation in Yugoslavia remains critical. All the political leaders of Belgrade are anxious for a return to normal conditions, but each one has a different view of the means required to effect it. The followers of M. Voukitchevitch, President of the Radical Club, demand severity in dealing with the Croatian dissidents. M. Aca Stoyanovitch, also a Radical, backed up by the banking and industrial interests, definitely favours a policy of conciliation and concession, and M. Davidovitch, the Democratic leader, has upon several occasions expressed his agreement with the Croats in their demand for revision of the Constitution.

Dr. Koroshetz, leader of the Slovene Clericals, Prime Minister by the grace of M. Voukitchevitch and consent of the Radical Party, pursues a policy of tactful inactivity, realizing full well that, if he offends his Serbian allies, he will be removed, but that, if the Croats eventually win, he will profit by not opposing them too strongly during the present struggle.

Here in Zagreb the atmosphere is clearer. The Peasant-Democrat coalition led by Dr. Matchek and M. Svetozar Pribitchevitch stands united in its attitude of ignoring the Belgrade Government and all its works. A social boycott has been applied to all persons and institutions connected with the central Parliament. This boycott, although not complete, is causing much embarrassment to officials and a considerable falling off in trade between Belgrade and Zagreb. It is also being used as an instrument to silence moderate Croats who would favour meeting the unofficial emissaries of Belgrade in a friendly spirit.

To the boycott the Government has retaliated—so it is alleged by the Croats—by deliberately mismanaging the State railways in such a way as to deprive Zagreb of its normal supplies of wood, coal and sugar. That there is a shortage of these commodities cannot be doubted, but past history of the railway administration shows mismanagement to be a not unusual condition in all parts of the realm. Hence the coincidence of the shortage and the boycott cannot be accepted as adequate evidence of malice on the part of Belgrade.

The responsible heads of the Peasant-Democrat coalition in Zagreb, from whom the writer secured statements last week, seem to differ slightly in their fundamental demands, although they work in close accord in all tactical matters.

Dr. Matchek for the Croatian peasants says: "It is impossible that we ever return to the Skupshtina in Belgrade, not only because it would be against the honour of the Croat nation, but, also because we could achieve nothing there. The military camarilla rules in all Serbia." When asked what he was demanding, he stated: "Separation of Serbia and Croatia in all things except their common allegiance to the King; in other words, personal union."

M. Pribitchevitch, head of the Serbian Democrats in Croatia, had a somewhat different formula. He said: "The conditions of our return to the Belgrade Skupshtina are dissolution of the present Parliament and the holding of free elections. If these be granted, we shall have a majority, and will then demand revision of the Vidovdan Constitution, so that Croatia may have a wide form of legislative and administrative autonomy."

It is here to be remarked that M. Pribitchevitch knows

from former experience that free elections in the whole country are impossible. Hence his seeming moderation may be assumed for the benefit of his constituents who are Serbs and only recently converted to the Croat doctrines.

The peasants themselves, whom the late Stepan Raditch taught to be conscious of their power as the greatest factor of production in an agricultural State, are determined to fight for equality of franchise and taxation, together with freedom from the corrupt and incompetent bureaucracy of Belgrade. They realize that unification of law under a central Government will not work in a kingdom of which some provinces are highly organized and others are inhabited by nomadic peoples not yet emerged from tribal forms. Therefore they will follow their leaders in the fight for decentralization and autonomy.

Economic pressure inside and outside Yugoslavia is being exercised towards the same end. Hence it is highly probable that some formula will shortly be found which will permit the King to use his good offices in determining a situation which is disastrous to his country, and a cause of unsettlement to the whole of south-eastern Europe.

EGYPTIAN POLITICS.

We have received the following telegraphic communication from Wissa Wassif Bey, formerly President of the Egyptian Chamber of Deputies:—

I have the honour to communicate to you a summary of the first meeting of the Egyptian Parliament held despite the prohibition of the present Government, whose troops and policemen garrison the streets and whose detectives pursue Members of Parliament.

According to Article 96 of the Constitution, which reads: "Parliament is convoked in ordinary session every year by the King before the third Saturday of November. In default of not being convoked Parliament meets of its own accord," and, as the present Ministry has impeded by armed forces the meeting of Parliament in its buildings, therefore the House met on the third Saturday of November at six p.m. in the buildings of *Al Balagh* newspaper. The House elected as members of the Bureau Wissa Wassif Bey, President; Shamsy Pasha and Hussein Hilal Bey as Vice-Presidents; and as its Parliamentary secretaries and whips the same members as in the last session. Nahas Pasha spoke as follows: "The present Ministry has not only ignored the convocation of Parliament, but it has mobilised all its armed forces to prevent the constitutional meeting of the nation's representatives, although it is obvious that the armed forces are intended only to protect the nation, not to be used against it. We are here to-day, in respect of the sacred oath of allegiance to the Constitution, to defend the nation's rights and finances against all aggressors. I moved the following motion: 'Whereas the Parliamentary régime has been in force since March 15, 1924, and whereas Article 155 of the Constitution states that nothing laid down by the present Constitution can under any pretext whatever be suspended, except as a temporary measure under martial law or in time of war; whereas in no case can any meeting held under conditions laid down by the present Constitution be impeded; whereas Article 138 gives Parliament alone the right of sanctioning Budget revenues and expenditure, otherwise the old Budget remains in force; whereas Article 137 states no public loans can be raised nor financial engagements contracted before previous sanction by Parliament; whereas the present Ministry by despotically suspending the Parliamentary régime and by closing down Parliament has made wanton aggression against the Constitution despite all sacred oaths of allegiance; whereas Parliament approved the declarations of the previous Constitutional Government concerning great irrigation projects; whereas the Ministry's assumption of the right of legislation is a violation of the law issued in 1926; therefore, be it resolved first, that the House reiterates a vote of no-con-

fidence in the present Ministry; secondly, that the Ministry is gravely responsible for acts committed against the Constitution; thirdly, that last year's Budget is alone the one that must be in force, and Ministers are responsible personally for expenditure unauthorised by Parliament; fourthly, that the House condemns the hasty attempt at the execution of the project for the Gabal Awlia Dam in the absence of Parliament; fifthly, that all political, commercial and financial engagements with foreign Powers or individuals are null and void and not binding on the nation; sixthly, that the House demands the withdrawal of the armed forces occupying Parliament buildings and preventing the nation's representatives from fulfilling duties imposed by the Constitution."

The resolution was carried unanimously. Nahas Pasha then suggested that: "As the present Ministry has prohibited newspapers and printing offices from publishing Parliament's resolutions, members should communicate them directly to their constituencies and then return to Cairo for further meetings." This suggestion was unanimously accepted. Fikrabaza Bey, in the name of the extreme Nationalists, declared that in the face of the present crisis the minority and majority should amalgamate, that there should be no more Party strife, and that all should present a united front and oppose the existing unconstitutional rebellious Ministry. Sayed Ayoub moved the necessity of meeting in the Parliament buildings at all cost. The Bureau was charged to find the necessary means for carrying this out. The meeting ended at 7 p.m. The President will fix the date of the next meeting. The Senate held a similar meeting and passed the same resolutions.

THE PRESS IN THE NEAR EAST.

The Neo-Turk Script.

It is significant of the thoroughness with which the Ghazi's *mot d'ordre* regarding the writing of Turkish in Latin characters is being carried out that the Press continually returns to the subject in editorial comments, apart from a faithful chronicle of every incident connected with the introduction of the new letters. For a large number of Turks who had some knowledge of a foreign language the learning of the new script would, of course, present no difficulties; but the sense of national solidarity is as carefully displayed in this matter as in all others, and the whole nation is represented as at one in its laudable efforts to give effect to Mustapha Kemal Pasha's lead. Thus no incongruity is felt in depicting in a leading article in *La République*—the French edition of *Jumhouriet*—the progress of the new writing in the following terms, the writer being proficient in at least two European languages:—

The fact is that in spite of all the effort that we have made for months now to initiate ourselves in our new alphabet, we are still far from being able to read and write fluently with the new letters. We hesitate in writing and we stutter in reading, and that with much slowness and hesitation. On the receipt of a letter written in the

new characters, our face involuntarily clouds over before we begin to read it, and it is only by carrying through the reading—or rather deciphering—with courage and, as it were, forcing ourselves to it, that we are able at last to heave a sigh of relief."

Learning the new alphabet is compared with the attitude of a man who is roused out of bed before he is really awake, when his whole instinct prompts him to turn over and go to sleep again; but the urgency of the business before him compels him to bestir himself. Learning the new alphabet has to be regarded as the most serious problem of the day.

The Great Guide of our nation, the President of the Turkish Republic, has shown us that it is the golden key which will open wide before us all the doors of civilisation and of all the progress that will lead us to the height of prosperity and happiness. Our second guide, the head of the Government, Ismet Pasha, has declared in his turn that he is wholly convinced that the new characters are called to open, assuredly, a new era of regeneration and of progress for the country and the Turkish nation.

The President of the Republic, the august Ghazi, has stated that the new alphabet constitutes his most precious gift to the Turkish nation. Nothing could be more just, for if it is true that we are resolved to do all that is required to take our place at the side of the great modern peoples, we must know that the new letters come at the head of what we have to accomplish to realise the end that he have at heart.

Minorities in Yugoslavia.

The following communication has been addressed by Dr. Stephan Kraft, President of the German Deputies' Club in Yugoslavia, to the Yugoslav Prime Minister and to all the party organisations:—

I have to propose to the Government, or to the leaders of the Ministerial parties, in accordance with the repeated resolutions and the repeated recommendation of the Inter-Parliamentary Union and of the International Union for the League of Nations, that it should resolve, either on the strength of a parliamentary motion to be introduced by the German Party's organisation or on the strength of a previous agreement among the Parties, to form a Commission composed equally of parliamentary representatives of the majority and of the minority among the population. This Commission would be charged to examine the condition of the national Minorities and their grievances, in order that injustices and breaches of the law should be removed and avoided and disputes settled. In the first place this Commission would have to examine the actual and the legal position of Minorities in respect of cultural and school questions, which constitute the kernel of the Minorities' problem, with a view to finding a basis for an agreed solution, which will satisfy both sides and will be able to consolidate permanently good relations between the majority and the minority.

The Minority question, and with it the necessity for a forum of discussion above party, has become very real as a result of the Primary Education Bill brought in by the Government. The representatives of the Minorities had no possibility of presenting their point of view and their well-founded legitimate wishes when the Bill was drafted. Inasmuch as the terms of this measure endanger the most important rights, safeguarded by the Constitution, and the guarantee of the free cultural development of the Minorities, and as the proceedings in the Committees offer no opportunity for a comprehensive and impartial discussion, freed from party considerations, I have to request that the School question should be handed over to an equally balanced Commission, in order that this may find the basis for an agreed solution, which will enable the work of the Committee to be brought to a rapid and successful conclusion. The establishment of an equally balanced Minorities Commission would certainly enable the Government permanently to be informed of the position of the Minorities question and thereby to pave the way for a final regulation of the legal and equitable position of Minorities in the State."

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THE KURDS.

By A. SAFRASTIAN.

[At the Seventeenth Orientalist Congress recently held at Oxford, Mr. A. Safrastian delivered a lecture upon "Researches into the Origins and Ethnological Formation of Kurds," which we are permitted by the courtesy of the lecturer to publish below.—ED.]

In attempting to approach the problem of the origins of the Kurdish tribes and their ethnographical formation through the early historical period, one has to consider, it appears, one fundamental rule and a few essential points.

Such an approach to the question of Kurdish origins seems to be the more intelligible when it is realised that many complications of a particular nature will otherwise arise, complications which have baffled great Orientalists up to now in offering a reasonable hypothesis towards the solution of this interesting question. The fundamental rule referred to above should consist in making a clear distinction between the original Kurdish names, personal names, place, river and mountain names, and such other peculiarities as they can be ascertained from historical records, and the distorted transliterations and perversions of those names as imposed upon them by the foreign writers, such as the Greek and Roman classical writers in earlier periods and the Arabic, Persian, and Turkish writers in later times.

It is needless to say that these inaccurate preservasions of most Kurdish original names by foreign records may partly be explained by linguistic and orthographic limitations which have prevented these writers from correctly reproducing Kurdish names, and partly by the ignorance and a sense of ethnic superiority of those authors, by the carelessness of their copyists, and so on.

Great Orientalists like Sir William Ouseley (a), Barbier de Meynard (b), Theodor Nöldeke (c), and others have so well emphasised these points that nothing better could be added to them.

With a view to illustrating both these deficiencies of foreign historians in relation to the Kurds and their names, it is sufficient to mention Herodotus (Book VI. 101), who, describing the Busae, one of six Median tribes, has made, it appears, one inevitable and one careless mistake. Oppert (d), referring to this name Busae, says that this reminds us of the word Buza, Sanskrit Buga, which means "autochthonous." On the same page, Oppert further says that the name Busae, although essentially Aryan, can but be the Persian translation of its own Turanian name, so that Busae would really be the Indo-Germanic word for "cultivator."

I submit that this tribal name Busae, as mentioned by Herodotus, is to be identified with the old name Bösa, Posa, a class of wandering tent-dwellers, professional singers and dancers, who went about to entertain settled peoples. The name Posa exists to-day in the same sense, just like the gipsies in Eastern Europe. One is often warned by experienced philologists against attaching much importance to vocal identity existing between classical and modern names. But in this case there appears to be little doubt. As the Greek alphabet did not possess the lingual s, Herodotus naturally could not reproduce Bösa; secondly, he may have confused the name of an autochthonous tribe with one of the invading Median tribes.

This brings me to some other essential points which may usefully be borne in mind in dealing with the Kurdish names.

It is a well-known fact, important for such an investigation, that the Kurdish people has never had a script of its

own, and, therefore, no written literature in its own alphabet. No records of its remote past have been preserved in cuneiform inscriptions by its own rulers or historians; its national epics, lyrics, and oral traditions, unless preserved by hazard in the histories of its neighbours, have in the course of centuries lost all shape and basis; nor is its old history, like that of some of other peoples, dimly shadowed forth in myth or legend until comparatively modern times. As Professor Lerch (e), the Kurdish scholar, says, but for the Persian, Armenian, Syrian and Arabic historians, who give only meagre information about them, we should have known still less in regard to the Kurdish tribes.

Another point to be remembered in this connexion is what the great Iranian scholars, Spiegel and Geiger (f), have pointed out long ago that both from linguistic and historical standpoints the Kurds have had closer connexion and intercourse with Iran and Armenia than with any other neighbours who have come in contact with them; and, therefore, it is to be implied, truer transcriptions of ancient Kurdish names have been preserved in the Pahlavi, the later Sassanian and the classical Armenian records than in those of Greeks, Arabs and others.

It is hardly necessary here to go into the maze of the Kurdish names as used by the Greco-Roman classics. Those bewildering variations have already been minutely examined by Nöldeke (g), Weissbach (h), and G. R. Driver (i). The data supplied by those classical records will be quoted here when they may supplement the information obtained from the Eastern records. Divesting the subject from these classical associations in so far as it can be done on historical evidence, I propose to lay down before this Congress some results which I have obtained in extensive travels among the Kurdish tribes, from a comparative study of the language, place and tribal names and of the available records.

To begin with the name Kurd as recorded in old Persian. The legendary story of Artakhshir Papakan, the founder of the Sassanian dynasty, as recorded in the "Karnamakh i Artakhshir i Papakan" (j) refers to the battles which Artakhshir had to wage against "Madig, the King of the Kurds" (k). In Pahlavi, as well as in modern Persian and Turkish, the word Kurd means Wolf. Considering the reputation which certain Kurdish tribes have enjoyed from the Sumerian times down to early Assyrian Monarchs (l), it is not impossible to assume that, following a much older tradition, the Achæmenian and Parthian dynasties applied this patronymic to the Kurds, first as a term of contempt and disparagement, and secondly as a symbol of the terror which these ferocious

(e) "Forschungen über die Kurden," St. Petersburg, 1858, Introduction, p. 4.

(f) "Grundrisse der Iranischen Philologie," Vol. 1, Part II., p. 252.

(g) "Kardu und Kurden in Zeitschrift für H. Kiepert," pp. 68-77.

(h) Article "Kardouchi" in Pauly Wistowa's Real Encyclopædie der Classischen Altertumswissenschaft, Vol. X., Part 1, 1919, Col. 1933-36.

(i) "The name Kurd . . ." in Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society, 1923, pp. 397 ff.

(j) Translated first (a) by Nöldeke in "Beiträge zur Kunde der Indo-Germanischen Sprachen," 1879, Vol. 4, pp. 22-69; and (b) by Darab Peshotan Sanjana as Karnamakh, A.P.

(k) D.P. Sanjana, idem. por. V., page 22—Kûrdân Shah i Madig. Sanjana adds in a note that this might also mean "the Median King of the Kurds."

(l) Cf. D. D. Luckenbill "Ancient Records of Assyria and Babylonia," Chicago, 1926, Vol. 1., page 53: Jukulti—Urta I. (Ca. 1250 B.C.) "destroyer of the land of the Kurti" who were insubmissive and all of them evil people. . . .

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(a) "Oriental Geography of Ebn Haukal," 1800. Introduction pages xvi-xvii.

(b) "Murgam al Buldan" of Jaqut, 1861, page 264.

(c) "Beiträge zur Alten Geschichte und Geographie," Festschrift für H. Kiepert, 1895, Article "Kardu" Kurden, page 74.

(d) "Le peuple et la langue des Medes," 1879, page 7.

mountaineers occasioned to the ruling houses in all the surrounding regions.

I am not competent to say whether there is any etymological connexion between the Sumero-Babylonian geographical term Gutium, Guti and the later Assyrian names Kûti, Kurtie, both forms used by Tiglat Pileser I (*m*) (ca. 1100 B.C.); and then between these Sumerian and Assyrian appellatives and the Iranian term Kurd.

M. Streck (*n*) and Nöldeke agree that the original name of Jabal Judi, in Bohtan, one of the main subjects of Kurdish heroic poems, was Gudi, and that this change of the name was due to the transplantation of the name of Jabal Judi, in Arabia, on Gudi in Bohtan, during the Arab invasion in the seventh century of our era. This epic name Gudi appears to correspond in many respects with Sumerian Gutium, Guti, as the homeland of the people who bear the name.

In the circumstances it seems difficult to trace any historical analogy between the Guti people as mentioned by the Sumerians and the Iranian name Kurd which has become the eponym of the race.

This system of alien racial eponyms has not been imposed on the Kurdish tribes alone; but also on their immediate neighbours, with whom they have been in contact from time immemorial, such as the Armenians, who, in spite of the Behistun inscription of Darius, the records of Herodotus, and all subsequent classical writers, still call themselves Haikh, Hayastan; the Georgians, who call themselves Kharthli, Sakartvelo; and with certain qualifications the Nestorians, who even to-day still use their name Assuri, Aisori, Assyrian, and so forth. But that the Kurds have adopted this racial appellative, and apparently have made it their own, is merely due to the fact that, possessing no written literature in the earlier ages, they have partly forgotten their genuine eponym; and that by the strength of later traditions in the Muhammadan period have come to be reconciled to this name.

There is, however, more than one proof to state that the original eponym the Kurdish tribes gave themselves was Mâr, Mar, Mer, and not Kurd.

I have heard this name Mâr and Mar among very old tribes as far from each other as the clans of Mogk, the Moxuene of the Greeks; of Bohtan, and among the Sinjabi tribes living in the Eastern slopes of the Zagros, as a common link between them and as a standard of ethnical dignity and honour. For instance, in a case of Mogk, while two tribal chiefs were quarrelling over a flimsy matter, one of the parties, with a view to awakening the better nature in the other, appealed to him by the following question, "na dû Mar e?" the nearest translation of which would be, "art thou not a Mar?"—just in the same way as an Englishman would call upon another to "be English."

On another occasion in Bohtan, a Kurdish muleteer belonging to the Batwan tribe, asked another Kurd of the Duderan tribe—"Boda Mar—adi cinuna?" which means "Is there no mar-ism in thee?"

This oral tradition of their Mar origin is still kept in the memory and the speech of those old tribes, whose name at least can be traced by philological identification to Herodotus and other records.

There is some historical evidence to prove this

hypothesis. Several Armenian records from the fourth century onwards to modern times refer to the Kurds as Mar, Mar (*q*), the letter (*q*) being the plural terminal in old Armenian; Maracuoc-Asharh, the land of the Mar(*q*) (*o*), side by side with Kordukh, Kordrikh, Tmorikj, and seven other districts jointly called Korjaikh or Korduac Asharh, the land of the Kurds, as specified in the Armenian geography attributed to Moses Khorenaci.

It may be held true that the Armenian historians of the fourth and fifth century used Maracuoc Asharh as a geographical expression in a narrow sense, and that after the seventh century it was extended to cover all the districts considered as integral parts of Korjaikh (*p*).

In his chronicle (*q*) Berberian, mentioning the rebellion of Bedrkhan Bek and other Kurdish chieftains in the forties of last century, calls them the Princes of Mar (*q*). Father Tchamitch (*r*), in his standard "History of the Armenians," follows the same tradition as the above-mentioned historians of the seventeenth century.

This generic name Mar, preserved by the Armenian tradition, coupled with a dim survival of the same eponym among the old tribesmen themselves, may lead to the conclusion I have drawn above.

It is obvious that the first Armenian historians used the name Mar to mean also the Medes.

Whether this name has any philological identity with the Assyrian Christian title Mar, meaning Lord, as in Mar Simun, Mar Jakob, and so forth, is a question for the Syriac scholars to consider.

This name Mâr raises a series of questions which may closely be connected with the various origins and formation of the Kurdish tribes.

Is there any ethnic link between this name Mâr and the people Maryannu (*s*) of the Hittite inscriptions?

Does this term Maryannu consist of the root word Mâr and the termination *annu*, the nominal formation in the dialect of the Subarean speech of Indo-Iranian origin, as Sidney Smith thinks.

It is to be noted that more or less similar suffixes form place names and family names also in various Kurdish dialects as well as in the Armenian. *An*, *ani* in Kurdish, such as Bohtan, the land of the Bôchti Kurds; Mihrani, the Miran tribes; Milli, tribes of to-day in Turkish; Hadabani Kurds, the tribes living in Hadyab, the Adiabene of the Greeks. Again, *an* terminations, *uni* in the Armenian, such as Pagaran, the land of the Baqratanis; Arshakuni, the family name of Arshak, the Arsacids of the Greeks (*t*).

This *Maryannu* nobility governed their native lands of Mittani and Hurri about 1450 B.C., followed by hosts of their mounted retainers, and owed an apparently nominal allegiance at times to Mittani Kings, at others to the great Hittite Kings at Bogaz-Köi, and possibly to Egypt, and later on to Assyria.

The existence of this Mar, Maryannu people in Eastern Tigris regions under the variants of mâ-uru, má-er, matumâer, has been mentioned by Hammurabi (*u*). Hommel (*p*. 393) finds it very difficult to explain this name Mar(*ki*). Perhaps the Kurdish and the Armenian traditions about Mar can elucidate this question.

Conditions of political relationships of this kind have presented such a historic continuity in Kurdistan and

(*m*) Luckenbill: *idem*. I., pp. 62, 64.

(*n*) "Zeitschrift für Assyriologie." XV. p. 156.

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ORIENTAL LANGUAGES AND RELIGIONS

Instruction is given in the principal languages of the East, and of Africa, and in Oriental and African History, Religions and Customs.

For particulars apply to THE SECRETARY.

(*o*) Mar Apas Catina, cited by Moses Khorenaci,

(a) Book I., Chapter VIII., Khorenaci—II. 47.

(b) P. Puzantaci, IV., 50. V. II.

(c) Arakel Javrizeci, Chapter 34.

(d) Zakaria Sargavak (1926-1699), Chapter 4.

(*p*) Cf. Father Jupijian. "Topography of Old Armenia" (in Armenian), 1818, p. 47.

(*q*) A. Berberian, 1871, pp. 83-85, 86.

(*r*) 3 Volumes (1-82) Venice.

(*s*) Hugo Winckler: M.D.D.G. No. 35, page 67.

Arnold Gustavs: Z. A. (N. F.) Bond 2 (36), pp. 397-302.

Sidney Smith: "Early History of Assyria to 1000 B.C.," 1928, pp. 238 ff.

(*t*) Heinrich Hübschmann: "Altarmenische Ortsnamen." Indo-Germanische Forschungen XVI., 1904, page 368 and note 1.

(*u*) Sayce: In P.B.A.S., 1899, XXI., page 24 f.

Hommel: "Ethnologie und Geographie," 1926.

Armenia through the ages down to modern times, that a deduction seems to be inevitable: namely, that in the second millenium B.C., if not earlier, some sort of feudal aristocracy calling itself Maryannu ruled over Mittani and Hurri, countries which by their geographical positions as defined by the Hittite records have been identified roughly with Kurdistan and Armenia (v). The Sumerian records refer to the same countries as Gutium and Subartu (w), Gutium and Urartu.

At the present stage of our archæological knowledge it would seem impossible to discover any connexion of Kurdish tribes with those events which took place between the invasion of the Aryan tribes and the downfall of Assyria and of the Khaldian Kingdom at Van.

Professors Sayce and Lehmann-Haupt may probably inform the Congress whether any link can be traced between the ruling House of Musasir and Manna and some of the Kurdish tribes which have lived and still live around the shores of the Lake Urmia and all along the Great Zab. I venture to submit that one of those districts, Zikirtu, mentioned both by Sargon of Assyria (722-705 B.C.) and Rusas of Khaldia, may have something to do with the name Kurd. Zi-Kirtu, Darius names the district Asagarta (x). Herodotus (VII. 85) describes these Sagartians in a graphic manner. Ptolemæus (VI.2.6) places them at the gates of Zagros. Putting together all the information that can be derived from above sources, and considering a certain likeness of the names, I am inclined to identify these Sagartians with the Shikaki, a powerful Kurdish tribe of rough-riders wandering to-day between south of Lakes Van and Urmia and as far south as Bohtan. The description of their dress and armour by Herodotus would have been true up to modern times, with the exception that to-day, in addition to dagger and lasso, they carry also the modern quick-firing rifle.

Many tribal names of to-day can on more or less similar lines be approximated to ethnic groups as preserved by the sources mentioned, as well as by the Syriac records, Tabari and Byzantine chronicles.

The orthodox historiography which makes out the Kurds to be the descendants of the Medes, or at least to have coalesced with them to such an extent as to produce the complete disappearance of the latter, appears to be more than justified in the light of modern research.

It is now agreed that the Amadai or Mada, first time mentioned in 835 B.C. by Salmaneser, were once the invading Aryan tribes who eventually formed the Median Empire. Can this tribe Amadai be identified with the great House of Amaduni of Armenian classics? The Satraps of Amaduni family, called "Amadunians Nahar-rûtiûn" in Armenian, held one of the highest ranks in the Armenian Court under Arshakuni Kings. They played some important parts. For instance, Prince Oda Amaduni, "who had conserved the Armenian treasury (during the absence of King Tirdat in Rome in 159 A.D. was raised to the highest dignity in the state by the King on his return." (y) Again, Prince Vahan Amaduni was nominated in 428 A.D. the Commander-in-Chief of the army after the deposition of King Artashir by the Persians (z).

Another Aryan tribe, the Ummân Manda, the Manda crowds of the Assyrian records, appear in the Armenian history, like the Mandakunis, through some Kurdish connexion as yet undefined.

There can be little doubt that the name Manda is the same as the Armenian Satrapy of Mandakun; Manda, the letter *k* interposed between the two long vowels; the end-

ing *uni* making the family name. Mr. Sidney Smith agreed with me on this identification.

To mention only one instance, two Mandakuni princes led their cavalry in the religious war which the Armenians waged in 451 A.D. against Sassanian Persia (aa).

These tentative identifications by no means imply that the Amadai or Umman Manda and many others like them were Kurdish by origin and Armenian by political association, or *vice versa*. They are merely produced to show that the process of racial individuality has gone through many contacts, battles, gradual and mutual assimilations and cultural influences.

It is possible to demonstrate on historical evidence that between the eighth and first centuries B.C. the older Kurdish groups of Sahrazor, in its wider sense, and of the Median plateau were often strengthened by fresh Aryan and Turanian tribes, such as Bactrians, Indians, Scythians, and even pure Caucasians. Since the Muhammadan period they have amalgamated many groups from their immediate neighbours.

To such an ethnographical evolution may be ascribed the vigour and the virility of the Kurdish people, which is not only healthy in physique and morals, but also full of promise in respect of economic and social progress.

The Kurds are still in the tribal stage of social organisation as they were 3,000 years ago. They have stood the test of centuries and have maintained their individuality through storm and stress. They are as good human beings as anybody else. And if there are some prejudices still widely held against them, they are certainly due to ignorance and lack of historical perspective.

(aa) Eghisê Vartabed, Chapters IV. and V.

CHRISTMAS CARDS.

Already in London there are abundant jolly signs that the season of Christmas is approaching, so that the ordinary man and woman at once think of presents, or at least of cards that must be sent to somebody. Long months ago, however, Messrs. Raphael Tuck and Sons had been preparing to cope with this seasonal desire, and all sorts of cards and other small gifts have been devised by them. What one particularly notices, in addition to their usual high standard in card-production, is the ingenuity and artistry which have gone to the manufacture of such useful things as calendars, picture books, "bon appetit" and "lacetite" paperware, transfers, and "Milady's Handkerchief Series." Neither the discerning mortal with plenty of leisure nor the harassed business man can go far wrong in selecting from Messrs. Raphael Tuck's catalogue.

DR. HAROLD WILLIAMS.

The death is announced of Dr. Harold Williams, Director of the Foreign Department of *The Times*. Dr. Williams, who was fifty-two years of age, had a remarkable facility in languages. He was particularly interested in Russia and the other Slavonic-speaking peoples of Europe, but he was also very familiar with the problems of the East, and especially of Western Asia. Among his many linguistic achievements was ability to read and to speak Arabic and Turkish. He was a man of great personal charm, and his death will be a loss not only to his colleagues of *The Times*, but also to a very wide circle of personal friends.

Three people were killed in an explosion at Gabrovo, Bulgaria, on November 13.

Government candidates secured 55 per cent. of the votes polled in the election to seats in the Bulgarian Conseils Généraux on November 12.

Five truck-loads of scientific works recently reached Belgrade University as a first consignment of the equivalent of 1,311,680 gold marks accepted in this form as German War reparations to Serbia.

The brigand brothers Koumbaioi, to whose extradition Albania gave his consent, arrived last week at Corfu, where they confessed that they captured the Opposition candidates, MM. Mylonas and Melas, during the August elections near Joannina.

On the occasion of the eighth anniversary of the signature by Yugoslavia and Italy of the Treaty of Rapallo (November 12) students called a meeting at the Belgrade University. Serious anti-Italian demonstrations were reported from Liubljana, where violent speeches were made against Italian policy.

(v) Weidner: "Politische Dokumente aus Kleinasien Bogh—K. Studien No. 8, 1917, pp. 2-91.

(w) S. Langdon and G. R. Driver: "Oxford Editions of Cuneiform Texts," "Letters of the First Babylonian Dynasty," 1923-29, Vol. II., p. 8 f.

(x) L. W. King and K. C. Thompson: "The Sculptures and Inscriptions of Darius the Great," 1907.

(b) J. H. Weissbach: "Die Keilinschriften Der Achämeniden," 1911, pp. 29 ff., 41, 59 f.

(y) M. Khorenaci II., 82.

(z) Shazar Parbeci, Ch. 37.

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Book Reviews

THE JAZZING OF BAGHDAD.

"BAGHDAD AND POINTS EAST." By Robert J. Casey. (London: Hutchinson. 18s. net).

Mr. Casey is an American. He believes in Romance. With almost heart-breaking assiduity he tears the heart out of the Past. When the moonlight shines over Palmyra, Babylon, Nineveh and the like he emerges with all the paraphernalia of verbal mechanism to repeople for us these cities as they were in times when History sifted itself from Legend. The process is, so to speak, the jazzing of the Middle East.

But not in any sense of mere entertainment. Mr. Casey is reverent, is really imaginative, is obviously a true believer in the inclusion of verbal jazz among classical forms. His knowledge is not to be despised, and his enthusiasm is of quite terrific quality. These are considerable assets: and who are we to belittle his giving to the saxophone all the best theses in Syria and Iraq?

There is no pose, surely, in Mr. Casey's desire to see "beyond the stars": he had an assignation with Scheherezade, and the present reviewer, at any rate, believes that he kept it. The motor transport which took him to Palmyra was for him a caravan: and he was travelling with ghosts. And when, by the Temple of the Sun, he one night met Zenobia weeping, he wrote:—

Here is the eternal anomaly of the desert—by day one looks upon a scene of wreckage—the wreckage of splendid buildings—the wreckage of the high hopes in which they were pieced together. By day one sees evidence that an empire has paused here for its fleeting glories and passed on over the bone-strewn highway of all empires. By night the years slip away. Shadows put new roofs over the broken colonnades, and pave the rutted streets with dull basalt. The dead stir in the tombs that give the horizon its jagged outline and they troop down here to this crossroads in the wilderness to speak of love in scentless gardens, to haggle with ghostly caravans from the no less ghostly East, to sit about patches of swamp fire by the bitter wells and exchange stories of the days that are gone.

That is Mr. Casey at his best. Often he equals it, and often falls below it. Genuine visualisation and *cliché* are inextricably mixed. You must take the good with the bad. But you are unwise if you do not read Mr. Casey. True, one has nearly to stop dead when one reads such sentences as this, of the place which the author spells Kadamain:—"And there in the golden glare the realm of Harun the Insomniac comes suddenly to life." This is the purest "caption" writing. But Mr. Casey can write jazz convincingly. Listen to the wailing of his violins over Karbala and Muharram: are not the syncopation and the embroidery of the theme intriguing?

The visitor from the West is surprised to note the emotion displayed by the Arab when the reader in the ceremonial quavers over the pages describing how Hussein dying of the thirst cried out for water. Here the reason for the vividness of the re-enactment is not far to seek. Hussein has not been dead more than a thousand years and as a mere religious figure, however important and holy, might be difficult to reconstruct. But the thirst—the terrible danger of the desert—is still here and the sufferings of Hussein and his little son are a poignant, living thing to the sons of Mahomet who have known these things.

The desert lies round about Karbala, grim, expectant—content to wait as it has waited, centuries, æons, to swallow up this town as it has swallowed the other towns that have dared its violence.

Of Mr. Casey's chapters on Baghdad itself there is little to be said, for they are largely a rehash of what has been written elsewhere. But always one is coming across some phrase that stirs the waters of memory. On cities outside Baghdad he sets more ripples spreading than in the capital itself. On Nineveh, for instance:—

The laughter that echoes through the night may be that of the jackal that roams the ruins. Or it may be that of Sargon, the great King, the King of Kings, the King of Assyria, enjoying a joke that probably would be beyond the understanding of a finer and more modern mind.

In fine, Mr. Casey is an engaging guide. His freshness of mind, his eagerness, his power of absorption, for all his occasional lack of discrimination—these are qualities which weight the scales inevitably in his favour. His

enthusiasm is certainly beyond that of the professional writer of books, of the professional seeker after "copy." And because of it, his style, his tricks of presentation, his harmonic formulæ can just be forgiven him. That pardon granted, and his book will become the jolliest of companions.

It ought to be added that Mr. Casey's thirty illustrations, by no means all of which are hackneyed, are extremely well produced.

SHIKAR MEMORIES.

"SPORT AND WILD LIFE IN THE DECCAN." By Brigadier-General R. G. Burton. Illustrated. (London: Seeley, Service and Co. 21s. net.)

This worthy scion of a sporting family well known for its exploits in Southern India has put together a pleasantly written and modest account of his many meetings with tigers, leopards, bears and bison in the forests and jungles of the Deccan, mainly in the northern parts. These encounters were on foot and even General Burton's skill did not avail to save him from at least one severe mauling. There is a faint trace of melancholy in the story of deeds thirty to forty years old, when sport in India was sport, and hard work and skill were sure to meet their reward. It is all very well to say that sport is still to be had in India in plenty by the man blessed with leisure and money. But this will hardly comfort the hard-worked and poorly paid British officer of the present days. General Burton's were the good old days of the famous Hyderabad Contingent, to which he had the honour of belonging. Alas! it too has gone and is now little more than a memory, like those of the campaigns of Wellesley, which the author skilfully works into his book.

Not only are we given very numerous accounts of shikar incidents (for the author had more tigers and leopards to his credit than most of his contemporaries), but also much interesting forest lore and many sketches of the jungle villagers are interspersed. The book will be read with interest and pleasure by all sportsmen who know the Deccan, and will certainly appeal to the greater public who delight in good writing on the subject of sport. The illustrations are mostly excellent, and the wild animals depicted are shown cleverly posed so as to appear as nearly as possible in natural attitudes and in natural surroundings.

C. S-W.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

"The Cult of the Peacock Angel." By R. H. W. Empson. (London: Messrs. H. F. and G. Witherby. 15s. net.)

"The Empire of the Great Mogul." By J. S. Hoyland. Critical Notes and Introduction by S. N. Banerjee. (Bombay: D. B. Tara-porevala Sons and Co. Rs.5.8.)

"Africa." The Journal of the International Institute of African Languages and Cultures. Edited by Diedrich Westerman. (London: Humphrey Milford. 16s. net.)

"Vertical Land." By Le Comte de Jauzé. (London: Gerald Duckworth and Co., Ltd. 6s. net.)

"Those Ancient Lands." By Louis Golding. (London: Messrs. Ernest Benn, Ltd. 12s. 6d. net.)

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THE WEEK AT HOME

London, Tuesday Morning.

Aliens.

An interesting debate took place in the Commons last week on the subject of the entry of aliens into this country. At present, of course, the regulations concerning aliens are those of the Act of 1919, which was largely influenced by the exigences of the War. Now the Labour Party (and presumably the Liberals also) suggests that this Act is contrary to the traditions of Great Britain, and that equal liberty of asylum, whether provided to reactionary or to revolutionary, ought to be given to refugees.

The Home Secretary, however, would have none of this, and claimed that he had already excluded many persons of an obnoxious type. The trouble is that the Labour Party complain of his definition of obnoxious. Revolutionary tendencies can mean more than one thing, although it is natural enough for Conservatives to imagine that all revolution must be directed against the things for which they stand.

But the problem is, I think, a little deeper than either Labour man or Conservative would care to make it. Undoubtedly the present regulations are open to abuse; undoubtedly mistakes have been made under them. But that is no argument for a wholesale opening of the shores of Great Britain again to the type of man, who, when he has become a British citizen, is not prepared to undertake the whole duties of his new citizenship. Pah! A relic of the military mind, you say? Well, and what if it is? The benefits which such men can bring to this country by no means outweigh the disadvantages. And as for the political refugees, it certainly is a pity that their opinions should be subjected to the determining scrutiny of the Home Secretary; but, on the whole, would Great Britain be so very much the gainer by the promulgation of their ideas in this country? Theoretical sympathy with the alien is one thing, but its practical application, like so many things in the old Liberal programme, is another. In the country at large I should very much doubt whether a demand exists for the loosening of the restrictions which hinge about the entry of aliens into this country.

England and America.

It is with considerable justification that some of the wisest heads of our time are displaying anxiety over the present relations between England and America. The politicians, of course, are trying to make party capital out of the matter—as if under a Liberal or a Labour

Administration Englishmen would better understand the American nation, and *vice versa*. The truth is, however, that neither nation understands the other; and will not do so until the essential fact is realised that the two nations are foreign to each other, and all this absurd talk about common blood, the descent from the Anglo-Saxons, and the rest of it, is deliberately put on one side.

But quite obviously Anglo-American relations are not satisfactory. The ordinary Englishman may be able to get along well enough, even splendidly, with the ordinary American, but officially one encounters jars at every turn. Largely the difficulties derive from the War, about which there are fundamental disagreements which will not be resolved by the mere reiteration of them. The only thing to do is to attempt to get inside the other fellow's skin—a process in which many of the best Americans, although, unfortunately, not their most highly placed—are indulging. If the present ignorant and dangerous talk is continued on both sides of the Atlantic, there will never be real comfort in our post-War world. For the Englishman, who, speaking with knowledge and responsibility, enumerates America's shortcomings, I have admiration; but the prejudiced ignoramus who indulges in "anti-Yank" tirades is more than a nuisance. Luckily, however, he does not seem to count for so much over here as does his counter-part in America. A speech such as that made by President Coolidge on Armistice Day is absolutely inconceivable here; and a more theatrical nation than the British would have become badly rattled by it.

The Gale.

The chief topic of the conversation of almost everyone during the week-end was the gale which suddenly tore down on us last Friday. Trees and hats and glass windows and slate roofs and hoardings and telephonic lines went flying, and there was hardly a place in the country which did not suffer at least some minor damage. On Tower Bridge, for instance, men could not walk singly: they had to link arms. One man on a horse cart passing over the Bridge was blown clean off. And, of course, in many parts of the country there were fatal accidents.

Now before this year one had imagined that such things were simply not done in England. We knew that winds existed in such queer places as Asia and Africa; one had even encountered them in the barbarian North—Scotland. But that the South of England should ever be violated in this way had not entered into our calculations. But this year, it is obvious that anything may happen. There is nothing in the way of extremes that 1928 has not suffered.

Monosyllabism.

The Englishman's love of the English language is not so intense as the Frenchman's love of the French language, despite the fact that he has the finest literature in the world. He is, nevertheless, sufficiently interested to be brought up with a start when he is told, as he was told by a Danish Professor at a meeting of the British Academy recently, that we are fast tending towards monosyllabism.

Professor Otto Jespersen says that we are imitating the Chinese in our predilection for short words. Not only do we deliberately abbreviate (as in our slang, e.g., "lab.," "maths.," "ad.") but we also introduce monosyllabic words whose parentage is unknown, such as "stunt" or "dud." And he concludes that English in the future may become a language largely composed of short words spoken with a rapid, staccato utterance.

The generalisation is rather a dangerous one. The evidence which the Professor adduces is sound enough; he might even have elaborated it, and said that many men who command good English, from Swift to Mr. Baldwin, favoured the short or Saxon word. But is there not a counter-current also? Is not Science, for instance, helping to counter-balance the popular tendency to monosyllabism? I do not really think that there is any discovery on the part of the worthy Professor.

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PERSONAL AND GENERAL

TO-DAY

November 22, 1928 (New Style).
November 9, 1928 (Old Style).
Jumada II, 8, 1347 A.H., of the Muslim Calendar.
Kislev 9, 5689, of the Jewish Calendar.

The Aga Khan left the Ritz Hotel last week for Paris.

Prince Ali Khan left London last week for the country.

Sir Bamfylde and Lady Fuller will leave Marseilles on November 30 for a visit to India.

The Roumanian Minister and Mme. Titulesco arrived in London on November 18 from Bucharest.

Viscountess Inchcape, who has greatly improved in health after a stay of six months at Glenapp, returned to London on November 18.

Lady Stavridi and Miss Ione Stavridi left London on November 13 for Athens, and will be away until Christmas

Sir Malcolm Watson left London on November 15 for Bombay, embarking at Marseilles on the s.s. Kaiser-i-Hind.

The Nawab of Bhopal, who recently paid a brief visit to this country, has accepted an invitation of the Council of the East Indian Association to become a Vice-President.

Lady Emily Lutyens will hold a reception at 13, Mansfield Street this afternoon (Thursday) at 5 o'clock, to discuss "How best we may strengthen the hands of the women of India who are trying to spread the knowledge of health and hygiene in the villages of India."

Lord and Lady Strickland, Lady Sybil Smith, and Lady Barrat left London on November 15 by special train to embark on the P. and O. liner Kaiser-i-Hind at Marseilles. Other passengers included Sir D'Arcy Lindsay, Sir Dorabji and Lady Tata, and Sir Jamsetjee Jeejeebhoy.

Professor Margoliouth, Laudian Professor of Arabic in Oxford University, will lecture to the Near and Middle East Association on November 30, at 8.30 p.m. upon "The Quran." The meeting will take place, by kind permission of the Dowager Lady Boyle, at 64, Queen's Gate, S.W.; and Lord Meston will preside.

The Maharaja of Jodhpur gave a luncheon party at Claridge's Hotel on November 13, when his guests included the Maharaja of Kashmir, the Jam Sahib of Nawanagar, Major-General Sir Charles MacWatt, Sir Robert Holland, Captain T. Prithi Singh, Rao Jaja Narpal Singh, Colonel and Mrs. Waddington, Maharaj Ajit Singh, Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Young, Mrs. Stirling, and Rao Jaja Abhey Singh.

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The Special Committee includes H. L. Jones, Esq., Major L. F. Layton, O/C Troops, Norman Petrides, Esq., Dr. A. H. Unwin, Henry Williamson, Esq., and the Chaplains of Nicosia (Rev. H. Buxton) and of Limassol (Rev. L. Lindsay).

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NEWS IN BRIEF.

Definite results of the Greek census show a total population of 6,204,684. There are 52,214 more women than men.

In Congregation at Oxford University on November 20 it was proposed to confer the degree of M.A. by decree upon Mr. Charles N. Seddon, honorary M.A. Balliol, Lecturer in Persian and Marathi; and Mr. Edward J. Thompson, honorary M.A., Lecturer in Bengali.

The ratifications of the Nettuno Conventions and of the Belgrade Convention signed by Italy and Yugoslavia in 1925 were exchanged in Rome on November 14, the Conventions becoming operative as from the following day.

Tewfik Diab, Editor of the Egyptian Opposition newspaper *Wadinnil*, was arrested in Cairo on November 15 on a charge of delivering an inflammatory speech at a Wafd meeting earlier in the week.

M. Ponsot, French High Commissioner for Syria, has agreed to release £L400,000 in gold as the Lebanese Government's share of Syrian Customs receipts, provided that the money be utilised for economic schemes. The Lebanese Government has agreed to devote it principally to irrigation.

One of the first measures introduced by the new Roumanian National-Peasant Cabinet has been the limitation of the number of official motor cars to one per Minister, as the result of which nearly 170 cars will shortly be sold by auction; it has decided to abolish the censorship, and also martial law, except within a radius of about six miles along the frontier. The jurisdiction of military courts is also to be abolished.

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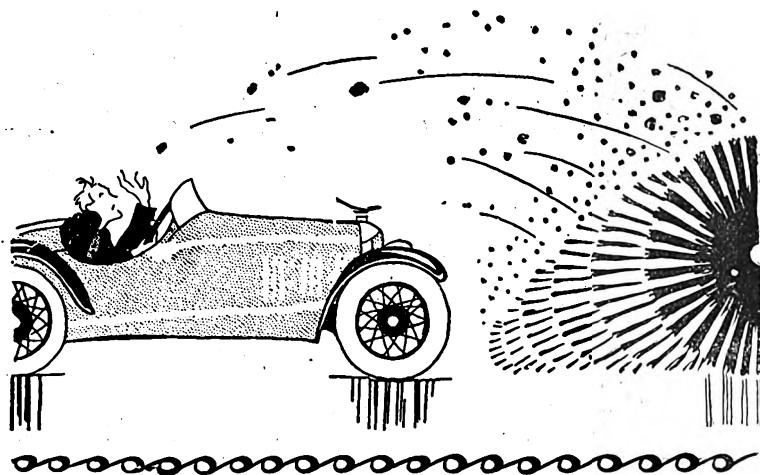
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"A NEW BROOM SWEEPS CLEAN"

**-BUT PURE PETROL EN-
SURES A CLEAN ENGINE
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Distributing Organization

Commercial and Financial Section.

NOTES AND NEWS

170, Strand, London, W.C.2,
Tuesday Morning.

Bulgarian Stabilisation Loan.

On another page in this issue will be found the prospectus of the Bulgarian Stabilisation Loan which is being issued under the auspices of the League of Nations. The total amount of the loan is £5,000,000, consisting of £1,800,000 in sterling bonds, £1,500,000 of which are being offered in this country, the remaining £300,000 being offered in Czechoslovakia and Holland, 130,000,000 francs in French franc bonds, which are being issued in France, and dollar bonds of the amount of 13,000,000 dollars, which are being offered as to 9,000,000 dollars in the United States, the balance being issued in Belgium, Italy, and Switzerland. The British part of the loan is a $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. issue at 96 in bearer bonds in denominations of £100, £500, and £1,000, with half-yearly coupons attached. Payment of both principal and interest is to be in sterling without deduction for any present or future Bulgarian taxes, or stamp duties, etc., and the loan is redeemable at par on or before November 15, 1968, by an accumulative sinking fund which will be applied half-yearly by drawings at par, the first drawing being in respect of the half-year ended November 15, 1929. The payment of the principal and interest on the loan is the direct obligation of the Bulgarian Government, which has agreed to allot as security for the bonds receipts obtained from all import and export duties, including *ad valorem* taxes, bonding, statistical and sealing charges and other customs charges and such other revenues as may be assigned if at any time the yield of the above revenues should fall below 150 per cent. of the annual sum required for the service of the loan. The Bulgarian Minister of Finance, in a letter given with the prospectus, points out that the receipts of the revenues allocated to the loan are estimated on the basis of last year's yield to cover the service of the loan about four times. The terms of the issue are undeniably attractive, and it would be surprising if there were not the usual heavy subscription to which we are accustomed in the case of loans issued under the auspices of the League.

The Greek Loan.

The negotiations for a loan for productive works which have been in progress for some time between the Greek Government and Hambros Bank and the Seligman group are understood to have reached a successful conclusion, and the amount of the loan which is £15,000,000 will be provided equally by the two groups. It is reported that the loan is to take the form of the opening of credits as the Greek Government takes the view that the time is not opportune for the conclusion of the whole loan. The first instalment is to be £2,500,000 which will suffice, it is estimated, for the preliminary works of draining the Strymon Plain and of road construction as well as for the continuation of the work of draining the Axios Valley.

Roumanian Loan Negotiations.

I suggested last week that it was not improbable that the Maniu Government might think it advisable to continue the recent loan negotiations rather than face the long delay that would be inevitable in the event of the

League of Nations being approached for the issue of a loan under its auspices. The step has been taken. The group which was negotiating renewed its offer, and the successful conclusion of the negotiations is now announced. Thus one of the chief problems of the Maniu Administration has been solved at the outset, and the Government will now be free to turn its attention to other pressing questions. I have already commented on the declared policy of the National-Peasant Party with regard to foreign enterprise in Roumania, and the steps taken to translate this policy into action will be keenly awaited. Obviously it is essential, in order to restore confidence in the country abroad, to modify the laws introduced by the late Administration—particularly, of course, the Mining Law. Once that is done, and foreign capital is once again free to assist in the development of the country, it will be possible to anticipate a rapid improvement in conditions.

Sudan Cotton Growing.

Some details were given by Mr. MacIntyre at the meeting of the Sudan Plantations Syndicate which bring into clear relief the scope of the work which the company is undertaking in the Sudan. The development of the area under cultivation has entailed the construction of over 4,000 miles of subsidiary canals and over 8,000 miles of field channels, and by the end of this year it is hoped to complete the canalisation of the whole area, which will bring these totals to 4,600 miles of subsidiary canals and 9,300 miles of field channels. Further, the company has made locally over 28 millions of bricks for buildings and has manufactured thousands of tons of lime, and these things and other building materials have had to be transported over long distances. These things have only comprised a part of the work entailed in the development of the Gezira, the success of which undertaking has made the progress of the company one of the romances of commerce of this century.

Manchester and the Sudan.

The work of the Syndicate has two important aspects—the furtherance of the development of the Sudan and the provision of adequate supplies of cotton for Lancashire—and in regard to both it is on the way to achieving an outstanding success. For the Sudan the work of the Syndicate means, and will mean to an increasing extent in the future, a variety of benefits. There is the employment of labour, naturally, but outside that there are a number

BANK OF ROUMANIA LIMITED

(FOUNDED 1866).

Head Office: 123, OLD BROAD STREET,
LONDON, E.C.2.

Branch — 11, CALEA VICTORIEI BUCAREST.

Directors :

E. W. H. BARRY, Esq.
C. De CERJAT, Esq.
SIR JOHN P. HEWETT, G.C.S.I., K.B.E., C.I.E.
General The Hon. SIR H. A. LAWRENCE, G.C.B.
Lieut-Col. SIR ALBERT STERN, K.B.E., C.M.G.

Bankers :

BANK OF ENGLAND. Messrs. GLYN, MILLS & CO.

A general banking business with Roumania is conducted and correspondence from those having interests in that country is invited.

The Subscription List will close on or before November 23, 1928.

KINGDOM OF BULGARIA

7½% STABILISATION LOAN 1928

UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS

Issued with the approval and the authorisation of the Council of the League of Nations and with the consent of the Reparation Commission and of the Inter-Allied Commission established under Article 130 of the Treaty of Neuilly.

The Protocol drawn up in accordance with the recommendation of the Financial Committee after approval by the Council of the League of Nations, was signed at Geneva on March 10, 1928, by the Bulgarian Finance Minister and deposited with and registered by the Secretariat of the League of Nations. The further report of the Financial Committee increasing the net total of the Loan to £5,000,000 and dated September 5, 1928, was approved and adopted by the Council of the League of Nations by Resolution dated September 17, 1928, and the Additional Act was signed by the Bulgarian Finance Minister at Geneva on September 8, 1928. The Protocol was accepted by the Sobranie by Act dated April 13, 1928, and promulgated by Ukase No. 14 dated May 4, 1928. The Additional Act was accepted by the Sobranie by Act dated September 27, 1928, and promulgated by Ukase No. 19 dated October 2, 1928.

The terms and conditions of the Loan were approved in accordance with the Protocol by the delegates of the Financial Committee of the League of Nations on its behalf on November 16, 1928, and were accepted by the Sobranie by Act dated November 15, 1928, and promulgated by Ukase No. 22 dated November 16, 1928.

The Loan will consist of Sterling Bonds limited to £1,800,000, French Franc Bonds limited to Fcs. 130,000,000 and Dollar Bonds limited to Dol. 13,000,000.

OFFER AT

£96 per cent.

OF

£1,500,000 7½% STERLING BONDS TO BEARER

(The remaining £300,000 Sterling Bonds are being offered in Czecho Slovakia and Holland, the French Franc Bonds in France and Dol. 9,000,000 of the Dollar Bonds in the United States of America, the remaining Dollar Bonds being offered in Belgium, Italy and Switzerland).

INTEREST PAYABLE MAY 15 & NOVEMBER 15

The Sterling Bonds will be to Bearer in demoninations of £1,000, £500 and £100 with half-yearly Coupons attached.

Payment of Principal and Interest is to be made in Sterling without deduction for any present or future Bulgarian taxes, stamp duties, impositions or charges whatsoever at the offices in London of THE OTTOMAN BANK, J. HENRY SCHRODER and Co., and STERN BROTHERS.

The Loan is redeemable at par on or before November 15, 1968, by an Accumulative Sinking Fund of 0.433 per cent. per annum to be applied half-yearly by drawings at par. The first operation of the Sinking Fund will be in respect of the half-year ending November 15, 1929. The Bulgarian Government reserves the right to redeem at par on November 15, 1938, or on any interest payment date thereafter the whole or any part of the Bonds then outstanding upon giving six calendar months' previous notice.

Payment of Principal and Interest on the Sterling, French Franc and Dollar Bonds is the direct obligation of the Bulgarian Government and in accordance with the Protocol the Bulgarian Government with the approval of the Inter-Allied Commission and the Reparation Commission has undertaken to furnish as security for the Bonds the following revenues:—

(a) Receipts obtained from all import and export duties including ad valorem taxes bonding statistical and sealing charges and other customs charges.

(b) Such other revenue or revenues, if any, as may from time to time be assigned if at any time the total yield of the above mentioned revenues should fall below 150% of the annual sum required to meet the service of the Loan. The Inter-Allied Commission, established under Article 130 of the Treaty of Neuilly, has undertaken to release, at the request of the Council of the League, from the charge laid down in Article 132 of the said Treaty, such additional revenues as may be sufficient to assure the immediate restoration of the yield to the above percentage and such additional revenue so released is to be forthwith assigned to the service of the Stabilisation Loan.

As appears from the accompanying letter of the Bulgarian Minister of Finance the amounts realised from the revenues mentioned under (a) above are estimated on the basis of last year's yield to cover the service of the Loan over four times; these revenues for the last two completed years are stated in the said letter to have been 1,208 million Levas and 1,281 million Levas respectively, equivalent (at 675 Levas = £1 sterling) to about £1,700,000 and £1,900,000 respectively while the estimate for 1928/9 is 1,245 million Levas, equivalent to about £1,840,000.

All the above-mentioned revenues are to be paid into a Special Account which will be under the sole control of the Commissioner appointed by the League of Nations and in due course of the Trustees who will be appointed by the Council of the League of Nations at its next Session to represent the interests of the Bondholders. Out of this Special Account there are to be remitted monthly to the Bankers in London and Paris and to the Fiscal Agents in New York respectively or as they may direct, for account of the Trustees, the proportionate sums applicable to the service of the Loan.

THE OTTOMAN BANK, J. HENRY SCHRODER & CO. AND STERN BROTHERS

offer for sale the above-mentioned Sterling Bonds at the price of £96 per cent. payable as follows:—

£ 5 per cent. on Application.	
£15 " " " November 29, 1928.	
£20 " " " January 7, 1929.	
£20 " " " February 11, 1929.	
£36 " " " March 18, 1929	

Total £96 per cent.

Payment in full may be made on November 29, 1928, on January 7, 1929, or on February 11, 1929, under discount at the rate of 2½ per cent. per annum.

If a smaller amount of Bonds be allotted than that applied for the balance of the deposit will be appropriated towards the amount payable on November 29, 1928, and any surplus then remaining will be returned. In case no allotment be made the deposit will be returned without deduction; failure to pay any instalment when due will render the previous payments liable to forfeiture and the allotment to cancellation.

Provisional Scrip Certificates to which will be attached a Coupon for £2 os. 6d. per £100 nominal payable May 15, 1929, representing interest at the rate of 7½ per cent. per annum on the several instalments from their due dates of payment will be issued in exchange for Letters of Allotment.

Provisional Scrip Certificates when fully paid will be exchanged in due course for Definitive Bonds with half-yearly Coupons attached. The first full Coupon will be payable November 15, 1929.

A brokerage of ½ per cent. will be paid on allotments made in respect of applications bearing the stamp of a recognised Banker or Broker.

Application will be made to the Committee of the Stock Exchange London for permission to deal after allotment. An official quotation will be applied for in due course.

Copies of the General Bond securing this Loan, of the Resolutions of the Council of the League of Nations dated March 10, 1928, June 9, 1928 and September 17, 1928, of the Protocol and Additional Act signed at Geneva on March 10, 1928 and September 8, 1928 respectively by the Bulgarian Finance Minister, of the Resolution of the Inter-Allied Commission dated September 24, 1928, and translations of the Act of the Sobranie dated November 15, 1928 accepting the Protocol and Ukase No. 22 dated November 16, 1928 promulgating the same may be seen at the offices of Slaughter and May, 18, Austin Friars, E.C.2, during business hours whilst the List is open.

Prospectuses and Forms of Application may be obtained at the offices of THE OTTOMAN BANK, J. HENRY SCHRODER AND CO. and STERN BROTHERS.

OTTOMAN BANK
J. Henry Schroder and Co.
Stern Brothers

November 16, 1928.

GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in giving you below the following information regarding the KINGDOM OF BULGARIA 7½ PER CENT. STABILISATION LOAN 1928.

A delegation of the Financial Committee of the League of Nations consisting of Sir Otto Niemeyer, G.B.E., K.C.B. (Chairman), M. Alberti, M. le Comte de Chalender, M. Janssen and Dr. Pospisil visited Sofia recently to investigate plans for the financial reconstruction of Bulgaria through the issue of a foreign loan.

A Protocol summarising the scheme for this Loan was prepared by the Financial Committee and was approved by the Council of the League of Nations and immediately signed on behalf of Bulgaria after a definite agreement on all questions including the transformation of the Bulgarian National Bank, had been reached in March 1928.

Previous to this agreement the Customs revenues which were to be allocated as security for the new loan were subject to two charges:—

(a) Under Article 132 of the Peace Treaty of Neuilly Reparations payments and other Treaty obligations were secured by a general charge on all Bulgarian State assets and Revenues.

(b) By two Protocols signed at Sofia on March 21, 1923 and March 28, 1924 respectively it was agreed between the Bulgarian Government and Inter-Allied Commission that Reparations payments and cost of occupation should be secured by a specific charge on the Customs.

In order that the security for the new Loan should be a first charge on these custom revenues it was necessary that they should be released from the above-mentioned existing charges. This object was accomplished by a resolution of the Inter-Allied Commission of September 24, 1928 excepting in favour of the new Loan the customs duties and if necessary other revenues from the general charge for reparations and other Treaty obligations; moreover by the same resolution the specific charge on the Customs for reparations and costs of occupation was subordinated to the new loan and the necessary approval of the Reparation Commission was given on October 6, 1928.

The Disconto Gesellschaft, Berlin, which had made a contested claim to a charge on the Customs, has subordinated in favour of the new Loan any charge which it may have.

PURPOSES:

The amount of the Loan authorised by the Council of the League of Nations is £5,000,000 net, mainly for the purpose of enabling the Government to stabilise the currency, more than half of the Loan being earmarked to reinforce the Bank of Issue and to pay off Budget arrears.

The Proceeds of the Loan will be allocated approximately as follows:—

National Bank	£1,500,000
Agricultural Bank	500,000
Central Co-operative Bank	150,000
Budget arrears	1,100,000
Means of communication	1,250,000
Earthquake expenditure	500,000
Total	£5,000,000

Firstly, the Bulgarian National Bank will be repaid a considerable part of its advances made to the State or to the Agricultural and Central Co-operative Banks (State Banks) or made under the guarantee of the State.

Secondly, new working capital will be provided for the Agricultural Bank and for the Central Co-operative Bank, thus rendering these institutions sufficiently liquid.

Thirdly, the Budget arrears amounting to £1,100,000 as established in the Report of the Financial Committee, will be paid off. The Government has undertaken to carry out any reforms necessary to attain equilibrium of the Budget.

Quarterly reports will be made by the Bulgarian Government on its financial situation to the Council of the League of Nations for a period of five years.

Fourthly, £1,250,000 will be expended on communications in accordance with the detailed proposals of M. Regnault, which received the general approval of the Council of the League on June 8, 1928. This sum will be divided as follows:—

RAILWAYS:	Leva:	Leva:
Upkeep	239,233,000	
Improvements	329,255,000	
Construction of new lines	72,312,000	640,800,000
PORTS		31,500,000
ROADS		172,700,000

Total 845,000,000 = £1,250,000 about.

*The Commissioner, M. Charron, appointed by the Council of the League of Nations will supervise expenditure under this heading. Fifthly, £500,000 is to be devoted to repairing damage caused by the recent earthquakes, subject to the approval of the Commissioner.

Transfers may be made on the authority of the Financial Committee of the League of Nations from one heading to another, if any part of the above appropriations to the last three items remains unexpended.
The Statutes of the Bank have been amended in accordance with the recommendations of the Financial Committee of the League of Nations and M. Charron has been appointed the technical adviser at the Bank on the nomination of the Council of the League.
The Bulgarian Government has undertaken to protect the independence of the Bulgarian National Bank from any political influence whatsoever and has undertaken to effect the transformation of the Bank into an independent corporation with a private capital at a date to be fixed by agreement between the Council of the League of Nations and the Bulgarian Government.
Stabilisation of the Bulgarian currency on a gold basis will be carried out as soon as the Loan is issued and all restrictions on the foreign exchange market will be removed six months later or within such further period as may be approved by the Adviser to the Bulgarian National Bank.

SECURITY :

The Loan is secured by a first charge on the Customs duties, the yield on which for the financial years 1926/27, 1927/28 and the estimated yield for 1928/29 are as follows :—

	1926-27 RESULTS (Leva 000,000's omitted)	1927-28 RESULTS (Leva 000,000's omitted)	1928-29 ESTIMATES (Leva 000,000's omitted)
Import duties, etc.	973	1,087	1,050
Export duties, etc.	138	108	105
Ad valorem taxes	23	19	20
Bonding, statistical and sealing charges, and other Customs charges	74	67	70
Total	1,208	1,281	1,245
Equal at 675 Leva = £1 Sterling to approximately	£1,790,000	£1,900,000	£1,840,000

The yield of these duties is sufficient to cover the service of the Stabilisation Loan over four times.
If at any time the total yield of the above-mentioned revenues should fall below 150 per cent. of the annual sum required to meet the service of the Loan, the Inter-Allied Commission established under Article 130 of the Treaty of Neuilly has undertaken to release at the request of the Council of the League from the charge laid down in Article 132 of the said Treaty such additional revenues as may be sufficient to assure the immediate restoration of the yield to above percentage, and such additional revenues so released shall be forthwith assigned to the service of the Loan.
The Bulgarian Government has undertaken that the proceeds of the Loan shall be applied only for the purposes specified in and in strict accordance with the terms of the Protocol and further that all monies received from the issuing houses shall be paid into such accounts as may be requested by the Bulgarian Government with the consent of the Commissioner appointed by the Council of the League of Nations.
I remain, Gentlemen,
Yours very truly,
WL. MOLLOFF,
Minister of Finance.

THIS FORM MAY BE USED.

Application No..... Allotment No.....

APPLICATION FORM.

Amount Allotted £.....

KINGDOM OF BULGARIA

7½% STABILISATION LOAN 1928

OFFER AT

£96. per cent.

OF

£1,500,000 7½% Sterling Bonds to Bearer.

(In denominations of £1,000, £500 and £100.)

To OTTOMAN BANK, 26, Throgmorton Street, E.C.2.
J. HENRY SCHRODER and CO., 145, Leadenhall Street, E.C.3.
STERN BROTHERS, 6, Angel Court, Throgmorton Street, E.C.2.

Gentlemen,—Having paid to you the sum of £....., being a deposit of 5 per cent. on application for £..... nominal amount of the above Bonds, ... hereby request that you will allot that amount of Bonds, and hereby agree to accept the same, or any smaller amount that may be allotted to and undertake to pay the further sums due on such allotment according to the terms of the Prospectus dated November 20, 1928.

SURNAME ONLY
(BLOCK LETTERS)
CHRISTIAN NAMES
(Mr., Mrs., or Miss)
ADDRESS (in full)
SIGNATURE
DATE
Please write distinctly.

Cheques should be drawn
Pay OTTOMAN BANK, or BEARER,
or
Pay J. HENRY SCHRODER and CO., or BEARER,
or
Pay STERN BROTHERS, or BEARER,
and crossed "Not Negotiable."
Any alteration from "Order" to "Bearer" must be initialled by the drawer.

of directions in which the Sudan is benefiting. For one thing there is the increase in the country's grain and fodder crops, while the Gezira area now enjoys a regular water supply. Then in the picking season the Gezira offers a plentiful field for casual employment, and it is noteworthy that last season, though the conditions in the outside areas were good, thousands of people arrived with their families and flocks to work in the Gezira. It is scarcely necessary to point out the importance of the work of the Syndicate to Lancashire. The way in which Sudan Sakel is readily taken on the Liverpool market shows that a need is being filled, and indicates further that when the output of cotton from the Sudan reaches more substantial dimensions there is not likely to be a serious problem as to its disposal.

Trade Barriers.

It is now a good many months since the meeting at Geneva, under the auspices of the League of Nations, of the World Economic Conference, when among other things attention was specially devoted to the adverse effect on trade of restrictions of any kind. The influential meeting of business men last week at the Mansion House, under the presidency of Sir Hugh Bell, to support the recommendations, served as a very timely reminder of the very slow progress that has been made in giving expression to the views of the Conference. As a matter of fact, as regards trade barriers the position has steadily grown worse in many directions since the Conference, and if in some cases duties have been reduced, in others they have been increased. A casual study of the various official journals will show that not a week passes without changes in regulations governing trade, and the trend of them is not in the direction of freer commerce. Every nation, it has to be remembered, has its own particular problems, the solution of which may not be to the common weal. Great Britain, for instance, has found safeguarding necessary for a number of industries, and this principle is to be extended next year if the Government receives a further mandate. It is a trade barrier which is deemed to be essential for this country, and other countries could no doubt make out an equally good case for their restrictive regulations. Things look differently viewed from the Olympian heights of Geneva from what they do regarded from Downing Street, the Quai D'Orsay, or Angora, and very naturally so, and that is why I think that the resolution passed at the meeting requesting the League to urge on the Governments concerned the necessity for carrying out the recommendations of the Conference in favour of a substantial reduction of tariffs with the least possible delay is not likely to carry us much further.

Motors in Abyssinia.

The motor has now come to be in a way the spearhead of civilisation, and it is natural that a region like Abyssinia with no communications worth speaking about, though roads are now beginning to receive attention, should come in for special consideration as a possible outlet of some importance for motors. There are, as a matter of fact, quite a number of cars in the country now. At June 1 last 287 motor cars, 18 lorries, and 25 motor cycles were registered in the country. I am indebted for these figures to an official American report, the tenor of which is that Abyssinia is a good potential market for motor cars. Obviously it is if the road programme is pursued, and it may be hoped that the Americans will not be allowed to carry off all the business unopposed, and that British firms which produce cars with a good clearance will also interest themselves in the market. Whether the Abyssinians in the long run will bless the motor car and motor cycle for which they are now apparently showing enthusiasm is a moot point. Perhaps if motoring in Abyssinia ever reaches the stage of development with which we are familiar, the inhabitants of Ethiopia may wish that one of the greatest achievements of civilisation had passed them by.

Sudan Trade Development.

The figures for the trade of the Sudan for the first eight months of this year show that the improvement noticeable a few months ago has continued. The value of the total trade for the period was £E9,561,991, which represents an increase of £E930,088 on the corresponding figures in the previous year. With the sole exception of Government imports, which show a decline of £E102,360, there is an increase more or less substantial in respect of every category. The principal increases are in respect of exports, which at £E5,095,821 are £E582,240 up, and public imports, the total for which is £E2,730,052, an increase of £E324,565. Cotton was mainly responsible for the increase in the value of the exports, the prices realised having more than counterbalanced the reduction in the crop. As regards public imports, mention may be made of the increase in the trade in cotton piece-goods, while other notable increases are in respect of metals and metalware, machinery, and tobacco, cigarettes, etc. The rapid recovery of the Sudan's trade following a good crop of dura is very notable.

COMMENTATOR.

GREEK 7 PER CENT. REFUGEE LOAN.

The yield of the assigned revenues on the 7 per cent. Refugee Loan for September and the first nine months of this year is as follows:—

	New Revenues Drachmæ	Old Revenues Drachmæ
September, 1928 ...	78,195,041	.. 220,697,144
Increase or decrease	+2,392,461	... —56,015,465
Jan.-Sept. 1928 ...	668,557,514	... 2,288,910,929
Increase ...	+28,186,911	... +178,567,698

The Loan has a first charge upon the new revenues and also upon the surplus from the old revenues after satisfying prior charges upon the latter. In 1927 these prior charges were estimated to absorb 40 per cent. of the old revenues, but official information has now been received from Athens to the effect that the said charges amounted for that year to 32 per cent. and are estimated for 1928 at 29 per cent. Taking them at a round figure of 30 per cent. the security available for the Refugee Loan for the first eight months of 1928 would be Dr.2,270,795,165, which, at the fixed and stabilised rate of exchange of Dr.375 per £1 is equal to £6,055,453, viz., 8.75 times the ordinary service of the loan, which requires £691,875 for nine months.

On and after November 23 the address of the Johnston Line, Ltd., at Manchester will be 86, Cross Street.

The traffic receipts of the South Indian Railway Company for the week ended October 20 amounted to Rs.11,86,526, making the total from April 1 Rs.3,42,06,022.

TENDERS INVITED.

Tenders are invited for the following contracts, and must be made by the dates mentioned.

(Particulars of tenders marked D.O.T. are to be obtained from the Department of Overseas Trade, 55, Old Queen Street, S.W.1.)

EGYPT.

Asphalt.—The Director-General, Tanzim Department, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of 6,800 tons of asphalt required for the year 1929-1930. January 22.

Steam Lorries.—The A/Director-General, Tanzim Department, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of three steam lorries required for the Department. December 15.

Police Uniforms, Etc.—The Director of Equipment and Finance Department, Ministry of the Interior, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of police uniforms, etc. December 15.

Steam Lorries.—The Ministry of Public Works, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of three steam lorries. December 15. (D.O.T.)

Scientific Instruments, Etc.—The Physical Department, Ministry of Public Works, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply and delivery of scientific and measuring instruments, wall clocks, etc. December 3. (D.O.T.)

Steel Book Cases.—The Egyptian Ministry of Public Works invites tenders for the supply and erection of 115 steel book cases for the Royal Library in Cairo. December 31. (D.O.T.)

Saddlery, Etc.—The Director of Equipment and Finance Department, Ministry of the Interior, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of various articles such as saddlery, fire-engines accessories, rest-house necessities, leather. November 24.

INDIA.

Steam Pumping Plant.—The Indian Stores Department, New Delhi, invites tenders for the supply, delivery, and erection of steam engines and pumps. December 6. (D.O.T.)

TURKEY.

Field Telephone Wire.—The Direction-General of Posts, Telegraphs, and Telephones, Angora, invites tenders for the supply and delivery of 50,000 metres of rubber-covered field telephone wire. December 18. (D.O.T.)

FORTHCOMING SAILINGS.

The following are the sailings for the Near East and India, the ports of departure and closing dates for cargo being given in parentheses:—

Anchor Line.—S.s. Massilia for Bombay (Birkenhead, December 6). (For passenger sailings and dates see advertisement.)

Anchor Brocklebank Line.—S.s. Malancha for Calcutta (Birkenhead, November 29).

Bibby Line.—S.s. Gloucestershire for Port Said, Port Sudan, Colombo, and Rangoon (Birkenhead, November 28).

British India Line.—S.s. Hatimura for Bombay and Karachi (London, December 1); s.s. Morvada for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, December 15).

Cunard Line.—S.s. Bosnia for Casablanca, Gibraltar, Genoa, Leghorn, Naples, Palermo, Messina, Catania, Corfu, Bari, Venice, Trieste, and Fiume, also at Gruz and Ancona, if inducement. This steamer also closes in Glasgow on November 22 for Casablanca, Gibraltar, Corfu, Bari, Venice, Trieste, and Fiume, also Gruz and Ancona, if inducement (Liverpool November 24, and Swansea 27); s.s. Bantria for Patras, Piræus, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, and Constantza (Glasgow, Swansea, and Liverpool, December 8).

Johnston Line.—S.s. Avimore for Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Bourgas, Varna, and Constantza (Liverpool, December 1); s.s. Kenmore for Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, and Constantza (Liverpool, December 15).

P. and O. Line.—S.s. Rajputana for Bombay (London, December 7); s.s. Behar for Calcutta (London, December 8).

Prince Line.—S.s. Sailor Prince for Tunis, Malta, Alexandria, Jaffa, Haifa, Beyrout, and Cyprus (Manchester, November 28).

Ellerman and Papayanni Lines.—S.s. Algerian for Algiers*, Smyrna, and Constantinople (Liverpool December 1, Swansea December 1); s.s. Castilian for Malta, Alexandria, Jaffa*, and Haifa* (Liverpool, December 1); s.s. Fabian for Gibraltar, Malta, Alexandria, Jaffa*, and Haifa* (Liverpool, December 6); s.s. Gerano for Genoa, Leghorn, Naples, Palermo, Messina, Catania, Bari, Gruz*, Ancona*, Venice, Trieste, Fiume (Liverpool December 8, Swansea December 13); s.s. Lesbian for Patras, Piræus, Volo*, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna (Liverpool, December 22); A steamer for Malta, Alexandria, Jaffa*, and Haifa* (Glasgow, December 28). *Subject to sufficient inducement. Cargo taken on through Bill of Lading to:—Algerian ports via Algiers; Moroccan ports via Gibraltar; Tripoli (Barbary) via Malta; Syria and Cyprus via Alexandria; Greek outports via Piræus or other convenient port.

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THE WEEK'S FINANCE.

(By Our Financial Expert.)

London, November 20.

The bull movement in industrials appears definitely to be spent. Prices are generally declining, the movement being reinforced by selling in anticipation of the end of the account and restricted contango facilities. The greatest weakness has naturally been shown in speculative securities such as the lower priced gramophone shares, of which the prices are now less out of accord with true values, though in many cases it is still true that prices might reasonably decline further. The reaction has affected British Government securities which had not previously been affected by gold exports. Anticipation of forthcoming conversion loans, however, led to a partial recovery in British funds, the Four per cent. Consolidated Loan being the favourite. Home rails have been dull with prices rather easier. Among foreign railways the chief feature has been the fall in United Havana, which was accentuated by an unsatisfactory dividend announcement.

The Boom in Gramophone Shares.

At a time when the warnings of competent observers that the boom in gramophones could not continue to expand indefinitely appear to have been listened to, it is of interest to have the views on the present situation of the Chairman of the Gramophone Co., Ltd., (Mr. E. Trevor Williams). At the annual general meeting of that company he deplored the fact that the shares of the Gramophone Company had been drawn into the vortex of speculation. As he said the prosperity of the industry in the last few years, as reflected in this year's profits of £1,132,413 in the case of this company, has been very great, and has led to a multitude of companies dealing in all lines of gramophone goods being formed. As has so often been pointed out these companies are mostly exploiting untried processes. Whether these processes will prove commercially successful is at the moment unknown, and their future is not made rosier by the strongly established position of the older companies. These older companies have resources which enable them to keep pace with technical developments and they are prepared to meet fierce competition. In the débâcle which Mr. Williams, in common with other observers, anticipates it is not the old firmly established companies with a record

of sound finance which will go to the wall, but their young untried competitors. As for the Gramophone Company itself, its profits are as mentioned £1,132,413 as against £780,555 last year; the company's previous policy of distributing about 60 per cent. of its profits is continued, the actual rate of dividend being 55 per cent. Contrary to hopes in some quarters there is no bonus distributed this year but Mr. Williams indicated the possibility of such a distribution in the "not far distant" future.

Tea Shares.

For some time past the tea share market has not attracted a great deal of attention. This neglect has no doubt been largely due to the belief that the outlook for the tea industry was less promising than a year or two ago. It is true that until the last few months the price of tea was showing a tendency to fall, so that the average price of Northern Indian tea for the first ten months of 1928 was 1s. 4.25d. as against 1s. 6.82d. in the corresponding period of 1927, while the average price for Southern Indian was 1s. 3.29d. as against 1s. 6.80d. last year. This tendency was not, however, remarkable since the quotations at the beginning of 1927 were abnormally high. Moreover, the tea market has lately presented a rather better appearance. The statistical position, though not very favourable on the surface—the crop being larger this year than last—is actually better than it looks. Shrewd judges of the tea share market are expecting an early revival of public interest in that department of the Stock Exchange, with improving quotations, particularly in the case of companies growing the better quality teas. Among the shares which might be bought for capital appreciation are those of Assam Company, which yield £8 per cent. on the basis of the dividend last paid, Darjeeling Company, yielding £8 16s. per cent., and Lanka Plantations and Upper Assam, which yield £7 15s. and £8 17s. respectively. For investment purposes—for mixing with more stable and less lucrative securities—attention may be drawn to Borelli, yielding £10 18s. per cent., Eastern Assam (£7 6s.), Oovak Estates (£7 8s.) and Spring Valley (£8 9s.). It is well to remember when buying tea shares that they should be bought for the long shot—and not for short periods. The industry is one which is bound to have its up and downs, but over a period of years carefully selected tea shares should show a good return.

The Textile Industry.

The reduction in the interim dividend on Fine Cotton Spinners and Doublers Ordinary shares to 4 per cent., is doubtless disappointing to shareholders. It was not, however, a complete surprise to those acquainted with conditions in the cotton industry. The depression has been particularly severe in the Egyptian department, with which the company is concerned, and it must have seriously affected profits during recent months. There are signs now that the worst has been seen, and of late some improvement has been witnessed. The company, which is exceptionally well managed and has built up substantial reserves, is in a position to benefit as much as any from the least improvement in the cotton trade. It is highly probable that in accordance with its usual conservative policy the company has reduced its dividends fully to correspond with the reduced earnings and has maintained its accumulated resources untouched. When this is considered in conjunction with the bad times through which the industry has passed the level of the distribution cannot be considered unsatisfactory. The investor who holds the ordinary shares of Fine Cotton Spinners will no doubt be well rewarded in the long run; in fact, for some time past there has been steady buying of these shares for investment purposes. The Five per cent. Cumulative Preferred Ordinary shares on which the interim dividend has been maintained at the same figure as last year give the not unattractive yield, for an amply covered prior charge stock, of £5 10s. per cent.

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PT. ELIZABETH—Mackie, Dann & Co.

MOSSEL BAY—Messrs. E. Searle & Co.
CAPE TOWN—Thomson, Watson & Co. Ltd.
HONG KONG—The Bank Line, Ltd.
BANGKOK—Siam Forest Co., Ltd.
SINGAPORE—Hattenbach Bros & Co.
MAURITIUS—Adam & Co.

LONDON—ANDREW WEIR & CO., 21, Bury Street, E.C.8

Engineering Topics.

By G. B. B.

Steel Forged Boilers.

The increasing use of extra high steam pressures has demanded a boiler of more robust construction than the usual steel-plate, rivetted type, and this demand John Brown, Ltd., of Sheffield, are meeting with a boiler forged out of the solid steel ingot, without a joint or a rivet in its construction. This is a development of considerable importance in engineering, and a new era in high pressure stream work appears to be opening up. The method hitherto employed for boiler construction has been to roll plates to correctly curved sections, joint them with rivets, fit plated ends to them, and put gusset and other stays in the positions where the greatest strains would have to be met. For a long time it has seemed as though finality had been reached in boiler making, but John Brown and Co., have boldly forsaken the beaten path and evolved an entirely different method. They make the new boilers in two types, the first for what may be called medium steam pressures up to 500 lb. per sq. in., and the second for extra high pressure and high temperature work. Broadly both types are similar except for differences in the end plates. In each case a solid ingot of steel is taken and bored throughout its length, after which by means of delicate light tests and low powered microscopes the ingot is clearly and carefully examined to see that there are no cracks or blow holes that would impair its strength. Homogeneity, so far as the composition of the steel is concerned, freedom from all mechanical defects and a thoroughly uniform composition of the ingot are properties that are absolutely essential in this construction of solid forged boiler work. After the bored ingot has passed, satisfactorily, the necessary tests, it is passed to the forger, where it is expanded and drawn into a weldless tube. In this process, the steel is worked both longitudinally and circumferentially so that the grain of the metal lies in the directions which are most suitable for withstanding the immense pressures which it will be called upon to deal with in service. As soon as the necessary length and diameter are obtained, the process of manufacture alters, according to the type of boiler that is to be made. In the extra high pressure type, the ends of the cylinder are forged in an inward direction so as to form the two ends of the boiler, and this forging work is continued until only a small opening, for a man-hole, is left in each end. This opening may be either in the centre of either or both ends or in any other position in the ends that the designer may specify. In the medium pressure type, the end pieces are separately formed, forced into position, and rivetted in the usual way. In each type the drums or cylinders, before the end pieces are put in place, or forged down out of the solid metal, as the case

may be, are carefully machined inside and out, not only for the purpose of ensuring that the metal is of even thickness throughout but also because it has been found that a machined inner surface is less liable to scale and withstands corrosion better. Already a large number of these boilers, up to 50 feet in length and corresponding diameters, have been turned out by the firm for use, in this country and abroad, in electric power stations, chemical works, oil refineries and other premises where high steam pressures and heavy duties have to be dealt with.

Road Construction.

The use of British granite for road work is becoming increasingly popular now that the performance of some of that material, laid down many years ago, has proved so satisfactory. There are many miles of granite paved roads in this country, which have been down for upwards of 60 years and are still in excellent condition. Londoners will have noted that in Oxford Circus there is a stretch of granite sett paving which is almost as good as new, but it will perhaps be a surprise to them to learn that about 15 years have elapsed since it was laid down. There is another stretch of granite setts in Holborn, which has been down for over 20 years, and is still in excellent condition. Guildford High Street, which has to carry the main London-Portsmouth road traffic, averaging over 10,000 tons daily, is still paved with the original granite blocks laid down in 1867. Considering the heavy duty the roadway is called upon to perform, and considering also that it is on a steep gradient and so has to withstand continuous braking on the part of descending vehicles, this length of life is little short of remarkable. In a recent letter to the Press, Sir Arthur Holbrook gave an extract from a recently-published book, "Modern Road-making," by Mr. Harold Bradley, in which he says they dismiss the subject of the importation of foreign roadstone by merely stating that "there appears to be an increasing tendency . . . to import foreign roadstone." This has evoked a rejoinder from Mr. Bradley, who wrote: "We go a little further than that, for we say that 'The consideration of this policy is outside the scope of this volume, but it should not be forgotten that there is no lack of excellent material available in this country for all classes of road construction.'" The question of the importation of foreign roadstone has its political side which need not be discussed here, as it is, of course, highly controversial. But, economically speaking, with ample supplies of British granite and basalt available, there seems no real need to go elsewhere for our road making material, so far as that class of stone or surfac-

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ing is concerned. We must, however, defend the British quarry owner from a charge, sometimes levied against him, of attempting to obtain too high a price for his product. The writer has exceptional facilities for learning the prices obtained for both British and foreign stone, and an examination of the figures collected show that the selling prices of British roadstone has not risen in proportion to the increased cost of production between 1911 and 1927. As a matter of fact, the British quarry owner is only too anxious to market his material on an economic basis comparable with all the charges involved.

Near East Markets

CYPRUS IMPORT TRADE.

During the September quarter imports into Cyprus continued to rise in value. The total for July, August and September is £465,417, an improvement of £57,000 over the figure for the corresponding period of last year and £45,600 over that for the second quarter of 1928. Increases were most marked in flour, timber, motor cars, edible oils, and machinery, while fertilizers, cotton yarn and thread, sacks, and sole leather fell off.

Exports totalled £347,734, a decrease of nearly £77,000 as compared with last year and a decrease of £27,500 on the second quarter. Some £18,000 however is represented by specie exported in 1927, and barley (held up for higher prices), carobs, and asbestos account for most of the balance. There are noteworthy improvements in pyrites (£26,100), raw silk (£6,150), hides and skins (£5,070), raw cotton (£3,820), grapes, almonds, and potatoes.

SUDAN GUM ARABIC.

Messrs. Boxall and Co., of Khartoum, in their report dated October 25, state:—

Arrivals in Kordofan stations from October 1 to 25 amounted to 102 tons, which is exactly the same quantity as that for the same period last year. The daily average works out, therefore, at 4½ tons.

The market opened at 9d. less than the closing price on September 30, remained steady until the 18th, rose by about 2s. per cwt. for two days, and closed on the 25th at 6d. higher than the price paid on the 1st.

There has been a general revival of demand during October—the United Kingdom, France, and the United States, however, showing little interest.

Stocks are apparently exhausted, and several orders for old crop gum could not be filled owing on the one hand to this absence of stocks and on the other to the smallness of arrivals.

The new crop has not yet started and, as usual, will not start coming upon the markets before next month.

NEAR EAST MARKET REPORTS.

The Monthly Review of Barclays Bank, Ltd., for November contains the following reports on Near Eastern markets for the third quarter of this year:—

Egypt.

During the three months under review, the cotton market has been affected by the seasonal uncertainty of the growing period, the market being almost entirely subjected to crop news. The earlier optimistic views on the American crop have undergone certain modifications and the promise of an exceptionally large crop in Egypt has practically materialised. Prices have reacted to all crop news, authentic or otherwise, and quotations have been most irregular. Sakel cotton at one time touched 32.90 dollars and Uppers 20.60 dollars, but these prices seemed to encourage buying, and with stronger markets for American cotton, due to reduced crop estimates, prices took an upward turn until, at the time of writing, the November futures stand at 34.88 dollars for Sakel and the December (Ashmouni) futures at 22.90 dollars. Trade demand, which during the first two months of the quarter was experienced for almost every variety, has finally concentrated on Ashmouni and, of late, all grades of this growth have been in favour. This preference is easily understood, as Ashmouni was quoted at a premium of only 2½ dollars on American cotton. In fact, the comparative cheapness of Ashmouni has prejudiced the sale of East African and growths of a similar staple. Although the crop has been almost fifteen days late, the movement is very rapid and arrivals are about equal to those of last year. Growers are

anxious to market their cotton as soon as picked, and, consequently, there is a certain amount of congestion in the interior. Crop estimates, which have varied considerably, have finally crystallised around 7,250,000 kantars, as against the final outturn of 6,097,000 kantars last season. The bulk of the increase is in Upper Egypt, where record yields have been obtained.

During the period under review the market for cotton goods has been rather quiet, business being almost entirely confined to fresh arrivals, as buyers showed little interest in old season's goods. Prices have been well maintained.

The Sudan.

Trade in the Sudan for the greater part of the quarter has been slack, but business became brisker during September and was better than in previous years. Rains were plentiful during the first two months, but lessened in September, with the result that crops, especially dura, sesame, and groundnuts, which showed signs of being plentiful, will not be so good as was expected. In fact, it is anticipated that the dura crop will be below the average. There has been a steady demand for gum, but prices were poor and arrivals small. The new crop of Kordofan natural has been offered at 40s. 6d. per cwt. shipment c.i.f. United Kingdom during December/January. The cotton crop has been estimated as 620,000 kantars of Sakel. Of this total, it is expected that the Gezira will yield 500,000 kantars on an area of 131,000 feddans, Tokar 57,000 kantars, and Kassala 48,000 kantars. With the exception of the last mentioned, all figures show an increase over last season's crop. The yield of American cotton is estimated at 84,000 kantars.

Palestine.

The period under review has been marked by commercial depression throughout the country, but with the approach of the winter season business has taken on a brighter tendency. The export of cereals during the quarter was insignificant and large quantities of wheat and sesame were imported from abroad for the milling industry and for the oil presses. Dura is the only promising crop and it is anticipated that there will be supplies available for export. The textile market improved during the latter part of the quarter and a satisfactory volume of business was transacted in woollen goods, while an improved demand for cotton goods was also in evidence. The silk goods market, however, was dull, but an increasing number of new orders is being placed by local merchants. The colonial goods market, which has for some time past been quiet, became more active during September, and it is anticipated that this condition will continue, as importers have covered their requirements to the end of the year.

The prospects for the orange season are good and it is expected that about two million cases will be exported. Prices are now quoted at 11s. 6d. per case f.o.b. Jaffa and 6s. 6d. on the tree. Owing to the opening up of new markets in Germany, Austria, Czechoslovakia, and Hungary, it is anticipated that this season will be better than the two previous ones. Exports to these countries will be easier, as after December 15 the Italian Government will allow oranges to pass through Trieste, a route which in former seasons was prohibited. The outlook in regard to Great Britain is thought to be promising. Arrangements are being made for the fruit to be inspected before export.

Imports into Palestine for the first half of 1928 amounted to £P3,079,533 and exports to £P884,068. Industrial exports are on the increase, owing to the development of local industry. The building trade is showing activity, and new schools, hotels and commercial residential premises are in course of erection.

The Attock Oil Company announces that a further well has been drilled into the 3,900 ft. oilsand with satisfactory initial production.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

Country.	Method of Quoting.	Parity of Exchange.	Latest Quotations
Alexandria.....	Piastre to £	97½	97½
Amsterdam ...	Florins to £	12.107	12.08
Athens	Drachmæ to £ ...	25.22½	375
Belgrade.....	Dinars to £	25.22½	276½
Berlin	Marks to £	20.43	20.35½
Berne	Francs to £.....	25.22½	25.19½
Bombay	Sterling to Rupee	18d.	18 3/64—5/64
Brussels	Belga to £.....	35	34 89½
Bucharest	Lei to £	25.22½	806
Budapest	Peu to £	27.82	27.81
Caleutta	Sterling to Rupee	18d.	18 3/64—5/64
Constantinople	Piastres to £	110	966
New York	Dollars to £	4.86 2-3	4 85
Paris	Francs to £	25.22½	124.10
Prague	Kronen to £.....	24.02	163½
Rome	Lire to £	25.22½	92.56
Sofia	Leva to £	25.22½	670
Teheran	Krans to £	48	48½
Vienna	Sch to £	34.58	34.51
Warsaw	Zloty to £	25.22½	43 3/16—7/16

Company Meeting.

SUDAN PLANTATIONS SYNDICATE.

Continued Development of Undertaking.

Benefits to the Sudan.

Mr. A. MacIntyre's Address.

The twenty-first ordinary general meeting of the Sudan Plantations Syndicate, Limited, was held on November 14 at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, E.C. Mr. Alexander MacIntyre (the chairman of the company), who was enthusiastically received, presided.

The Secretary having read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors,

The Chairman said:—Ladies and Gentlemen,—Our syndicate suffered a heavy loss through the death of Sir Frederic Wise, which occurred suddenly in January last. He was a man of great ability, whose advice, particularly in matters of finance, was greatly appreciated by my colleagues and myself. He joined our board in 1916, and we miss his regular attendance at our board meetings.

I beg to apologise for the absence of my colleague, Mr. D. M. Hannay, who is unfortunately prevented from being present owing to indisposition.

As the directors' report and balance-sheet have been in your hands for some time, I presume it will be your wish to take them as read. (Agreed.)

New Chairman.

I joined the Sudan Plantations Syndicate in September, 1906—22 years ago—and, although I have served it as Civil Engineer, Manager, and Managing Director, this is the first time I have had the pleasure of attending an annual meeting and had the privilege of meeting and addressing you.

My co-directors have done me the honour of selecting me to be your chairman.

I feel that, however well I may carry out my duties as chairman, it will be difficult to fill the place vacated by so capable and far-seeing a man as our late chairman, Mr. Eckstein. (Cheers.)

I can only assure you that I shall do my best to serve all your interests.

I am particularly glad that Mr. Eckstein has agreed to remain on the board as deputy chairman, and that the Syndicate will still have the benefit of his wide experience and advice, especially as from time to time I shall have to be away for considerable periods looking after your affairs in the Sudan.

Pioneer Work under Mr. Eckstein.

I should like to convey to those of you who have not been able to see it for yourselves an impression of the pioneer work which has been carried out in the Sudan under Mr. Eckstein's chairmanship, and of the benefits which this work has brought both to the inhabitants of the Sudan and to those who work in the cotton industry in this country.

At Zeidab, our own property, we have developed 14,000 acres, of which 4,000 acres are planted in cotton.

On the Gezira Plain we have developed 396,000 acres of land, of which 131,000 acres are at this moment planted in cotton and 120,000 acres in grain and fodder crops.

On this area the Government has provided the main canal system, and we have completed the subsidiary canalisation for the irrigation of the land and have erected the necessary ginning factories, which include seven large ginning factories containing no fewer than 560 gins, all manufactured in England. This is, I believe, the largest number of gins directly under one management in the world to-day. (Hear, hear.)

We also possess a ginning factory at Zeidab.

We have erected the necessary buildings, dwelling houses, offices,

stores, and light railways and organised the supervisory staff required to run all these and to carry out the intensive cultivation of this vast tract of land.

Work of Canalisation.

The development of the present cultivated area entailed the construction of over 4,000 miles of subsidiary canals and over 8,000 miles of field channels, and by the end of this year we hope to complete the canalisation of the whole area, which will amount to 4,600 miles of subsidiary canals and 9,300 miles of field channels. (Hear, hear.)

For the erection of buildings over 28,000,000 bricks were made locally by the Syndicate and also thousands of tons of lime were manufactured by ourselves, all of which, together with other building material, had to be conveyed for long distances up to 50 or 60 miles and erected all over what was then a waterless plain.

Constant supervision is required to ensure that the proper methods of cultivation and irrigation are carried out during the cultivating season to obtain the best results in every way.

Native drivers and their assistants had to be trained to operate cultivating machinery of the most modern type. The land is ploughed twice over, and this means that on the average we have to plough 1,300 feddans per day from the middle of October to the middle of May.

The ginning factories had to be equipped with a staff of engineers, cotton classifiers, ginning carpenters, checkers, and workmen trained to run the gins and baling presses, together with several thousand men trained to handle the cotton and cotton seed through the factories. The same applies to the running of our light railway and other works incidental to the scheme.

A seed farm has been established to keep up a pure strain of cotton seed and to test such other varieties as seem likely to prove suitable and profitable in the Gezira.

The Government are carrying out all the latest and most up-to-date scientific experiments and research on a research farm situated in the Gezira, to which the Syndicate make a substantial annual contribution. The subjects of the experiments include the prevention and elimination of the diseases and pests to which cotton has been or may be subject in the Sudan, crop rotations, and the reaction of the cotton plant and of the soil to various volumes of water, to different sorts of manures, and to various methods of ploughing and of planting.

The Government has set up public dispensaries on each block of 15,000 acres, so that first aid treatment and medicines are readily available for the whole population on our area.

Improved Position of Inhabitants.

I think that three of the outstanding questions of importance which every country in the world to-day has to attempt to solve are:—The question of wages or profits in connexion with labour; a cheap and ample supply of food; and the reduction of the costs of supplying agricultural products from the field to the consumer.

I think that the question of satisfying the aspirations of the native tenant and worker has been solved by our system of co-operation, whereby the Government, the tenant, and the Syndicate all share in the proceeds of the cotton crop, which means that one party cannot make a profit without the other two participating.

The question of food for man and beast on this area, which in the past, in bad rain years, was often subjected to famine conditions, has been solved by the introduction of irrigation and the annual production of grain and fodder crops on one-third of the area, all of which the tenant gets for himself and his family free, and without any reduction.

The problem of the expensive "middleman" has been eliminated by our Syndicate supplying and carrying out all such services as ploughing, transport, ginning, shipping, and the marketing of the crop at cost. What with his cotton profits and an assured supply of food and fodder, the tenant and worker is vastly better off than ever he was before. (Hear, hear.)

Not the least of the new amenities of life which he enjoys is that drinking water for man and beast is now available all over the area. Consequently, their flocks and herds have increased considerably. In the past indifferent water could only be procured from wells 70 ft. to 150 ft. deep, and it used to occupy almost the entire population of a village most part of the day to draw sufficient water for the daily requirements of themselves and their animals.

Extensive Employment.

These are some of the material benefits which have been achieved, but more than this had to be done to ensure the contentment and well-being of the tenant and native population who do the actual work and upon whose contentment, ability, and success our own success depends.

We have now over 13,000 tenants and their families settled on the land, representing a population of about 100,000 people, all engaged on our cultivation. This does not include those engaged in our ginning factories, light railway, and other occupations arising out of the scheme, which are many.

Human nature is very much the same all over the world. These people have their own ambitions and aspirations, although they may differ somewhat from ours, and it was necessary to build up a supervisory staff whose ability is unquestionable and who also have the

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necessary qualifications to treat our tenants and all workers with consideration, sympathy, and tact.

This, I may tell you, was no easy task in so trying a climate as we have in the Sudan, where a young man has to be of sterling quality all through to meet the demands put upon him by the management and by his varied and arduous occupation. I feel, gentlemen, that we have got the right men, and that you have a staff in the Sudan of which you may well be proud.

Cultivation on Up-to-date Lines.

All our tenants had to be taught how to cultivate on up-to-date lines under an irrigation system and to apply the irrigation in detail themselves.

During the picking season a considerable amount of outside labour is required by the tenant and his family for the picking of the cotton crop, and the number attracted from all quarters, especially from the White Nile Province, during the two previous seasons, which were bad rain years in the surrounding areas and provinces, was very satisfactory indeed. Last year was a good rain year, and this, together with our increased areas, made me a little anxious. Much to my surprise, these people arrived in their thousands with their families and flocks, which augurs well for our further requirements in this respect.

The old lady, whose useful days were assumed to be over, finds herself much sought after and able to earn ample money by picking cotton; the young man and maid find it a lucrative field to earn their marriage portion before returning to their own homes, and the old mare camel, whose productivity had ceased owing to poor feeding, again starts to reproduce when fed on succulent fodder—these are some of the things which appeal to the people and attract them.

So much for the work which has been done and for the benefits which have accrued to the inhabitants of the Sudan.

How the industries of this country have benefited you can judge when I tell you that during the last two seasons we have produced and supplied to this country over £7,000,000 worth of cotton and cotton seed, and that practically all our machinery and building materials have been bought in Great Britain. (Cheers.)

I only mention all this to try to convey to you what has been achieved during Mr. Eckstein's chairmanship. (Cheers.)

At this point I should like the secretary, Mr. Bluen, to read to you an extract from the minutes of a board meeting held on October 25, which I am sure you will all heartily endorse.

Board's Tribute to Mr. Eckstein.

The secretary then read the following extract:—

"On his resignation of the chairmanship, the board unanimously resolved to put on record expressions of their high personal esteem for Mr. F. Eckstein, of their keen appreciation of his outstanding services to the Syndicate, and of their recognition of the large measure in which the present success of this enterprise and the contributions which it is now able to make to the contentment of the native population of the Sudan and to the wealth of the Empire are due to the pioneering spirit, perseverance, disinterestedness, and close personal attention with which, from small beginnings and in the face of difficulties, he has guided its fortunes since its formation 24 years ago." (Cheers.)

The Balance-sheet.

The Chairman, proceeding, said:—I will now follow the usual procedure and go through the balance-sheet. Our last issue of 750,000 shares is now fully paid up and the total issued capital is £2,250,000. The share premium account has been increased from £1,256,000 to £1,690,000. We have added this year £50,000 to our Gezira reserve account, and this account now stands at the satisfactory figure of £200,000. Creditors and credit balances are £1,226,000, which is £850,000 less than last year; a considerable portion of this sum has been liquidated since our books were closed at June 30.

On the credit side you will notice that our own property at Zeidab now stands in our books at £130,700, against £139,700 last year. This figure represents a modest valuation of the property.

The headings under Gezira areas show an increase of something over £250,000, and the item stocks, stores, and building material shows an increase of about £47,000. In both cases this is due to our expenditure on work in connexion with the extension of our area. Further capital expenditure will be required this year, including payments for two new ginning factories, which are now nearing completion.

Our stock of cotton at the end of this financial year was £1,712,000, compared with £3,000,000 at the end of June last year. In arriving at the former figure we adopted the same methods as we did last year—that is, we took the full sale price of all cotton sold up to about a month ago, disregarding cotton not yet delivered. The unsold balance we valued, as usual, at what we considered a conservative figure.

Investments.

Regarding our investments in other companies, you already know that the Kassala Cotton Company has given up its old concession and that the Sudan Government has allotted to that company in exchange a new concession and a new area in the Gezira, which I think will prove advantageous to the shareholders. The Kassala Cotton Company is now engaged in developing this new area, and hopes to have a cotton crop planted in July next year. The acreage which it will be possible to plant must depend upon the amount of water which the Government's irrigation department may be able to

make available in time. Our holding of shares in this company remains unchanged.

As regards Brazil Plantations and Parana Plantations, I beg to refer you to the directors' report and to the full statements made by the chairmen of these companies at their annual meetings.

Our financial position remains a strong one, which is necessary in view of the big crops which we are now producing and which we have to finance.

Profit and Dividend.

Our gross profit is, as you will see from the balance-sheet, £833,000, or £69,000 less than the previous year, while our divisible net profits is within a few pounds of last year's figure of £587,000.

Out of this amount we paid you in July our usual interim dividend of 10 per cent., and we propose now to pay you a final dividend of 15 per cent., making in all 25 per cent. for the year.

From the directors' report you will have gathered that we deduct this year from your dividend both Sudan business profits tax and British income-tax at the rate of 4½d. for the former and at the rate of 3s. 7½d. for the latter. The result to the shareholder is that the deduction of these two taxes is a slightly less deduction in amount than that to which he has been accustomed in the past. The explanation of this is that the Sudan tax is charged first and the British tax is only calculated on the balance remaining. The terms of our new agreement are such that we must adhere in future to this arrangement, and I must, therefore, ask you to sanction this resolution.

Past Season's Operations.

During the past season we had in Zeidab approximately 5,100 feddans under cotton, picked 16,458 kantars, and shipped 3,330 bales, all of which were sold at very satisfactory prices through Messrs. Hannay and Co., of Liverpool. In addition, 1,552 tons of seed were shipped and also sold at satisfactory prices.

In the Gezira we had under cotton 105,587 feddans, dura 52,902 feddans, lubia 55,331 feddans. We picked 347,402 kantars of cotton, and shipped 76,900 bales of cotton and 33,703 tons of cotton seed.

Our cotton crop was considerably smaller than last year, owing entirely to exceptional climatic conditions.

Last season, for the first time since we commenced work in the Gezira, we had no cool winter months and almost an entire absence of wind, which is necessary for the proper aeration of the plants. These conditions were favourable to the propagation of pests.

Current Crop Prospects.

Turning to the present season we have under cotton at Zeidab approximately 5,026 feddans, and the crop promises to be a very good one. We have now picked 17,435 kantars and shipped 1,000 bales. These pickings already exceed any complete crop produced at Zeidab in the past, and the result is very satisfactory. (Cheers.)

There is still a fair amount of cotton to be picked, which I hope may bring our average return for the season up to four kantars per feddan.

In the Gezira we have under:—

Cotton	...	...	...	...	131,351 feddans.
Dura	...	...	...	...	65,651 "
Lubia	...	...	...	...	54,580 "

Thrips have been destructive on two of our blocks at the south end of the concession, and some leaf curl has been observed on one block. These pests are generally in evidence in places in good or in bad years.

Reports just received by cable indicate that the crop on the whole is quite promising.

In past years you have been repeatedly informed that it would only lead you astray if at this date an estimate were given of the probable yield, as one can never foretell what the yield is likely to be until the picking stage is reached in the early months of the near year.

The development work for the extension areas is well ahead, and we hope to have the development canalisation and buildings for the whole concession area of 465,000 feddans completed by July, 1929, and if the Government are able to complete their part of the undertaking by supplying the necessary water for this area we should have 155,000 feddans under cotton next year. (Hear, hear.)

This would, of course, be highly advantageous to us, as it would make the increased capital which is sunk in the development of our extended areas immediately remunerative. At the same time I think it only right to remind you that as our area increases the effect will be that our share in the crop will decrease from 22½ per cent. for last year to a minimum of 20 per cent. when the whole area is planted.

Favourable Factors.

Granted reasonable prices for cotton, I have every confidence that the Syndicate should continue to prosper. We have many factors in our favour—a vast tract of land capable of producing long staple cotton of high quality, a suitable climate, a good supply of labour, and an experienced staff.

At the beginning of my speech I told you that I was proud of our staff. I take this opportunity of thanking them all for the zeal and ability they have shown in fulfilling their various tasks, and for the hard work they have done during the past year. As usual, we have again allocated a bonus of £15,000, which I know you will heartily approve of. (Hear, hear.)

I should like to express our appreciation of the efforts of the organisation through which we have sold our cotton—namely, the British Cotton Growing Association—and of the good work which

they have done in obtaining such excellent prices for all our cotton. This, to a great extent, has been achieved by the personal efforts and interest taken by Sir William Himbury, managing director of the association, and by their brokers, Messrs. Wolstenholme and Holland and Messrs. Reynolds and Gibson.

I should also like to record our indebtedness to Mr. Wilson, of Messrs. Campbell and Philipps, Ltd., for the good results which he has obtained in the marketing of our seed, and to the Sudan Government Railways, and to our shipping agents in the Sudan, Messrs. Contomichalos, Darke and Co. and Gellatly, Hankey and Co., for the efficient way in which the transport and shipping were carried out.

I now move: "That the report of the directors and statement of accounts to June 30, 1928, now laid before the meeting, be and the same are hereby received and adopted." I will call upon Mr. F. Eckstein to second the motion. (Cheers.)

Mr. Eckstein's Speech.

Mr. Eckstein, who was received with cheers, said: Allow me first of all, Mr. Chairman, to thank you for the kind and generous reference you have made regarding my past association with our Syndicate, and to thank you, ladies and gentlemen, for the cordial way you have received these remarks.

In the statement of the progress made by the syndicate during the last quarter of a century—in a way almost a romance—the chairman naturally omitted to tell you what I can tell you—that during all that time his was the moving and active spirit, and, if praise is due to anyone, the name of our new chairman must certainly be included. (Cheers.)

In these circumstances shareholders are all the more to be congratulated on his having accepted this new and further responsibility.

Mr. MacIntyre and I have worked together, as he has told you, for more than 22 years in absolute harmony and mutual understanding—we know each other well. What I think of him, what I think of the work he has done in the Sudan, what I think of the admirable organisation he has created in the Gezira, you all are well aware of, having made it abundantly clear in my many annual addresses to you. (Cheers.)

Continuity of Policy.

As Mr. MacIntyre will combine with the chairmanship also the managing directorship in the Sudan, it will be necessary for him to spend a certain amount of time in the Sudan every year, so my colleagues have appointed me deputy chairman. (Cheers.) This will enable me to represent the chairman during his absence abroad, and it will have the further advantage of assuring that continuity of policy which we have been following so consistently for many years. This policy has stood the test of time and is one I have very much at heart.

I am anxious to emphasise what the chairman has said about our able manager, Mr. Poyntz Wright, his second in command, Mr. Archdale, and the staff in the Sudan. No one who has not been on the spot and seen our people at work—be it at head office at Barakat, in the field, in the ginneries, workshops, railways, buildings—can realise the efficiency and zeal shown by all of them, and all this under a grilling hot sun. I want to repeat the deep acknowledgment your board and the shareholders owe them.

I would also like to thank our London staff. Our secretary, Mr. Bluen, with a very small staff, has to go through an immense amount of work every day. He and his assistants perform their duties to our entire satisfaction. (Hear, hear.) We hope to make it possible for him to pay a visit to the Sudan shortly, and so enable him to gain some first-hand knowledge of how the work is done at our headquarters at Barakat. (Cheers.)

At our annual meeting last year I was perhaps over-cautious regarding our dividend prospects for this year.

I spoke advisedly in that sense, but in your interest, because I knew that we had to pay a dividend on a 50 per cent. higher capital, while the percentage of new areas under cultivation would be negligible. Well, ladies and gentlemen, I am happy to say my apprehension did not materialise.

Good Cotton Prices.

Notwithstanding that our yield per feddan was $1\frac{1}{2}$ kantars less than the average of the previous two years, we are able to pay you again 25 per cent., without making use of our carry-forward. You will probably like to know how this was possible. My answer is: Good work rewarded by good luck in the shape of good cotton prices. For this we cannot claim any credit—it was just good fortune.

The chairman has given you a clear and lucid statement dealing with our last year's work, so it is unnecessary for me to say anything more, except to add that our relationship with the various Government Departments in Khartoum is most satisfactory in every way.

I read the other day in a speech made by the Governor-General of the Sudan, in which he praised the work done by our syndicate, that we showed our good sense in never quarrelling with the Government, because we realised that sound policy did not clash with sound business. (Hear, hear.)

This, ladies and gentlemen, is perfectly true, and I have much pleasure in seconding the resolution moved by the chairman. (Cheers.)

Shareholders' questions having been replied to, the motion was put to the meeting and carried unanimously.

The Dividend Resolution.

The Chairman next moved: "That a final dividend be declared payable to shareholders on the register on November 3, 1928, at such a rate as, with the interim dividend paid in July last, will be equivalent to a dividend for the year of 5s. per share (equal to 25 per cent.), less Sudan business profits tax at the rate of $\frac{1}{4}$ d. in the pound, and British income-tax at the rate of 3s. 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. in the pound."

The Chairman announced that the dividend warrants would be posted on the 15th inst.

The Hon. Arthur M. Asquith, D.S.O., seconded the resolution, which was unanimously adopted.

The retiring directors (Mr. F. Eckstein and Lieutenant-Colonel S. H. Pollen, C.M.G.) were re-elected; and Messrs. Cooper Brothers and Co. having been reappointed auditors, a vote of thanks to the chairman concluded the proceedings.

COMPANY NOTES AND REPORTS.

NATIONAL BANK OF EGYPT.

Position at September 30, 1928, published in conformity with Article 8 of the Statutes. Banking Department.—Liabilities: Share capital (300,000 fully-paid shares of £10 each), £E2,925,000; Reserve Fund: Statutory reserve, £E1,462,500; special reserve, £E1,243,125; current, deposit, and other accounts, £E13,475,938; Egyptian Government, £E15,865,865; Sudan Government, £E213,769; Mixed Tribunals, £E1,892,686; bankers' accounts, £E415,497; cheques and bills payable, £E211,654; sundry other accounts, £E2,013,042—£E39,719,076. Assets: Government securities and securities guaranteed by the Egyptian Government, £E21,136,77; sundry securities, £E529,873; advances on merchandise, £E2,034,209; advances on securities, £E4,660,380; advances otherwise secured, £E1,378,044; sundry other advances, £E1,597,439; bills of exchange, £E2,021,932; local bills discounted, £E750,272; buildings and furniture, £E247,686; money at call and at short notice, £E190,125; bankers' accounts, £E938,207; sundry other accounts, £E1,322,022. Cash: Notes, £E2,140,991; gold, £E481,322; silver, nickel, etc., £E289,497—£E2,911,810—£E30,719,076. Issue Department.—Notes issued, £E29 200,000—£E29,200,000. Gold, £E3,339,570; *British Treasury Bills, £E11,260,430—£E14,600,000. Securities: Egyptian Government securities and securities guaranteed by Egyptian Government, £E1,500,000; British Treasury Bills, National War Bonds, and British War Loan, £E13,100,000—£E14,600,000—£E29,200,000.

* By authority of the Egyptian Government these Treasury Bills are deposited in lieu of gold. (See *Journal Officiel* of October 30, 1916).

NEWS FROM ALL SOURCES.

The Yugoslav Minister of Finance has laid before the Chamber of Deputies the new Budget, which will balance at 7,829,888,071 dinars.

The directors of the Shell Transport and Trading Company announce an interim dividend of 2s. per share, free of tax, payable on January 5, 1929.

A cable from the Empire Marketing Board's correspondent at Jaffa states that the Oporto which was due to arrive at Liverpool yesterday carries 28,455 boxes of oranges from Jaffa. The Granada, reported as carrying 25,719 boxes of Jaffa oranges for Glasgow, is now stated to be due on December 3. This vessel also carries 2,405 boxes of oranges for Bristol.

The directors of the Egyptian Markets, Ltd., have declared an interim dividend (No. 48) of 5 per cent. (less income tax at 4s. in the £) in respect of the year ending December 31, 1928, on the ordinary shares, payable on and after November 15, 1928, at Barclays Bank (Dominion, Colonial and Overseas), 37-39, King William Street, London, E.C.4.

The total number of exhibitors of Greek products at the Salonika Fair this year is stated to have been 336. Tobacco was shown in its various stages of manipulation, as well as cigarettes of the Austrian and Italian tobacco monopolies, made with Greek tobacco, and other interesting sections were those of the local textile industries, the agricultural products of the local Communes, the stand of the National Office of Corinth Raisins, and the Machinery Section, which was one of the most important. Gabardines, surgical instruments, perambulators, and bicycles of Greek make were exhibited for the first time.

A leaflet has been issued by Messageries Maritimes giving details of their Mediterranean cruises in 1929. The cruises, the first of which begins on January 1, range from 25 days to 45 days, and afford the would-be traveller an admirable choice of itineraries, providing as they do for extended visits to the leading show places in the Mediterranean. Thus the first 45 days' tour, which leaves Marseilles on January 22, provides for visits to Athens, Constantinople, Smyrna, Rhodes, Larnaca, Mersina, Beyrout, Damascus, Tiberias, Jerusalem, Cairo, and the ascent of the Nile, etc.

Cotton and Cotton Goods.

THE LIVERPOOL COTTON MARKET.

Messrs. Reynolds and Gibson report as follows for the week ended November 14:—

Egyptian Futures.

Sakel Contract.—We have again experienced a series of rather featureless sessions in this market during the past week; outside interest continues to be restricted, and trade operations remain on a relatively unimportant scale for this period of the season. Under these circumstances it is rather difficult to account for the steady undertone displayed, whilst certainly with the local contract well below Alexandria pressure should not be experienced at this side; one would have anticipated the overseas market reflecting in a more marked degree the curtailment in demand forced by the relatively high Sakel premiums over other varieties.

Ginning figures to the end of October are returned as 755,288 kantars, against 729,081 kantars for the same period last year. Receipts in Alexandria to the 1st inst. total 519,00 kantars and exports 282,000 kantars. Whilst probably outside consumers are more active than Lancashire, the above figures cannot be construed "bullishly" in our opinion; rather the reverse, as they appear to indicate supplies accumulating up-country and a tendency on the part of holders to await a general demand which, to say the least, is very slow in developing. With ideas of the crop stabilising around 2½ million kantars, plus the carry-over and a record Sudan crop in promise, supplies of fine cottons appear more than ample and no discernible points are apparent at the moment to cause consumers to purchase beyond their close requirements. To deal briefly with the price movements recorded since we last wrote, just prior to the publication of the American crop figures values fell away sharply on a moderate amount of local and Continental liquidation. The "bullish" after effects of this report have since caused a hardening tendency, to-night's close showing gains of 26 to 27 points, with November, 1929, exceptionally 40 points advance.

The Alexandria market has again maintained a steady level and continues to run out of line with our contract; thus we cannot anticipate the local stock of tenderable Sakel cotton, which, as reported last week, is abnormally small, being augmented for some little time. Near positions remain depressed owing to tenders of white cotton, but we understand that allowances latterly have not been so attractive to the sellers, and on this account differences may close up somewhat between now and the end of the month. For the immediate future, values may hold their ground provided the American markets maintain their upward tendency. Unless spinners' activities in Sakels commence to be on a larger scale during the next few weeks, we think holders will begin to show nervousness and start to let their cotton go at a narrowing difference with competitive qualities.

Upper Contract.—A considerable amount of activity has been witnessed in this contract during recent sessions, but with consistent selling against imports and straddle sales against purchases of December and February in Alexandria the undertone has inclined to the heavy side. Very large shipments are expected to bring the local stock up to high figures during the next six weeks; most of this cotton has been bought at a tenderable basis, and will go on the contract in January unless the trade offtake is on a larger scale or very handsome carrying premiums are forced. The counterpart of this import business are holders of the Upper-American straddle; these latter have already a substantial loss on their operation and appear to be faced with the alternative of accepting actual cotton or switching forward their holding at a heavy premium. The position is decidedly interesting; the trade demand appears to have slackened for the time being and strong competition from American staples has developed; in addition, we do not appear to have reached the peak of the marketing movement. With these factors operating, we expect resistance to any upward movement for the immediate future, and it appears quite probable that some closing down on the existing difference over the American contract may be forced by straddle liquidation during the next few weeks.

Egyptian Spot.

We have experienced a very quiet week in this department, in spite of the fact that at times the inquiry has been on a generous scale, and prices have exhibited a distinctly upward tendency. Sakel users have not been at all keen, but the inquiry for cotton between 11d. and 15½d. has been fairly good, and "pass to 150 on" has also been in quite good request at times. The local stock is so small, and the selection of attractive cotton (at medium rates) so poor that even a small amount of actual business affects prices these days, and the strength recently displayed in Alexandria has, of course, been reflected in our market also. Hence, we show a substantial advance on last week's quotations.

The top qualities of Sakel, quotations of which have recently been advanced considerably, have met with little interest this week. Uppers have been in fair request again, but the offtake appears to have slackened off somewhat. Stocks are now increasing rapidly and buyers are becoming more discriminating. A lot of cotton appears to be heading this way, and it is difficult to see how current values can be maintained unless something totally unexpected occurs. Most of the buying has taken place within the "25 off to 25 on" range, but there has also been an undercurrent of inquiry for lower

cotton at 10½d. or thereabouts. Top qualities have been neglected. Pilon cotton at from 12½d. to 13½d. has been in moderate request. Sudan Sakel, Tokar Sakel, and all "fancy" growths have suffered very much from neglect.

C.i.f. business has been very quiet. Forwardings to spinners last week were returned as 6,179 bales Egyptian and 883 bales Sudan. Quotations of Sakel show a net advance on the week of 55 to 35 points; those of Upper and Pilon have been raised 20 points. F.G.F. Sakel to-day, 18.15d. F.G.F. Upper to-day, 12.00d. F. G. F. Pilon to-day, 12.80d. nominal.

THE EGYPTIAN MARKET.

The Alexandria Commercial Company, in their report for the week ended November 8, state:—

The market since our last report has been more active than during the previous week, but at the same time rather weaker. The week's summary of price movements is as follows:—Sakellaridis: November, 34.62 dollars, 0.39 dollars down; January, 35.05 dollars, 0.70 dollars down; March, 35.51 dollars, 0.64 dollars down; May, 35.95 dollars, 0.55 dollars down; November, 1919, 36.20 dollars. Ashmouni: December, 21.18 dollars, 1.37 dollars down; February, 21.67 dollars, 1.38 dollars down; April, 22.20 dollars, 1.15 dollars down; October, 23.03 dollars, 1.22 dollars down.

Sakel.—We have had a succession of featureless markets. The rather weaker tendency has developed as a result of some selling out of long positions, induced by the prevailing local expectation that the American Bureau crop estimate, which is to be published this evening, will be appreciably larger than that of last month.

On Monday last the Alexandria General Produce Association published its preliminary estimate of the Egyptian crop, which it placed at 7,500,000 kantars.

Demand from abroad has been moderately satisfactory; on the other hand, arrivals from up-country continue to be heavy, and holders are, generally speaking, disposed to sell whenever they can do so without breaking prices. Straddle purchases of Sakel against

OVERSEAS AGENTS FOR THE SALE OF "THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA."

EGYPT.

Alexandria: M. Nacamulli and Co., 12, Rue Sesostris.

Cairo: M. Avatis, 1, Faggala.

Express Book and Stationery Store, P.O. Box 1113.

Port Said: English Agency, P.O. Box 240.

SUDAN.

Port Sudan: The Egyptian Library, Post Office Box No. 44.

PALESTINE.

Haifa: Newspapers Agency Steimatzky, Jaffa Street.

Jerusalem: B. Y. and W. A. Said, 23-24, Jaffa Road.

Newspapers Agency Steimatzky, Jaffa Road

SYRIA.

Beyrout: Sarrafian Bros.

IRAQ AND PERSIAN GULF.

Basrah: Jashanmal, Bridge Street, Ashar.

Bahrein: Kamalieh Bookshop.

BULGARIA.

Sofia: Librairie Francaise et Etrangere, 6, Bvd, Tsar Ostvoboditel.

CYPRUS.

Nicosia: Dick Soutanian, P.O. Box 6.

GREECE.

Athens: Messageries de Journaux et Publications Etrangers, 24, Rue du Stade.

ROUMANIA.

Bucharest: Mr. L. Hamilton, 21, Strada Regala.

TURKEY.

Constantinople: The Anglo-American Book and Newsagency, 18, Rue des Petits Champs, Pera.

YUGOSLAVIA.

Belgrade: Librairie Française, 17 and 22, Rue Prince Michel.

ALBANIA.

Tirana: Librairie Lumo Skende.

AMERICA.

New York: Brentano's, Fifth Avenue and 27th Street.

Boston (Mass): Smith and McCance, Ashburton Place.

sales of Ashmouni have been a feature on a moderate scale, and the difference between the two varieties has widened still further. We think that the market will continue to fluctuate round about present levels, in view of the fact that present influences for and against the market seem, as we stated in our preceding report, to counter-balance.

At the first November tender, 7,000 kantars dockets were issued. The Sakel/Ashmouni (January/February) straddle stands at 1,338 points, against 1,270 points last week and 866 points at this time last year.

Uppers.—The weakness in New York has been more than fully reflected in our market. The opinion generally prevalent locally that the American Bureau crop estimate will show appreciably larger figures has resulted in heavy liquidation, which, falling on a market already somewhat depressed by the continued large arrivals from the interior, has caused a sharp decline in values. Sales have been heavy, and were it not for the continuance of the satisfactory demand from the trade, which has absorbed the greater part of the cotton offered, the decline must have been more pronounced.

The decline which has taken place and the consequent narrowing of the difference compared with American should increase the attraction of Uppers to spinners, and we look for a gradual upward movement in prices as the season advances and the movement of the crop slows down. The Ashmouni/American straddle (December/January) stands at 242 points, against 326 points last week and 845 points at this time last year.

The week's receipts amount to 432,893 kantars, against exports 273,050 kantars; the stock in Alexandria stands at 2,769,565 kantars.

Spot.—We have had another busy week at Minet el Bassal and spinners' interest in our cotton has been quite well maintained. Sales amount to about 31,500 bales, of which we estimate 14,200 bales Sakel, 14,900 bales Ashmouni and Zagora, 1,300 bales Pilon, 600 bales Nahda, and 500 bales other varieties.

Sakellaris: Has been in good demand for all grades except low qualities, and a good business has been done. Spot differences are without much change, but are well maintained and inclined to harden for the grades round Fully Good Fair and those about Fully Good.

Ashmouni and Zagora: A good business has been done, though not so extensive as last week. The medium grades have attracted most attention; the low grades are neglected and there has not been much demand for the top qualities. Spot differences are without much change except for cotton over Good, which has weakened appreciably. Although the demand is quite good, stocks and arrivals are large and are offered freely.

Pilon: A fairly good business has transpired covering all grades. Spot differences are without much change.

Other Varieties: Nahda continues to attract great attention and is quickly sold when offered. Spot differences are unchanged for the medium qualities but distinctly dearer for Good and better. In White a good business has been done at last week's differences. A retail business has taken place in Maarad and Fouadi.

Up-country: The marketing of the crop varies from district to district. In the North Delta, the movement continues apace, but appears to be rather slowing down in the Southern districts. In Upper Egypt, while business continues brisk, transactions are not on the same large scale as last month.

Stock and Share Markets.

LONDON EXCHANGE		Prices on Nov. 19	Railways.		Prices on Nov. 19	INDIAN EXCHANGES.		Prices on Oct. 24
Government Stocks.						Government Loans.		
Egyptian 4 p.c. Unified Debt ...	85½	xd	Assam-Bengal ...	...	95	3½% Government Paper ...	...	73½
Do. Pref. 3½ p.c. 1890 ...	74½		Bengal Dooars ...	...	180½	Banks		14
Do. Turk 4 p.c. 1891 ...	90½		Bengal Nagpur ...	...	102½	Imperial Bank of India ...	...	97
Do. 3½ p.c. Eg. Trib. Bonds '94 ...	84½		Egypt Delta Light Rly. ...	...	5 1/16	Bank of India ...	...	25
Bulgaria 4½ p.c. Gold, 1907 ...	29		Nizams Gtd. ...	...	240	Central Bank of India ...	...	
Do. 7 p.c. ...	90		Ottoman (Smy. T. Aid) ...	...	42½	Coal.		1
Greek 5 p.c. 1881 ...	72		Do. 5 p.c. 1st Deb. ...	...	72½	Baraboni ...	...	400
Do. 5 p.c. 1884 ...	72		Do. 6 p.c. 2nd Deb. ...	...	60	Bengal ...	...	11½
Do. 4 p.c. Rentes, 1889 ...	57		Piræus Athens and P. 1st Bds. ...	...	56½	Burrakur ...	...	17½
Do. 5 p. 1890 ...	71		Southern Punjab ...	...	19½	East Indian ...	...	18½
Do. 5 p.c. Funding Loan, 1893 ...	71		South Indian ...	...	123½	Equitable ...	...	25
Do. 4 p.c. Rents, Loan, 1902 ...	61		Rubber.			Pench Valley ...	...	17½
Do. 4 p.c. Loan, 1910 ...	81		Ceylon Para Rubber Ord. ...	...	8/9	Raneegunge ...	...	59½
Do. 5 p.c. Loan, 1914 (Lon. issue) ...	76½		Doolgalla (Ceylon) Rub. Est. ...	...	19/-	Standard ...	...	
Do. 7 p.c. 1924 ...	101½		Grand Cent. (Ceylon) Rubber ...	...	24/6	Cotton.		20
Do. 6 p.c. St. Bds. ...	92½		Hewagum Rubber Co. ...	...	10/9	Bengal Nagpur ...	...	8½
Palestine 5 p.c. ...	101½		Kepitigalla Rubber Estates ...	...	1/3	Bombay Dyeing, etc. ...	...	330
Persia 5 p.c. 1911 ...	89½		Malayalam Rub. and Produce ...	...	31/-	Bowreah ...	...	185
Roumania 4 p.c. Ext. ...	72½		Shipping.			Buckingham and Carnatic ...	...	11
Do. 4 p.c. Consolidation ...	47½		Anchor 5½ p.c. Prf. ...	...	8½	Cawnpore Textiles ...	...	308
Do. 4½ p.c. 1913 ...	56½		Cunard ...	...	31/9	Century ...	...	506
Sudan 5½ p.c. Guar. Bds. ...	107½		Furness Withy ...	...	39/-	Central India ...	...	91
India 3½ p.c. ...	61		Khediail Mail Ord. ...	...	3	Elgin ...	...	57½
Do. 3 p.c. ...	103½		P. and O. Deferred ...	...	56½	Khatua Makanji ...	...	325
Do. 5½ p.c. ...	92½		Tea.			Muir ...	...	289
Do. 4½ p.c. Unified ...	24½		Assam Co. ...	...	21	New Ring ...	...	365
Turkish 4 p.c. Unified ...	24½		Bengal United Tea Ord ...	...	21/16	Phoenix ...	...	467
Banks.			Bramapootra ...	...	34	Svadeshi ...	...	400
Agri. Bank of Egypt ...	81 3/2		British Indian Tea Ord. ...	...	3 15/16	Jute.		295
Bank of British West Africa ...	4½		Cachar and Dooars Tea Ord. ...	...	2 13/16	Alliance ...	...	295
Bank of Roumania ...	86 3/4		Carolina ...	...	39/16 xd	Barnagore ...	...	635
Barclays Dom. Col. Pf. ...	27/9		Ceylon Tea Plantations Ord. ...	...	5½ xd	Budge Budge ...	...	434
Chartered Bank of India ...	7 1/16		Consolidated Estates ...	...	35/16	Clive ...	...	573
Eastern ...	11 xd		Darjeeling Co. ...	...	2 27/32	Dalhousie ...	...	610
Hambros ...	17½		Dimbula Valley (Ceylon) Ord. ...	...	35/16	Delta ...	...	970
Ionian Bank ...	11½		Dooars Tea Ord. ...	...	3 5/16	Fort Gloster ...	...	516
Imperial Bank of Persia ...	19½		Dooloomgram Tea ...	...	1 7/32	Gourepore ...	...	56½
Land Bank of Egypt Ord. ...	65/-		Doom Dooma ...	...	43/16	Howrah ...	...	710
Lloyds ...	34½		East Assam ...	...	4½	Kamarahatty ...	...	600
Mercantile Bank of India A ...	34½		Empire of Ind. ...	...	2½	Kankarrah ...	...	110
Do. B ...	34½		Halem Tea ...	...	50/6	Khardah ...	...	1,150
National Bank of Egypt ...	36½		Imperial Ind. ...	...	5½	Kinnison ...	...	133
National Bank of India ...	52½		Jhanzie Tea Association ...	...	4	National ...	...	515
Ottoman Bank ...	14		Jokai (Assam) Tea Ord. ...	...	4 3/16	Standard ...	...	820
P. and O. Bank Corporation ...	9		Jorehaut ...	...	1 15/16	Miscellaneous*		31
Westminster ...	20½		Lanka Plantations Ord. ...	...	1 3/32	British India Corporation ...	...	34
Land.			Lungla (Sylhet) Tea Ord. ...	...	6½	Bengal Paper Mills ...	...	394
Kassala Cotton ...	6/9		New Dimbula ...	...	5 19/32	Bengal Timber Trading ...	...	245
Latifiyah (Iraq) Estates ...	4/6		Nuwara Eliya Tea Estates Ord. ...	...	2 25/32	Burn and Co. ...	...	20½
Sudan Plantations ...	315/16		Nedem ...	...	3½	Cawnpore Sugar ...	...	124
Mines.			Ouvah ...	...	6½	Champaran Sugar ...	...	84
Balaghat Gold Mining ...	6/6		Pabbojan ...	...	2 1/16	Howrah Oil Mills ...	...	
Burma Corp. ...	15/-		Standard ...	...	33/16	ALEXANDRIA		
Champion Reef Gold ...	10/-		Scottish Assam ...	...	2½	Prices on Nov. 9, supplied by G. L.		
Mysoore ...	15/9		Scottish Tea and Lands ...	...		Moriera, Alexandria & Cairo.		
Nundydroog ...	17 1/4		Upper Assam ...	...		Agricultural Bank of Egypt ...	...	£81 3/2
Ooregum Gold Mining Ord. ...	13/3		Insurance.			" Foud. ...	...	£815
Oil.			General Accident Fire and Life (£5, 21½ paid) ...	...	14	Alexandria Water Co. ...	...	£17 5/16
Anglo-Egyptian B ...	24		London & Lancs (£5, 21 paid) ...	...	30½	Assoc. Cotton Ginners ...	...	£22 3/2
Anglo-Persian Ord. ...	4 7/16		Royal Exchange (£1) ...	...	6½	Behera Ord. ...	...	£221
Do. 8 p.c. Cum. 1st Pf. ...	26 7/8		Sun Fire £10 (£2 paid) ...	...	40½	Ciments d'Egypte ...	...	Fr. 128
Do. 9 p.c. Cum. 2nd Pf. ...	29 1/8		Trade Indemnity (£10) ...	...	15½	Div. ...	...	185
Do. 5 p.c. Debs. ...	97½		Miscellaneous.			Comptoir Fin. & Com. d'Egypte ...	...	£5 1/8
Do. 6½ p.c. Notes ...	101		Alexandria Water Co. ...	...	17½	Credit Foncier Egyptien ...	...	Fr. 1,242
Brit. Burmah ...	7 3/8		Associated Cotton Ginners ...	...	11/16	Fondateur ...	...	Fr. 3,000
Burmah Oil Co. Ord. ...	4½		Dunlop Rubber ...	...	25 1/4	Crown Brewery Priv. ...	...	Fr. 178
Do. 8% Cum. Pref. ...	26 1/4 xd		Egyptian Hotels ...	...	7	Filature Nationale d'Egypte ...	...	£57 1/6
Hamilton's Oil Concessions ...	10½		Do. Markets Ord. ...	...	26½	Frigoirique d'Egypte ...	...	47½
Phoenix Oil and Transport (f.p.) ...	14 3/4		Do. Salt and Soda ...	...	33½	Immeubles d'Egypte Soc. An. des. ...	...	164
Do. (1/-) ...	7/9		Mortgage Co. of Egypt 5 p.c. Pref. ...	...	8½	Land Bank of Egypt Actions ...	...	£19 1/32
Shell Transport ...	5½		Oriental Telephone ...	...	3	Parts de Fond ...	...	£261
Steaua Romana ...	12/-		Waring & Gillow ...	...	15/9	Menzaleh Canal Navigation ...	...	Pt. 157

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Reserve Liability of Shareholders - £1,000,000

Paid up Capital - £1,000,000
Reserve Fund - £425,000

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NELLORE	7,000	Nov. 24	—	Colombo and Calcutta
SCATHAY	15,000	Nov. 30	Dec. 6	Colombo & Australia
IMOREA	11,000	Nov. 30	Dec. 7	Bombay and Japan
RAJPUTANA	16,600	Dec. 7	Dec. 14	Bombay and Karachi
KASHGAR	9,000	Dec. 13	—	Straits, China, Japan
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MASULA	7,261	Nov. 24	Dec. 1	Bombay and Karachi
MARGHA	8,258	Nov. 24	Dec. 1	Madras and Calcutta
MORVADA	8,193	Dec. 8	Dec. 15	Madras and Calcutta
MALDA	8,900	Dec. 12	Dec. 21	East African Ports
HATIMURA	6,666	Dec. 12	Dec. 22	Bombay and Karachi
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†d/cCity of Calcutta	7,679	Nov. 26	Bombay & Calcutta
eCity of Sparta	5,415	Dec. 4	Colombo & Calcutta
fCity of Poona	7,485	Dec. 15	Bombay & Karachi
/City of Baroda	7,129	Dec. 22	Bombay & Colombo
City of York	7,844	Dec. 22	Colombo & Calcutta
City of Cairo	7,882	Jan. 4	Bombay & Karachi
City of Manchester	5,564	Jan. 4	Colombo & Calcutta

(*) Passengers embark Vittoria Dock, Birkenhead, 3 p.m. (†) Passengers
embark Marseilles noon. (c) Calls Naples. (d) Calls Port Sudan.
(e) Calls Madras. (f) Sailing direct from Marseilles.

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City of Pekin	6,960	Dec. 13	Singapore, Manila
City of Baroda	9,670	Dec. 22	Hongkong, Shanghai

LONDON TO SOUTH AFRICA.

City of Valencia	7,329	Dec. 22	Cape Town, Algon
City of Palermo	4,699	Jan. 7	Bay, East London and Natal

MEDITERRANEAN and LEVANT.

Dido	3,554	Dec. 1	Malta and Alexandria
Algerian	2,304	Dec. 5	Smyrna & Constantinople

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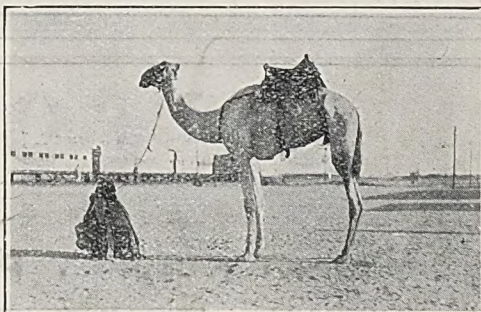
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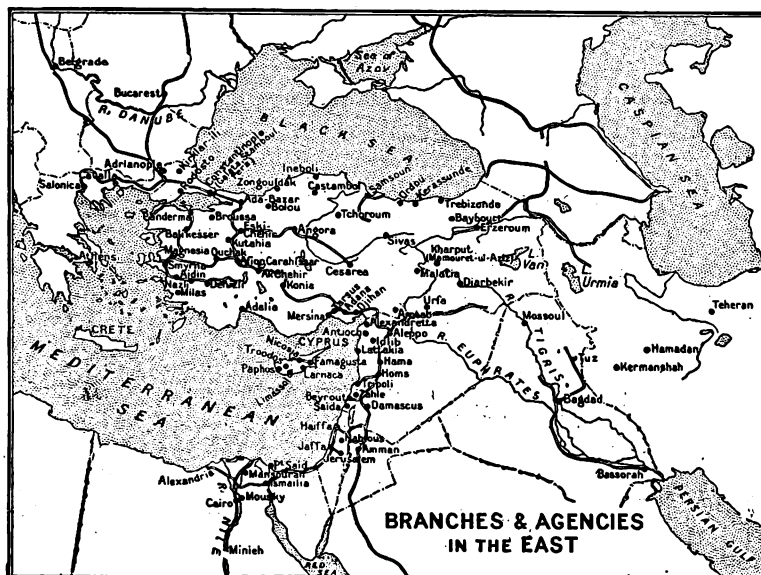
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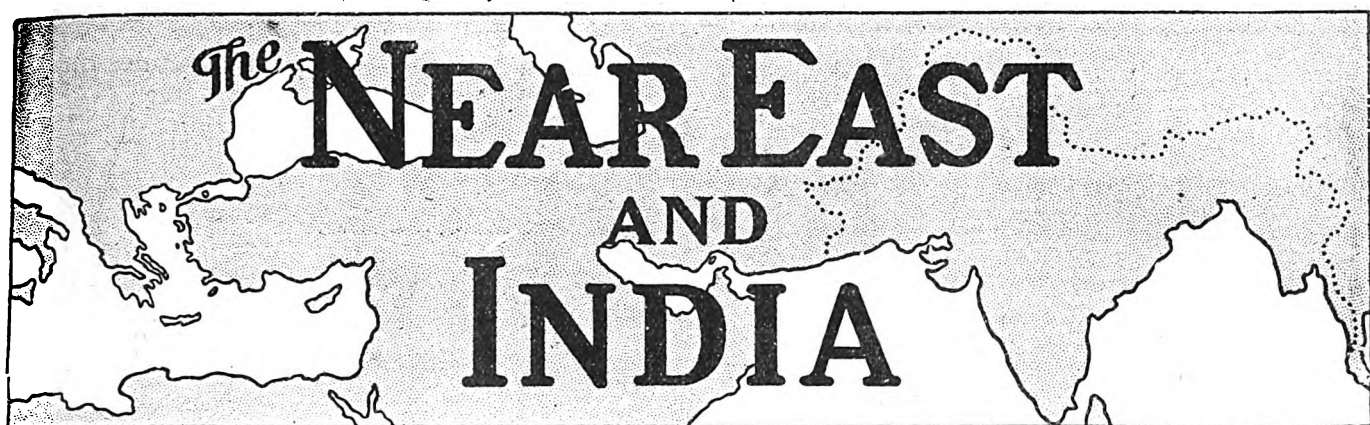
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Notes of the Week.

Serbs and Croats.

With King Alexander's return to Belgrade the possibility of changes in the Government is being freely discussed; but it is unlikely that any definite step will be taken until the Skupshtina has passed the Budget. The breach between Serbs and Croats is regarded as so complete that no suggestion is put forward in Belgrade for bringing the two parties together. The most that is hoped for would seem to be that the Croats will take part in new elections and that some agreement can then be arrived at for modification of the Constitution by a fresh Constituent Assembly. Whether the present temper of the Croats will allow them to fall in with this Serbian scheme remains to be seen. They will presumably require very specific safeguards for the changes that may be agreed upon before they take part in any elections, and it is not easy to see how these are to be given and accepted while the parties are not on speaking terms with one another. Rachitch's revolver shots on June 20 achieved more than he intended, for they have revealed some ugly skeletons in the Yugoslav cupboard. Serbian statesmanship has never been of a high order; if it had been, the Bulgarians would not have entered the War on the side of the Central Powers. What had not been properly realised, at least abroad, was the one-sided part played by the Crown in the Triune Kingdom. When King Alexander visited the wounded Stepan Raditch in hospital, there seemed some hope that the outrage in the Skupshtina would be kept within the limits that the dastardly action prompted by an unbalanced mind deserved. Raditch died, and the Croat nation in turn was wounded. It was then that King Alexander's presence was required in Zagreb and in as many places in Croatia as he could conveniently visit. This salve to the Croat wound, however, has not even yet, five months after the murders, been administered, and Yugoslavia stands revealed to the world as a country with so little cohesion between its component parts that it cannot produce a mediator between Croats and Serbs. The activities of a constitutional Sovereign are necessarily restricted, but it has been made clear that the Radical Party's monopoly of the Throne has been prejudicial to the interests of

Yugoslavia, and it would seem to-day as if action by the King alone could save the country from the fate of amputation that all parties fear.

A Federalised Yugoslavia.

Some advance will have been made in the settlement of the internal difficulties of Yugoslavia, if the Serbs are able to contemplate dispassionately a federation of States in the place of the highly centralised system imposed by the Vidovdan Constitution. One proposal, emanating from Zagreb, that has been put forward, would divide the country into five provinces, each with a separate State Assembly and uniting for the purpose of a Federal Parliament. According to this scheme the five divisions would be as follows: (1) Liubliana Province, including the whole of Slovenia; (2) Zagreb Province, comprising Croatia, Slavonia, North-West Bosnia and Northern Dalmatia; (3) Sarajevo Province, comprising the remainder of Bosnia, Herzegovina, Southern Dalmatia and Montenegro; (4) Belgrade Province, with the Banat, Batchka, Srem, Northern Serbia as far as Aleksinatz, with the Sanjak and the district of Tuzla (Bosnia); (5) Nich Province, comprising South Serbia and Macedonia. It is obvious that any concrete scheme will meet with opposition over matters of detail, as local aspirations will claim a legislature for each territorial unit. Only when it is realized that concessions have to be made not only in the general interest, but also to maintain the unity of the Kingdom, will there be any chance of a successful compromise. To this end the country must be able to call upon the services of a mediator who is above sectional partisanship, unless it is to be first purged of its suicidal parochialism by the heavy hand of a dictator.

A Lead by Roumania.

Dr. Vaida Voevod, the new Roumanian Minister for the Interior, has recently made an important declaration on the vexed subject of Minorities. Amplifying the Transylvanian creed he has laid down the following principles on which the Roumanian Government will base its policy. That peoples have the right to be governed, to be educated and to be judged in their own languages, and that as far

as possible these rights are to be exercised through their own nationals. If this principle could win general adoption in the Balkans, a happier day would dawn for the distressful Peninsula. It is, after all, the only policy based on common sense. There must always be minorities in the Balkans, however scientifically boundaries may be drawn. These minorities have already been able to satisfy themselves that existing frontiers are going to be changed with very considerable difficulty, if at all, unless the two Governments concerned can arrive at a friendly agreement on the subject. Accordingly minorities may be regarded as already predisposed towards peaceful acquiescence in their lot if only they can be assured of decent treatment, and are not continually subjected to attempts to dragoon them by force. The determining factor in their loyalty will generally be found to be their economic interests, which are almost inevitably bound up with those of the State to which they belong. The privileges of being governed and educated in their own language is a matter of sentiment, which becomes inimical to the State only when it is suppressed. The first State in the Near East to treat its minorities properly will be the first to have no minority problem.

Bulgaria and the Terrorists.

Not quite forty years ago Bulgaria suffered from a serious epidemic of brigandage. The story has been told before, but once again Bulgarians need to be reminded of it. The authorities were handicapped in dealing with the evil, because a certain amount of glamour attached to the men of the mountains, the border line between a brigand and a *komitaji* being narrow, and the villagers could not be induced to give evidence against them. The scandal of brigandage, however, had to be stamped out. Troops were mobilised, a prominent band of brigands was located, and finally run to earth in a village inn, where they were apparently on good terms with the villagers. Brigands and villagers were summarily executed outside the inn, and the country was quickly freed from brigandage; for as soon as the peasants realised that it did not pay to harbour brigands, the latter were unable to ply their trade. The method of stamping out brigandage was drastic, but effective. The time would now seem to have come when the Bulgarian Government of the day must take its courage in both hands and deal in a similar manner with Macedonian terrorism. It is, without doubt, a more difficult matter than mere brigandage; but Bulgaria's international reputation is at stake. Moreover, it is derogatory to the perfectly legitimate Macedonian cause that it should be identified with the terrorism associated with the present control of the Macedonian Revolutionary Organization, which is more concerned with its own blood feuds than with the interests of Macedonians. As in the case of the brigands, an effective display of courage on the part of the Bulgarian Government will silence all criticisms. When the terrorists have been eliminated, the Macedonian cause will be in a better position to come into its own.

Turkey's Southern Boundaries.

It is profoundly to be hoped that the negotiations now in progress at Angora between the Comte de Chambrun, French Ambassador to Turkey, and Tewfik Rushdi Bey, Turkish Foreign Minister, will have the effect of securing a final settlement of the Turco-Syrian frontier. There is no reason why Syria and Turkey should not be excellent neighbours. True, Syria has problems, such as the presence therein of Turks, which Iraq possesses either not at all or in much smaller degree; but the example of Turco-Iraqi relations may well be held out as a model for Turco-Syrian relations. After the bitterest things had been said, after international intrigue had been at work, and after Turkey and Iraq had more than once been on the brink of war, the new Turkey and the new Arab kingdom have managed to attain to an extremely cordial relationship. This fact is regularly manifested when the

Permanent Frontier Commission, of Turks and Iraqis, meets to discuss problems of the northern frontier of Iraq. The last meeting (they are held twice a year) was at Mosul on November 14, and the personal relationships are stated to have been excellent as between Turk and Arab. Valuable proposals, moreover, were made for the better ordering of the Turco-Iraqi frontier—for these meetings are by no means "eye-wash." It is in the interests of both Turkey and Syria to settle speedily their frontier problem, alike from the political, the economic, and the social point of view. Certainly those whose principal care is the British mandated territory in Arabia are hoping that Comte de Chambrun may succeed in attaining finality where first M. Franklin-Bouillon, in 1921, and later M. de Jouvenel, in 1926, failed.

The Wailing Wall Again.

As we foresaw, the controversy surrounding the unhappy incidents at the Wailing Wall on the Day of Atonement (September 24 last) has not been allowed to die down. For every protest or explanation which the Jewish community address to the League of Nations or to the authorities in Palestine, the Muslims are able to bring forward a counter-protest or a counter-explanation. Without question the local Muslim authorities have taken alarm at the possibility of Jews' obtaining legally recognised and precisely defined rights at the Wailing Wall, and they are now moving heaven and earth to preserve what they apparently believe are their own threatened rights, and to expose the "claims" of the Jews. For instance, it is just reported that the authorities of Haram-as-Sharif are using the site overlooking the spot where the Jews are wont to set up their Ark of the Law during certain ceremonies as a station for a muazzin, who is said thence to summon the Faithful to prayer. It is further stated that the Supreme Muslim Council has asked the Palestine Government to compel Jews to abstain from placing any furniture by the Wall, and to have a Jewish police officer who had been posted by it removed—as if the presence of a Jewish police officer lent sanction to the use of the Wall by Jews for their devotion. The situation has obviously, therefore, grown very difficult. We do not imagine that the Palestine Government will endorse all the Muslims' claims and proposals. There manifestly can be allowed no restriction on the Jews' habit of worshipping, within legitimate bounds, at the Wall—that must be safeguarded. But to what an unhappy pass have things come through the Jews' own action! We wonder whether certain of the cooler heads among the Zionist community, who realise the intensity and scope of the Muslims' claims, are not regretting the whole affair. There are but two ways of "solving" this problem of the Wailing Wall: the Government may use its paramount powers, which, being interpreted, implies physical force; or it may use good will, which means the early assembling of Muslim, Jewish, and British authorities. The second is obviously the only decent way, but unfortunately at the moment good will appears to be at a premium.

A Firebrand in Palestine.

As if the Wailing Wall did not provide enough fuel for the flames of discontent in Palestine to be fanned, the egregious Indian leader, Muhammad Ali, has been allowed to enter the Holy Land. The activities of Muhammad Ali since the Great War would make exciting reading. Eventually, one supposes, the light of truth will be shown upon such passages of his career as that dealing with the organisation and funds of the Caliphate Committee, and with his upholding and subsequent denunciation of King Ibn Saud. But possibly the authorities, having capitulated in the matter of the re-admission into Palestine of the Revisionist leader, Mr. Jabotinsky (who is reported to have taken on the editorship of *Doar Hayom*), felt that they could not rightly exclude the Indian Muslim leader, at least not on their original ground of the probability of his "intensifying the present inter-racial bitterness." In this they appear to have been justified, for Muhammad

Ali is reported to have attempted to set the Arabs, not against the Jews, but with them in antagonism to the grasping British! The British, he is stated to have exclaimed, were endeavouring to secure all Islamic lands, and it was wholly in their own interest, not in those of old or new settlers in the Holy Land, that they had seized Palestine. Some of the Palestinians, however, will have met Muhammad Ali at Mecca, where his scheme of a Republic for the Hijaz was so rudely treated by the leaders of the Wahhabs; and they may have come to the conclusion that, in touring the lands of Islam in an anti-British sense, Muhammad Ali is not wholly disinterested. This Indian leader is having bad luck, at any rate, in the timing of his visit to the Holy Land; for one cannot see the Palestinian Muslims giving up a perfectly good quarrel, in the matter of the Wailing Wall, against a traditional "enemy," for a vague, if larger quarrel, against the Power which has just upheld Muslim claims in Jerusalem in so striking a manner.

A Caucasian Federation?

At the end of Mr. W. E. D. Allen's lecture upon Georgia to the Central Asian Society last week (of which a report appears on another page) there was inserted a speculation upon the future of the Caucasian provinces of Russia. What may happen should the Bolshevik régime suddenly fall it is impossible to predict—as well might one speculate upon, say, the future of Kurdistan were the present Governments of Turkey and of Persia suddenly to collapse. The practical man will concentrate, therefore, on trying to improve things in the Caucasus in the circumstances which actually exist at the moment; and this is where Mr. Allen's suggestion of a confederation between Georgia, Armenia, and Azerbaijan appears particularly opportune. Whether the Russian Bolsheviks, who for all their seeming generosity to other nationalities within the Soviet Union, still retain the *Cheka* in the Caucasus, will come to see that they actually stand to gain by a strong federation of Caucasian States, there is little means of knowing. The assumption is, however, that they will foster the nationalism of the Georgians, Armenians, and Azerbaijanis only so far as it seems immediately to suit them. Whether the growing nationalism of these peoples, together with that of the Ukrainians, can be fitted into the scheme of the Bolsheviks, and who will prove the stronger, more permanent force—these things depend on the Gods, or, perhaps, on the Goddess. But the sympathy of Europe should go out to these little peoples.

The Shah's Visit to the South.

One of the distinguishing marks of the present Shah of Persia is his energy in visiting the different parts of his domains, and nothing but good should result from his recent visit to the southern province of Khuzistan. It is stated from Basrah that certain Arabs gave trouble during his visit, but the quarrel appears to have been of a minor nature—hardly sufficient, one would imagine, for the suspicious Teheranis to accuse the wicked British of having stirred it up! It was unfortunate that Riza Shah Pahlavi was obliged to cancel his projected visit to Abadan, where, of course, the refineries of the Anglo-Persian Oil company are, but the Shah is no stranger to the activities of the A.P.O.C., and is fully alive to the essential part which they play in the welfare of his kingdom. If the report is true that the Shah himself is inspecting or has inspected the southern terminus, Khor Musa, of the trans-Persian Railway, he will indeed be possessed of a sense of the probabilities of the situation, such as he could never have obtained from merely sitting in Teheran and approving the choice of Khor Musa as a place on the map. The more the Shah travels in Persia, the more will he perceive the inherent difficulties of "modernising" his State. And the better, therefore, should the foundations of future development in Persia be laid.

INDIAN NOTES.

A Road Fund for India.

Whether there was any logical justification for the distinction drawn between railways and roads when the reformed Constitution was inaugurated is open to grave doubt. Both required control, and co-ordinated control, but while this need was seen at once in the case of the railways, the necessity was not so obvious in the case of India's roads. The fact remains that the maintenance and charge of roads being made a charge upon provincial Budgets, and none of the provinces having the necessary funds for development, the result is that to-day there are only 59,000 miles of surfaced road in India, or less than one-third as much again as the railway mileage. Fortunately, this anomaly is at last beginning to receive the attention that its urgency and gravity alike demand, and if the major recommendations of the Indian Road Development Committee, an exclusive summary of which we are able to publish on another page, are adopted, a very substantial advance will have been made towards its removal upon sound and businesslike lines. The real task of the Jayakar Committee, as we pointed out in these columns last November, was not to work out detailed measures of road improvements. Instead, as a result of a comprehensive survey of the actual conditions in every province—an inquiry which Sir Arthur Froom's Sub-Committee has conducted with commendable thoroughness—it was required to determine the best means of stimulating and co-ordinating local efforts, and, in particular, of raising the additional funds that will undoubtedly be needed if the public is at last to be tackled on thorough-going lines. Rejecting both for constitutional reasons and on the ground of expense the suggested establishment of a Central Road Board with executive powers, the Committee considers that the necessary co-ordination in construction and research can be effected by the holding of a periodic road conference between representatives of the Central and local Governments. To provide the necessary funds, the Committee favours the adoption of the Bombay Government's suggestion—described in detail in our issue of December 22. It accordingly recommends that the petrol duty should be raised from four to six annas, the surplus being credited to a central road fund by a five-year convention in the Legislative Assembly, and also by an increased tax on motor vehicles. Five-sixths of this fund, it is

(Continued on page 643)

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THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 1928.

GREECE AND TURKEY.

Although the relations between Greece and Turkey are repeatedly described as correct in official utterances on both sides, the fact that it has not yet been possible to settle all questions connected with the exchange of populations suggests that any change that may have taken place in the attitude of the two countries to one another has not penetrated very far below the diplomatic surface of things. The points at issue remaining to be settled are termed technical, and consequently, in spite of the uncompromising pertinacity with which each side maintains its own claims, differences regarding them are held not to involve the relations between the two Governments. Events tend to prove that there are limitations to this comfortable theory. Among the wiser heads both in Turkey and in Greece there is some anxiety over these protracted disputes, as it is recognized that, so long as they last, they entail the risk of a more or less serious rupture. It would be more correct to call the matters in dispute financial rather than technical. They involve in the main a nice adjustment of claims for compensation in respect of nationals who, having been exchanged or ejected, have abandoned their properties or have had them sequestered for one reason or another. Each Government readily promised to pay compensation in the belief that, on a balance being struck between the two totals due, from Greece to Turkey and from Turkey to Greece, it would be the favoured party. As both are equally anxious to avoid having to make any payment, the process of assessing claims by a commission on which Greece and Turkey are equally represented is necessarily a long one. The Commission charged with the task has had several unedifying experiences, and the position has not been improved by the freedom with which two of the three neutral members are labelled respectively "pro-Greek" and "pro-Turk."

The latest trouble has arisen over the dispatch of a Special Commission to Western Thrace to inquire into the condition of Turks in that province in view of certain allegations brought against the Greeks. After a brief stay in Thrace the members returned to Constantinople with their mission unfulfilled. In such circumstances there was only one proper course for the Special Commission to adopt; it ought to have issued at once an agreed statement regarding the abortive journey; if that could not be done, the president ought to have lost no time in issuing his own statement. As things happened, the Turkish delegate produced his version first, and attributed the failure of the mission to the obstacles placed in its way by the Greek authorities. The Greek followed by accusing his Turkish colleague of insisting upon inquiries outside the terms of reference, and the President's version is that the incompatibility of the Greek and the Turk

was so complete and their disagreement so profound that he had no alternative to an immediate return to Constantinople. Both the cantankerous delegates will, presumably, be supported by their respective Governments. The basis of the inquiry was the treatment of Turks in Greece in connexion with matters relating to property. The Turk appears to have interpreted his mission as including an investigation into the facilities accorded to Turks on Greek soil to wear bowler hats instead of fezes and to learn the new Latin characters for writing the Turkish alphabet. As the merit of every Turkish official at the present moment is dependent on the public zeal that he shows for the Latin characters, it was too much to expect that the Turkish delegate could remain indifferent to this all-important subject, however remote it may have been from the matter in hand. If the Greek delegate had been a wiser man, he would have allowed his colleague the fullest length of rope in this respect, in the expectation that the latter would devote so much attention to fezes and alphabets that he would have little that was useful to say on the real issue. The President of the Commission, it would be imagined, could be relied upon to sift the essential from the non-essential in drafting his report. Unfortunately, on this occasion Greek mentality did not rise superior to Turkish mentality, and the Turks are able to convince themselves that Greece has much to conceal in regard to the treatment of Turks on Greek soil. Easy consciences are not a conspicuous product of the Balkans; but this was certainly an opportunity to confirm Greece's contention that she has nothing to gloss over in Western Thrace, by allowing the Turkish delegate to roam at will among his nationals, just as a Greek can investigate at his own pleasure the conditions of his compatriots in Constantinople.

The fate of Sodom was sealed by its inability to produce ten righteous men at a critical moment; if Greco-Turkish relations are to be dependent on the capacity of the two countries to put up between them a similar number of statesmen, the outlook is indeed black. It is to be hoped, therefore, that one on each side will suffice. If the two Governments had been able to spare two statesmen to represent them on the Mixed Commission for the Exchange of Populations, its work would surely have been finished long before now. So long as more store is set on alphabets and terms of reference than on the establishment of friendly relations between the two countries the Commission's task may never end. The time has come, therefore, for Greece and Turkey to place the question of their good relations in the hands of statesmen. If on the one side only M. Venizelos is available and on the other only Ismet Pasha, then the sooner the two meet the better for the interests of the two countries. The exchange of populations is an open sore; there are others that the two Governments nurse in secret, one of them being the question of naval armaments. By crude methods a working basis has been found for the permanent establishment of correct, if not cordial, relations between Turkey and Greece. It would be a grave misfortune for both countries, if they allowed that basis to be broken or undermined, before they had built upon it. Unless, however, they hasten on a frank discussion between representatives who are statesmen enough to give way on unimportant matters, in order to secure the things that really count, a serious breach may occur, to the material detriment of both peoples and to the prejudice of peace in the Near East.

*The Near and Middle East

From Our Own Correspondents.



Cairo, November 17.

Armistice Day.

Armistice Day was celebrated by all the British communities in Egypt, as in previous years, by the holding of special services and the laying of wreaths, in which the foreign communities collaborated, on the Crosses of Sacrifice in the various military cemeteries. The High Commissioner and Lady Lloyd attended the service in All Saints' Pro-Cathedral in Cairo, and the British Consul-General and Mrs. Heathcote-Smith that in St. Mark's Church in Alexandria.

The Late Sarwat Pasha.

The customary meeting in memory of the late Sarwat Pasha took place on Saturday afternoon at the Royal Opera House. Practically every Egyptian of any standing was present, and the gathering included the members of the Diplomatic Corps. The meeting was presided over by Dr. Hafez Bey, Minister of Foreign Affairs, and eloquent tributes to the deceased statesman's achievements and the services he had rendered his country were paid by Lutfy Bey Essayed, Minister of Education, Abdel Hamid Pasha Bedawi, head of the Contentieux, Judge Peter, of the Mixed Courts, and Dr. Mohamed Hussein Heikal Bey, Editor of *As Siassa*. A poem by Ahmed Bey Shawky was read by Tewfik Pasha Doss, and the verses, among the best this eminent Arabic poet has composed, moved the audience to such a point that certain portions had to be repeated. The ceremony ended with a speech of thanks from Sarwat's eldest son, Ismail Bey Sarwat.

The Prime Minister's Tour in the Provinces.

No one who was present during the tour which the Prime Minister, Mohamed Mahmoud Pasha, made in the Province of Dakahlia this week, could, I think, doubt of the successful manner in which he is carrying the country with him. The Wafd has been at great pains to make out that the whole thing was stage-managed, and that the crowds, such as they admit they were, were composed of "ghaffirs" brought in from all parts. It is evident, however, that the Wafdists are daily finding themselves at greater pains to maintain their position in the face of the popular approval with which the new Cabinet's policy and actions are being received by the people in the districts.

I, myself, who have been present at most of the provincial visits or journeys made by heads of the Government during the past few years and can pretend to some knowledge of the people of the districts, can certify that on the occasion of the journey from Tanta to Mansurah and during the whole of the visit to Dakahlia, the demonstration which greeted Mahmoud Pasha at no point was an organised one. Its proportions were, indeed, too great, and the excitement of the people was far too spontaneous for any organisation to have created. The

fact is that, although the Egyptians are an impressionable people, easily led from one flank to the other, they have become tired by the specious promises held out to them by the Wafd, and, above all, by the incessant demands for contributions from its committee without their having obtained any material advantage in return.

On the other hand, under the new régime there has been a total absence of pressure for money, while the promises of benefits with which the new Cabinet inaugurated its advent to office have already begun to materialise. This visit to Dakahlia, which has afforded, by the laying of foundation stones for village hospitals, an earnest of the intention of the Cabinet to translate words into deeds, cannot fail, one would think, to cause the people to contrast the present régime with that of the Wafd, to the latter's great disadvantage, and to induce them to have confidence in regard to the realisation of the other promised reforms, and to rally to the support of the present Cabinet.

It is a remarkable commentary on the changed position of the Wafd that on Tuesday last, the anniversary of the day on which Zaghloul Pasha first presented to the British Government the demand for Egyptian independence, the attendance at the schools, in spite of the almost frantic efforts made by the Wafd to get the students to strike, was greater than it has been for some time.

Aswan Dam.

The Commission, consisting of Messrs. Binnie (British), Cooper (American), and Grüner (Swiss), which is to investigate, from the constructional point of view, the scheme for the heightening of the Aswan Dam, has now assembled and started its labours. It is now at Aswan, where it will be engaged during the next fortnight on examining the existing structure. Before its departure the Commission heard the evidence of Sir Murdoch MacDonald, who has submitted a scheme for raising the Dam. The Commission could not have arrived at a better moment, for this week the filling of the Dam will start, and it has been just in time to examine the upstream face before it is submerged and the downstream face as soon as it has been uncovered by the closing of the sluices. It is expected that the Commission will take about a month to do its work, and that its report will be ready by Christmas time.

The Medical Profession in Egypt.

The latest *Official Journal* contains the text of the decree-law laying down the conditions under which Doctors and Dentists can in future obtain permission to practise in Egypt, and regulating generally the exercise of the medical profession. The law under which medical practitioners have hitherto been permitted to practise was promulgated in 1891, since when, except in the case of dentistry, no change has been made in the legislation on the subject. New regulations have become imperative, because, under the lax provisions of the old law, a large number of men have managed to obtain permission to practise without having either the proper training or

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adequate experience. Many had been accepted as qualified practitioners on diplomas granted by foreign faculties which themselves recognised their unsatisfactory nature, since the granting of the diploma was made conditional on the grantee's practising in the country in which the faculty was situated.

The more responsible members of the medical profession have become exceedingly alarmed at the number of so-called medical men of this description who have been able to set themselves up in the country, and whose sole occupation is to pander to vice and exploit the incredulous and unsophisticated; and it is as a result of the pressure brought by these responsible members of the medical profession that the new law has been introduced.

Henceforward anyone wishing to obtain permission to practise medicine, surgery or dentistry, will either have to have a diploma of the Faculty of Medicine of the Egyptian University, or having a foreign diploma recognised as the equivalent of the Egyptian diploma by a committee of three Egyptians and one foreigner, will have to pass an examination before a permanent committee of doctors, based on the final examinations of the Egyptian Faculty of Medicine. Exemptions may, however, be granted to professors of recognised foreign schools and faculties of medicine, as well as to doctors who have occupied a responsible position, such as the head of a clinic, during at least five years in a foreign hospital recognised by the Egyptian Government.

Provision is also made in the law for disciplinary measures against members of the medical profession who are convicted by the Courts of acts affecting their integrity or professional capacity, and thus it will no longer be possible, as has happened in the past, for men who have served a term of imprisonment for illegal practices to resume their profession on emerging from prison.

In view of the imminence of the Medical Congress, which will be attended by so many world-renowned mem-

bers of the medical profession, the Egyptian Government has done very well to amend a state of affairs which would certainly not have failed to arouse adverse comment among the members of the Congress.

TRANS-JORDAN.

Amman November 13.

A Boycott?

The elections, which are shortly due to take place, seem likely to prove somewhat of a fiasco. Some of the conditions of the late Treaty with Great Britain were most unpopular, notably that which charges Trans-Jordan with some of the cost of the British forces stationed here, and of the Trans-Jordan Frontier Force. A further grievance is the occupation by Muslims of neighbouring countries of posts in the Government, more especially when these posts are those of highly paid officials. The recent bad season has caused great poverty and consequent discontent, and these combined causes have produced a threat completely to boycott the elections. It is difficult to see what will be done in that case, as the acceptance of the Treaty depends on its being passed by a Parliament which would not then exist.

A Departure and Visit.

Great regret is felt at the coming departure of Group Captain Rees, V.C., O.B.E., M.C., A.D.C. He has been in the country for more than two years, and during that time has acquired a personal, geographical and archaeological knowledge of Trans-Jordan which must be almost unrivalled.

The Bishop in Jerusalem visited Amman during the first week of November and held services at the Royal Air Force Camp, and at the C.M.S. school in the town.

PALESTINE RAILWAYS

TRAIN SERVICES

BETWEEN

EGYPT AND PALESTINE AND VICE VERSA

To Palestine (Daily)			To Egypt (Daily)		
Alexandria	...	dep. 1500	Haifa	...	dep. 0800
Cairo	...	dep. 1800	Jerusalem	...	dep. 0835
Port Said	...	dep. 1815	Jaffa	...	dep. 1005
(Change at Kantara West)			Kantara East	...	arr. 1730
Kantara East	...	dep. 2345	Kantara West	...	dep. 1910
Jaffa	...	arr. 0750	Cairo	...	arr. 2230
Jerusalem	...	arr. 0917	Alexandria	...	arr. 0530
Haifa	...	arr. 1000	Kantara West	...	dep. 2125
			Port Said	...	arr. 2215

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FARES: (1st Class)

From:	Cairo. L. P. Mils.	Port Said. L. P. Mils.	Alexandria. L. P. Mils.
Jerusalem	4.355	3.525	4.845
Jaffa	4.070	3.240	4.560
Haifa	4.945	4.115	5.435

R. B. W. Holmes,
General Manager,
HAIFA.

General News.

Rain fell all over the country at the end of October, a month when rain is of inestimable value for the crops. Last season was so bad that the *fellahin* have practically no wheat to sow. Both here and in Palestine the Government has imported seed, which the farmers are invited to buy on favourable terms.

The inauguration of a Children's Welfare centre in Amman is proving a great success. Both rich and poor classes have welcomed the scheme eagerly, and it is being clearly shown that the terrible percentage of infant mortality here is realized by the parents, and that they are ready and anxious to learn, if the means of doing so are provided for them. Unfortunately Trans-Jordan is a poor country, and the question of finance will prove a stumbling block.

The ordinary issue of Trans-Jordan stamps was sur-charged *Dustur* (Constitution) for the month of September only to commemorate the grant of a Constitution to the country. No previous warning was given to the International Postal Union, and consequently philatelists did not, as often happens in such cases, buy up a large part of the issue. According to the usual procedure the stamps that were unsold were burned at the end of the month, and as the issue was not a large one, it is likely to become valuable.

CYPRUS.

Nicosia, November 14.

Armistice Day.

On November 11, Cyprus participated in doing honour to the fallen heroes of the War. A service was held at St. Paul's Church, at Nicosia, and a two-minutes' Silence was observed at 11 o'clock, a gun being fired by the police.

A New Criminal Code.

The introduction of the new Criminal Code, approved by Order in Council, has been subject to much adverse criticism, and disapproval. At a meeting of the Greek members of the Legislative Council, held at Limassol, a strong protest against its adoption has been drawn up and forwarded to the Governor, with a request that it might be transmitted to the Secretary of State. Greek members of the Bar are holding meetings of protest in other towns. The Press has joined in its disapproval, stating that it is mere mockery to speak of Cyprus having a Constitution when laws are imposed in an undisguisedly dictatorial manner, as at present, without local approval. The new Code, published in the *Official Gazette*, contains 44 chapters and 366 sections.

A Greek Prelate.

A distinguished member of the Orthodox Greek Church, the Metropolitan Christophoros Kretes, lately Archbishop in Australia, has been the guest of the Archbishop of Cyprus. His Eminence was for some time at Oxford. He has been received with honour by Sir Ronald Storrs,

and entertained to tea at Government House. He will proceed from Alexandria to Abyssinia, and will afterwards visit other countries in North Africa, in which there are Greek communities, as representative of the Œcumenical Patriarch.

A Greek Sporting Club.

Some members of the Greek community are establishing a Club, which will have for its aim the encouragement of all legitimate sport, and which hopes to enrol members in all districts. It will assist in protecting game during the close season, in preventing the taking of the eggs of partridges and other birds, and prosecuting offenders. Game is said to be diminishing in several parts of the island, and that excellent bird, the francolin, is now very rare. The movement deserves encouragement, and should succeed in doing a considerable amount of good in the interests of sport.

Religion and Politics.

The Greek Archbishop recently called a meeting of the Holy Synod, Greek members of the Legislative Council, and mayors of towns, to consider the question of a communication to be submitted in reply to the dispatch of the Secretary of State for the Colonies to his last memorial from Cyprus.

General News.

Amongst other items of interest it has been notified that Major T. F. Chipp, Agricultural Director of Kew Gardens, will visit Cyprus and consider, with the Director of Agriculture, various botanical problems of the island.

Mr. W. Megan, Flax Expert of the Ministry of Agriculture in North Ireland, will also visit Cyprus; expenses of the mission will be paid by the Empire Marketing Board.

An illuminated diorama, representing the wine industry of Cyprus, constructed by artists of the Imperial Institute, is to be exhibited shortly. Photographs for the purpose are supplied by Mr. N. P. Laniti, of the Cyprus Wine and Spirit Company.

GREEK NAVAL MISSION.

The British Government has agreed to a renewal of the contract, which expires next March, of the British Naval Mission to Greece, but changes in the personnel of the Mission will be made, according to *The Times*. The present Mission, of which Captain C. E. Turle is the head, began its work on March 15, 1927, and was to last two years. Its officers include Commander Daniel de Pass, Lieutenant-Commander H. B. Crane, Lieutenant-Commander F. C. Lyon, Wing Commander C. H. K. Edmonds, D.S.O., O.B.E., R.A.F., and Squadron Leader John C. Brooke, D.S.C., R.A.F. Almost continuously since the spring of 1911 the Greek Navy has had the co-operation of British naval officers. Rear-Admirals Lionel G. Tufnell, Mark Kerr, Aubrey Smith, and G. S. Townsend have been among the officers in charge of mission as Athens.

General Samsonovici, formerly Assistant Chief of the Roumanian General Staff, has been appointed Chief of the General Staff.

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CALCUTTA LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Calcutta, November 8.

All-India Congress Committee.

"But the little tin gods of the Congress find now their own creation a clear menace to the position which they had made for themselves in the Congress and through the Congress in the leadership of the more vocal politics in the country. This is the correct psychology of the ugly revelation made last week-end at Delhi."

Thus Mr. Bepin Chandra Pal, writing in contempt or anger of the proceedings of the All-India Congress Committee. But to tell the story first.

The Working Committee of the Congress Committee (the name is as cumbrous as the body, which is composed of over seventy persons) met at Delhi at the end of last week, and after long, if not grave, deliberation, for the air is reported to have been one of merriment, passed the following resolution as expressing a compromise agreed to by Pandit Motilal Nehru and Mr. Srinivasa Iyengar:—

"This Committee of the All-India Congress Committee adheres to the decision of the Madras Congress, declaring complete independence to be the goal of the Indian people, and is of opinion that there can be no true freedom till the British connexion is severed. This Committee accepts the recommendations of the Nehru Committee as agreed to by the Lucknow All-Parties Conference for the settlement of communal differences. This Committee cordially congratulates the Nehru Committee for their labours, patriotism and farsightedness, and, without prejudice to the resolution of the Congress relating to complete independence, is of opinion that the recommendations of the Nehru Committee are a great step towards political advance, and without committing itself to every detail, generally approves of them."

Mr. Bepin Chandra Pal's reading of the situation is this. The Congress, he says, lost its position of being the sole national political organisation, when the older leaders broke away, and formed the Liberal Conference. It then lost the position of being the sole organisation, but continued to be the most influential. The appointment of the Statutory Commission forced the Congress to co-operate with organisations that up to then it had affected to ignore, or had in fact ignored; in the words of Pandit Motilal Nehru, the "Congress last year passed a resolution authorising the Working Committee to arrange an All-Parties Conference; the Congress was "responsible for its creation." All would still have been well, had the All-Parties Conference failed to find a formula, but it found one: the Nehru Report, that document embodying Dominion Status. Thence the necessity, as seen in that clear brain of the Congress, Mr. Srinivasa Iyengar, of making the Nehru Report nugatory, and thence last Saturday's resolution. Two ex-Presidents of the Congress, Lala Lajpat Rai and Mrs. Annie Besant, who were present, did not vote on the resolution.

A Confession of Faith.

The Working Committee met again on Sunday, when Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya moved the reconsideration of the resolution passed the day before, seeking to delete the words "there can be no true freedom till the British connexion is severed." Seeing that the words "complete independence" would still have stood, one does not see how that would have bettered things, and anyhow Dr. Ansari ruled out the motion. Thereupon Pandit Motilal Nehru made "a confession of faith." He yielded to none in the firm belief in complete Indian independence, but Dominion Status was not to be spurned. The following day the Pandit made a statement in a Press interview. He began by explaining that the words "there can be no true freedom until the British connexion is severed" merely explain what is meant by "complete independence." As everyone but Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya knew that, if he did not do so also, that does not help us much. Then

follows what has either been misreported, or was, never meant to be fully understood:—"I repeat what I formerly said, that I am free to confess that the impressions I have formed in the course of my wanderings in Egypt and Europe have made me to revise my opinion about British connexions, however desirable it may be to maintain them, and I still cling to the hope that it should be desirable to do so. I feel we have made a great deal too much of it. The truth is that England cannot afford to set India free if she is to maintain her present supremacy in the world, and it is idle to expect her to forgo that supremacy in a fit of generosity."

Confirmation of the soundness of Mr. Bepin Chandra Pal's reading of the situation is to be found in a statement of Mrs. Besant: "I do not propose to leave the Congress, but I think I can serve India better in the united body called the All-Parties' Conference, and I trust that it will make itself permanent until its end is attained." If others should take that view, there will be important developments. Another remark of Mrs. Besant's was: "It is very unpalatable to me to hear the subject of the nation's life discussed in the jovial atmosphere that pervaded the All-India Congress Committee." Another was: "There was a feeling of insincerity about the whole affair."

The Anglo-Indian Press.

The *Statesman's* comment is: "What Mrs. Besant does not see is that it is the 'jovial atmosphere' that saves the situation, and that enables the Indian Government and the British Government to treat the resolution and the speeches as the joke they are. If any responsible person treated the talk of 'revolution' and of 'severing the British connexion' and of applying force to end that connexion as other than play-acting, it would be preposterous to ignore them. . . . Because the Congress treats the demand for independence as a joke and everybody else can do the same, it is possible to remain quiescent."

The *Englishman's* comment is more in the spirit of the following: "The people who declare that they stand for 'independence' know perfectly well that there is no prospect of their demand being conceded—if there were, they would never have dared put the demand forward. The cry of 'Independence for India' is nothing more than a level to oust Pandit Motilal Nehru from his position and thus make room for somebody else."

I may be thought to have dwelt at too great length on the subject of the Working Committee's proceedings, but, first, there has really been very little news of general interest this week besides them, and, secondly, it will be impossible for anyone who is not clear about what has just happened to follow the future ramifications of Indian political intrigue. They may not be worth following, if it true.

All-Parties Muslim Conference.

The leading newspapers thought very little space was space enough in which to report the proceedings of the All-Parties' Muslim Conference, which has just concluded its session. This is given in one report as the main purport of the proceedings: "Maulana Azad Subhani proposed . . . that the Conference should declare itself in favour of complete independence. Some of the members objected to such a declaration which, in their opinion, would go against the best interests of Mussalmans. Upon this a number of women from the purdah gallery sent a written statement to the President, saying that if the men had not the courage for complete independence, the women would come outside of purdah and struggle for independence." The hen-pecked husbands thereupon passed their resolution with only one dissentient voice.

The Board of Indian Civil Service Studies at Cambridge University are prepared to appoint a lecturer in Tamil and Telugu, whose duties will commence in October, 1929. The full stipend will be £300 per annum with fees. Applications should be sent to the secretary.

INDIAN ROAD DEVELOPMENT.

Summary of Recommendations.

The following are the conclusions and recommendations of the Indian Road Development Committee:—

A.—*The desirability of developing the road system of India.*

The development of the road system of India is desirable for the general welfare of the country as a whole, and in particular—(a) for the better marketing of agricultural produce; (b) for the social and political progress of the rural population, which will be advanced by the increased use of motor transport; (c) as a complement to railway development.

B.—*The means by which road development in India could most suitably be financed.*

(1) Road development in India is passing beyond the financial capacity of local Governments and local bodies, and is becoming a national interest which may, to some extent, be a proper charge on central revenues.

(2) Road development, in so far as it contributes to the general welfare of the country as a whole, is a proper charge on general revenues, but no increase in the expenditure on roads from existing revenues is recommended.

(3) To meet the additional demands and requirements created by the growth of motor transport, some additional taxation might be imposed on motor transport for purposes of road development over and above the existing taxation for general revenues.

(4) A well-balanced scheme of additional taxation on motor transport for purposes of road development should include:—(a) a duty on motor spirit; (b) vehicle taxation; (c) licence fees for vehicles plying for hire.

(5) The duty on motor spirit might be raised to 6 annas per gallon without affecting consumption, provided that the additional 2 annas now imposed is spent on road development.

(6) The amount so realised would be Rs.62 lakhs on the figures of 1927-28, but the consumption of petrol has been increasing annually at the rate of 30 per cent. compound interest. Further, if the time arrives when it is possible to abolish or reduce taxation on motor spirit for general revenues; the Government of India might consider the desirability of retaining the tax for purposes of road development.

(7) An effort should be made to induce the oil companies to co-operate with the railway administrations in reducing the price of petrol in inland towns.

(8) The duty on motor spirit is a source of central revenue, and grants from central revenues for road development can only be made through the constitutional processes prescribed by the Government of India Act.

(9) As grants for road development cannot be used effectively unless some continuity is assured, a convention should be established for five years, whereby the Legislative Assembly would annually vote the proceeds of the additional duty on motor spirit as a block grant for expenditure on road development. This annual grant should be credited to a separate road development account, and unexpended balances should not lapse at the end of the financial year.

(10) The Legislative Assembly should continue to exercise control over the expenditure of the annual grant in two ways:—

(a) The general principles in accordance with which the grant should be spent should be approved by the Assembly;

(b) A Standing Committee of the Indian Legislature for Roads should be appointed, similar in construction and functions to other departmental Standing Committees, which would advise the Governor-General in Council on all matters relating to roads; and all proposals for expenditure from the annual grant should be submitted for approval to a finance

sub-committee, consisting of the member of the Governor-General's Executive Council in charge as Chairman and all members of the Standing Committee who are members of the Legislative Assembly.

(11) The annual grant should be divided as follows:—

(a) One-sixth should be retained by the Government of India as a reserve;

(b) Out of the remaining five-sixths—

(i) An apportionment should be made among the provinces in the ratio which the consumption of petrol in each province bears to the total consumption in India in each year;

(ii) The balance, representing the consumption of petrol in minor provinces and administrations and Indian States, should be allotted as a lump sum to the Government of India.

If any part of the amount apportioned to a province remains unexpended at the end of the financial year, it should be carried over for expenditure in that province in the following year.

(12) Grants should be made to each province, up to the amount so apportioned to it in each year, for expenditure on projects approved by the Governor-General in Council with the advice of the Standing Committee of the Indian Legislature for Roads.

(13) The amount apportioned to Burma may for the present be spent on any scheme of road development that is approved by the local Government and the local legislature. But if at any future time the question of road connexion with India became a live issue, the position should be reconsidered.

(14) Vehicle taxes and licence fees for vehicles plying for hire are sources of provincial or local revenue, and it is entirely for local Governments, local legislatures and local bodies to decide what additional taxation of this kind could be borne by motor transport for purposes of road development.

(15) Except in certain areas vehicle taxation has scarcely been adopted as a method of taxing motor transport; and in view of the recent substantial reduction of central taxation for general revenues, this source of revenue for road development might with advantage be explored.

(16) There is a general desire that vehicle taxation should be provincial rather than local, and that a system of reciprocal exemptions should be arranged so that each vehicle would be taxed only at the place of registration.

(17) The scale of licence fees for vehicles plying for hire depends on local conditions, but it might be considered by the authorities concerned whether licence fees might not be pitched so as to limit the number of vehicles plying on any road to the number that the road can economically carry.

(18) The propriety of financing road development from loans must be decided by each local Government for itself according to its circumstances, but certain principles of general application are suggested.

(19) Loans should be borrowed in the ordinary way on the security of the revenues of India, and not on the security of a special road development tax.

(20) Village roads should benefit indirectly by the release of provincial revenues and local funds which are now being spent on main roads to meet the requirements of motor transport. In view of the importance of village roads in the general scheme of communications, it is hoped that they will receive more attention and larger grants from local Governments and local bodies in future.

C.—*The co-ordination of road development.*

(1) The appointment of a Central Road Board with executive powers, administering a separate road fund, is not recommended.

(2) A periodical Road Conference, consisting of the Member of the Governor-General's Executive Council in charge as Chairman, the members of the Standing Committee of the Indian Legislature for Roads, representa-

tives of the Departments of the Government of India concerned with roads, representatives of the local Governments, and, if so desired by them, of Indian States, should meet from time to time to discuss subjects of common interest, and might appoint sub-committees to examine questions of a technical character and report to the Conference.

(3) A separate Road Department in the Government of India would be unnecessary and undesirable, but a Road Engineer with the Government of India should be attached to the Department that deals with roads.

(4) The Government of India should reconsider the recommendations of previous Committees that all matters relating to communications and transport should be dealt with by one department.

D.—Miscellaneous.

(1) The Indian Railways Act and the Devolution Rules should be amended so as to enable the railway administration to contribute towards the construction and maintenance of feeder roads.

(2) A contribution should be made from the Army budget towards the cost of repairing damage done to roads by military transport; and when a road or bridge is required for military reasons to be of higher class than is necessary for civil purposes, part of the cost should be borne from the Army budget.

(3) Monopolies of public motor services on roads are undesirable.

(4) Road tolls on all traffic should be abolished as soon as possible, except tolls on bridges where a definite service is provided to replace a ferry or a bad river crossing.

INDIA IN PARLIAMENT.

The injunction recently granted by the Bombay High Court restraining members of the Sholapur Textile Union from inciting workmen to continue the strike was the subject of a question by Mr. Thurtle, who pointed out that the action was the first of its kind in India. In reply the Under-Secretary of State explained that according to his information the suit in question is a civil suit, and one of the points at issue appears to be whether or not the defendants are members of a registered Trade Union. Under Section 18 (1) of the Indian Trade Union Act of 1926, Lord Winterton reminded the hon. Member, officers and members of trade unions are only exempt from civil proceedings on grounds such as are alleged in the plaint if the Union is registered under the Act.

Although the Indian Trade Unions Act was passed at the beginning of 1926 it did not actually come into force until some eighteen months later. Registration is optional, but properly constituted trade unions are afforded every reasonable inducement to register by conferring upon them certain definite privileges more or less analogous to those enjoyed by their prototypes in this country. Unregistered bodies are left, both as regards privileges and obligations, in their previous position.

Requests for information regarding the status, rights and responsibilities of the Indian States again figured prominently in the order paper on Monday, the day to which, by an acknowledged convention, questions on Indian affairs are now almost exclusively confined. For the benefit of the persevering member for Battersea N., Lord Winterton explained that the territories included in the Western Indian States Agency comprise a total area of about 35,000 square miles, with a population of roughly 3½ millions. The people of the territories are not considered British subjects but owe allegiance to the Rulers of the various States. No question, therefore, arises, the Under-Secretary pointed out, of their having rights of representation as British subjects. The British officials employed in the Agency, he added, are responsible, though the Agent to the Governor-General, to the Government of India; but, pressed to explain more explicitly what recourse the people in question enjoyed in the event of maladminis-

tration, Lord Winterton rightly contended that the divergent and varying conditions in the Agency could not be explained within the compass of a Parliamentary answer.

While in this respect, and in his later and very proper objection to being called upon to discuss important constitutional issues by the same means, the Under-Secretary's attitude was perfectly correct, his subsequent disclosure of the deficiencies of the India Office archives comes, to say the least, as something of a surprise. We refer to his inability "in the absence of fuller information than is available here" to state "the number of Indian States in which representative institutions for the enactment of laws exists; in which liberty of person and freedom of speech, meeting and association exists; and the number in which there is a fixed civil list, subject to independent audit, for the rulers and their families." The absence of information upon the latter point in particular is of especial interest in the light of the subsequent assurance that the Paramount Power is supplied with whatever local information is necessary for the proper discharge of its functions, the nature of which, he recalled, was explained in Lord Reading's letter to H.E.H. the Nizam of Hyderabad of March 27, 1926.

The delegation representing the Indian State Peoples' Conference, which last week presented a long memorandum to the Indian States Inquiry Committee on behalf of the subjects of some 70 Indian States, addressed a meeting of members of the Parliamentary Labour Party in a committee room on November 21. The proceedings were private, but it is understood that the deputation expressed itself as very satisfied with the reception accorded to its memorandum both in political circles and outside. It is understood that Dewan Bahadur M. Ramchandra Rao, the Chairman, had an interview with Lord Peel and Lord Winterton at the India Office last week.

Of more general interest were the interesting statistics elicited by Mr. Pilcher in connexion with the Indian and other beam wireless services. After ascertaining that the total capital cost of the four transmission stations—Australian, Canadian, Indian, and South African—Mr. Pilcher asked the number of messages sent or received by the Post Office beam services during the first year of beam operation in the case of each country, including also the traffic during the first week of operation, during the week ended April 2, 1928, and during the latest week for which returns were available.

Traffic statistics for the period named not being readily available in the form of messages, the following statistics of *paid* words were given instead. On the Australian service during the first 52 weeks of its operation, 7,306,000 words were handled; on the Canadian service, 4,591,000; on the Indian service, 10,078,000; and on the South African service, 8,375,000. During the first complete week of operation, during the week ended April 1, 1928, and the week ended November 11, 1928, the respective totals, for the Indian service only were 115,000, 212,000, and 253,000.

THE INDIAN STATES INQUIRY COMMITTEE.

A deputation claiming to represent the Indian States Peoples' Conference has submitted a memorandum to the Indian States Inquiry Committee, which concluded its inquiry this week. The signatories are Dewan Bahadur M. Ramchandra Rao, Professor G. R. Abhyankar, and Mr. P. L. Chudgar.

The memorandum states that the Indian States Peoples' Conference was held in Bombay last December and attended by seven hundred delegates from all the important States, including seventy States whose rulers are entitled to receive salutes.

The organisation, which is intended to be a permanent body, occupying a position analogous to that of the Indian National Congress and other political Associations in British India, has been formed for "the common purpose

of influencing the Governments of the States as a whole to initiate the necessary reforms in their administration by the force of the collective opinion of the people of the States."

Regret is expressed that there has been no opportunity to submit oral evidence. The general secretary was informed in February last that the Committee was not empowered by its terms of reference to deal with the relations of the Indian States and their subjects. Later, it was intimated that the Committee would be willing to receive a memorandum from the conference on matters coming within the terms of reference.

The advocacy of self-governing institutions for British India by some of the Princes and the continuance of unmitigated autocratic rule in their own States," it is contended, "are not reconcilable courses of conduct." The relations between the rulers and their subjects are discussed at length, and finally the signatories submit that their object "is to secure fundamental changes in the present system of administration in the States as a whole."

INDIAN NOTES.

(Continued from page 635).

proposed, should then be distributed among the provinces proportionally to the percentages collected in their territories for expenditure on projects approved by the Government of India, with the advice of an elected Standing Committee of the Central Legislature. On the basis of the figures for 1927-28, the amount originally available by this means will be Rs.62 lakhs, but will ultimately be very much larger, as consumption is stated to be increasing at the rate of 30 per cent. per annum. The oil companies, as we indicated when the suggestion was first advanced, have already signified their willingness to co-operate and act as agents in the collection of the duty. As the Committee's main findings have been common property for some months past, interest in the report would have been greater had its somewhat belated publication been accompanied by an indication of the Government of India's own attitude towards proposals which, on the financial side, at any rate, are, we believe, without precedent in the history of the Indian fiscal system. Apparently this is likely to be withheld pending the Conference of provincial Ministers which is shortly to be convened to discuss the report, the reason being that, as we have previously observed, roads is a provincial transferred subject under the administration of Indian Ministers of the Provincial Councils.

India and South Africa.

Any lingering hope that the recent decision of Mr. Srinavasa Sastri to relinquish his appointment as representative of the Government of India in the Union of South Africa at the beginning of next year was not final will be dispelled by the announcement last week that Sir K. V. Reddi has been officially appointed as his successor. Although the news of Mr. Sastri's retirement has been received with the greatest regret and a real sense of impending loss throughout South Africa, it cannot be denied that he has thoroughly earned his relief. He went, it will be recalled, to South Africa in the first instance in circumstances which involved considerable self-sacrifice and only under the stimulus of a strong sense of public duty. At the express wish of the Indian Government, and as a Cape newspaper happily expressed it recently, "in compliance with hopes common to all sections in South Africa," he agreed to an extension of his term by six months. In this, as in every other way, he has been better than his original undertaking, for he has accomplished certainly more than he promised, probably more than he dared hope, or at any rate seemed humanly practicable at the time of the Cape Town agreement. It is at the same time true that if his success in his difficult office has been

notable, it has also been largely a personal triumph for one who represents all that is best in Indian political life, and the selection of a successor enjoying the same rare combination of qualities must have presented very great difficulties. The choice has fallen upon Sir K. V. Reddi, and the decision will, we think, command general approval. One of the most gifted and eminent members of the non-Brahmin community, the new representative, who has always taken a keen interest in the welfare of Indians overseas, was recently in this country following his appointment as one of India's delegates to the last session of the League of Nations.

The New Law Member.

Like Mr. S. R. Das, his immediate predecessor, Sir Brajendralal Mitter, the new Law Member of the Viceroy's Council, is a well-known Calcutta barrister. He belongs to one of the oldest Kayastha families in the city, and he was educated at the Presidency College, graduating at the Calcutta University. He is a member of Lincoln's Inn, and has been practising in the Calcutta High Court for a good many years. Even in his early days in the Court he was known for level-headed common-sense and practical ability. And with time and experience he has developed into a thoroughly competent lawyer and advocate. Indeed, so fully is his ability recognised that, for some years past, he has been engaged in every case of first-class importance which has been heard in Calcutta. Long experience as a leader at the Calcutta Bar is a sound training for the office of Law Member. For the work of the Court is so varied and extensive that a barrister who is constantly engaged in it acquires an altogether exceptional acquaintance with the practical working of most of the more important statutes. It may be safely anticipated, therefore, that Sir Brajendralal, who has profited to the full by his experience at the Bar, will be a success in his new post. It should be added that, after a period as Standing Counsel, he succeeded the late Mr. Das as Advocate-General three years ago. And his record shows that he has worthily maintained the traditions of that difficult office. Sir Brajendralal has never been distinguished as a politician, his work at the Bar having largely monopolised his time and attention. He is, however, understood to be in sympathy with the Moderates. He was knighted last New Year's Day, and it was generally agreed that he had well earned the honour. Lady Mitter is a daughter of a well-known former member of the Geological Survey of India, Mr. P. N. Bose, and she is a granddaughter of the late Mr. R. C. Dutt, who was one of the first Indian members of the Indian Civil Service, and who later served with distinction as Diwan of the Baroda State.

SIR MALCOLM HAILEY.

An Indian Office communiqué announces that the Secretary of State for India in Council has granted Sir William Malcolm Hailey, K.C.S.I., C.I.E., I.C.S., Governor of the United Provinces, leave of absence for urgent reasons of private affairs for four months, as from December 22.

The King has been pleased to approve that Mr. George Bancroft Lambert, C.S.I., I.C.S., shall act as Governor of the United Provinces during Sir Malcolm Hailey's absence.

The Rt. Hon. Syed Ameer Ali, P.C., C.I.E., of Cadogan Place, S.W., and of Pollingfold Manor, Rudgwick, Sussex, the first native Indian member of the Privy Council and a leading Indian Muslim, formerly Chief Magistrate at Calcutta, afterwards a Judge of the Indian High Court and a member of the Imperial Legislative Council of India, who died on August 3, aged 79, left unsettled property in England of the gross value of £4,535, with net personalty £4,370. He left a selection of his books to the Library of the Royal Asiatic Society.

GEORGIA.

On November 22, at Burlington House, Mr. W. E. D. Allen lectured to the Central Asian Society upon "Two Journeys in Georgia." Lord Allenby was in the Chair, and, before introducing the lecturer, made the announcement that, owing to his appointment to the High Commissionership of Iraq, General Sir Gilbert Clayton was obliged to resign from the Council of the Society.

The lecturer (who illustrated his address with some excellent slides of Georgia lent by Mr. J. F. Baddeley) first explained that his remarks were based on two journeys to Georgia, one made to the Georgian Soviet Republic in June and July, 1926, and the other to the Georgian districts lying within the Turkish frontier in May and June of the present year.

Georgia, a country about the size of Norway, had a population of between 2½ and 3 million people. Mingrelia, or Western Georgia, enjoyed a "Riviera" climate; Eastern Georgia was higher and drier—hotter in summer and colder in winter. Except for the river-valleys, the country was mountainous, and therefore fitted for a pastoral rather than for an agricultural life.

The Georgians Mr. Allen compared with the Basques. They were a mountainous people lying upon the sea; they were divided between two foreign Powers; industrialism did not appeal to them; they were fine soldiers; they had great tenacity of national life; they evolved their own national institutions, yet failed to maintain them against two powerful neighbours. Neither the Georgian nor the Basque language could be related to any of the four great groups of languages.

The Georgian people were simple, intelligent, and gay. Their character was exemplified in their rich and ancient literature (Mr. Allen compared the beautiful Georgian works of the twelfth century with contemporary Persian classics).

The lecturer then described various parts of Georgia. He journeyed from Moscow to Vladikavkaz by railway. His description of life at Vladikavkaz, and the Russian disillusionment there at the failure of the General Strike in England caused considerable amusement. The journey to Tiflis was made in a Fiat, along the Military Road. Tiflis itself, a town founded by the Persians, was unique. Mainly a Georgian town, it had Persian, Tatar, and Armenian elements. It was entirely friendly and unself-conscious.

But the real Georgia was outside Tiflis, in the country towns where Russian could be but rarely heard. The valley of the Kura, Zagaz, Casp, Ouplis-tzikhe, Gori, and Kutais (the capital of Western Georgia) were then described.

Kutais was a very ancient site of human settlement—dating back, probably to the copper age. In this neighbourhood there were many evidences of the close relations which Georgia had with Byzantium in the eleventh and twelfth centuries.

Southern Georgia consisted of a confused mass of mountains split into two by the upper valley of the Kura. A branch line of the Trans-Caucasian railway penetrated this upper valley as far as Borjom, but after that nothing but indifferent roads and tracks led on to the Turkish frontier. Borjom was a sort of local Karlsbad. After it, on the way to the frontier, came Atskhur and Akhaltzikhe. In this region were Georgian-speaking Mussulmans—people who were forcibly converted in the beginning of the 17th century from Christianity to Islam. In 1921, by the Treaty of Kars, all Mussulman Georgia was ceded to the Turks, except the strip of territory lying between Akhaltzikhe and Batum. This district was made by the Soviet Government into the independent province of Ajaria, whose inhabitants, now fanatical Mussulmans, congratulated themselves on being free from Mustapha Kemal Pasha's "hat-decree!" All this border land was full of the ruins of old churches and castles. At Akhaltzikhe, Mr. Allen went on, he had the curious experience of having "God Save the King" and "Tipperary" played in his honour. This courtesy was, he claimed, typical of the good-natured, easy-going character of the Russians, and was illustrative in its small way of how artificial was so much of the ill-feeling existing between Russia and England.

To get to Turkish Georgia the lecturer went from Batum to Trebizond, thence by car to Riza, thence by fishing boat to Khopa, and thence he rode up over the mountains to Borchka and Artvin. Further than this he could not go, as the Turks treated all the country south of the Chorokh and east of the Euphrates as a special military zone. The coast lying between Riza and the Russian frontier was inhabited by the Lazes, strong Mussulmans who were apt to resent the reforms of the Kemalist Government. At Riza the lecturer saw a bride kidnapped by force—by two men in a Ford! Coastal Lazistan was a Garden of Eden. Khopa, a little fishing village, would grow in importance, because by the new frontier the Chorokh valley had been deprived of Batum as a port, and the Turks were developing Khopa as a port for Artvin, Ardahan, and even for the Kars region. This country of the Chorokh valley was, however, never so poor and wild as it was to-day. It had a great history, and archaeological excavations in it would certainly bring to light many unknown chapters of the history of the Middle East.

Mr. Allen then touched upon the present political situation of the Georgians. The Georgian-speaking districts of Turkey could be left out of the picture. But what of the rest, the nine-tenths of the Georgian nation, under Soviet rule? They had an ancient culture, a fine language and literature, and a strong tradition of independence. That independence they lost finally in 1801, since when they have formed part of the Russian Empire. The Russians brought many benefits, but the Romanoffs, like the Hapsburg Emperors and the Ottoman Sultans, failed to weld out of the nationalities under their rule a coherent State which could survive modern conditions. The War resulted in the collapse of the artificial structure of the Romanoffs, the Hapsburgs, and the Ottomans. The Romanoff Empire was not an inevitable development: it was essentially a political combination like the Spanish and Hapsburg Empires.

In Russia there was a normal expansion to the Black Sea and the Baltic, and across Siberia to the Pacific. But the conquest of Poland, Finland, and Georgia in the eighteenth century was imperialism in its worst form—equivalent to English conquests in France, or French conquests in Italy.

When the Romanoffs collapsed, the subject peoples established governments of their own. The Poles, the

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Finns, and the Baltic nations survived, but the Caucasian peoples did not. This was due to the fact that circumstances of international politics did not happen to favour Georgia and her neighbours. But the re-occupation by the Russians of the Caucasus met with very considerable resistance in Georgia and Daghestan, and in Georgia there was guerilla fighting until 1924.

What of the future? There were two alternatives. First, the Bolsheviks had attempted to conciliate national feeling among the Ukrainians, Georgians, Armenians, and other national groups by the establishment of autonomous Soviet Republics. If this system were developed generously, a federation of all the national groups of the former Russian Empire might develop along comparatively satisfactory lines. But secondly, some crisis in Russia might give the national groups an opportunity to recover their complete independence. In this event, it was possible that the Georgians, together with the Tatars of Azerbaijan and the Armenians, might establish an independent Caucasian Confederation, which could be a stable element in Middle Eastern politics. The independence of these Republics should not be regarded as impracticable or as a danger to international peace. Such States as Switzerland, Holland, and Denmark showed that small States could be an element for peace, and could make original contributions to civilisation.

After the lecture General Sir Raleigh Egerton asked whether the oil at Baku would not be an insuperable obstacle to the Confederation which the lecturer had suggested; but Mr. Allen thought commercial treaties could be devised to give the Russians all that they needed in that direction.

ISLAMIC INFLUENCES ON THE ARTS OF EUROPE.

(From a Correspondent.)

At the International Congress of Orientalists recently held at Oxford, one of the most interesting lectures was that of Mrs. Devonshire on "Islamic Influences on the Arts of Europe."

After emphasizing the fact that, in the Middle Ages, there actually existed colonies of Oriental craftsmen at Venice, Ferrara, Pisa, Palermo, Cadiz, and so on, the lecturer proceeded to enumerate objects in every branch of art which betrayed undisputed Oriental inspiration, or influence. One of the most striking facts was the extensive use of Oriental textiles in the West, not only carpets but also brocaded velvets from Brusa. Evidence for this was produced in the form of lantern slides showing pictures by the great masters, in which the subjects wear either doublets or cloaks which can easily be recognized as of Oriental fabric. So numerous are such examples that it would almost appear that no one could feel really smart in the Middle Ages unless he wore at least one garment of Eastern material. Such fabrics were often decorated with bands, or *tiraz*, of Arabic inscriptions, woven in near the border, and as a result of familiarity with such inscriptions, one finds numerous examples of the use of meaningless imitations of Arabic inscriptions in the decoration of the XIIth century.

Besides ornament derived from inscriptions, there was also the well known decorative scheme of two animals affronted with heads averted, on either side of a Persian

Horn or Tree of Life. Some splendid results were achieved in the West by the adaptation of this design, examples of which were shown on the screen.

Turning to the field of Ceramics, Mrs. Devonshire illustrated the Oriental influence in Hispano-Moresque pottery, with pseudo-Arabic inscriptions and Christian heraldic devices; also the use of blue fayence wall-decoration in the Mudejar Cathedral of Saragoza, and the Cosmatesque mosaic at Ravella, near Amalfi. The importation of Hispano-Moresque pottery into Italy, led to the Italians' copying it and calling it *maiolica*, under the impression that it came from the island of Mallorca; and the importation of a Muslim potter from Valencia, laid the foundation of a pottery industry at Poitiers. Imitations were also made in Holland in the XVth century.

The inlaying of brass with gold, silver, or red copper was a flourishing art in the East in the XIIth century, Mosul being the centre of the industry; this craft was imported into Europe, craftsmen settling in Venice, among whom was Mahmud the Kurd, signed pieces of whose work still exist. The Italians learnt this art, which they called *azzimonia*.

In architecture, the Mudejar style of Spain affords the most striking example of Oriental ornament and technique surviving for a couple of centuries or more in a Christian kingdom. The lecturer illustrated a number of examples such as the Christian door of the Mosque-Cathedral of Cordova, the Casa di Pilatos, and so forth.

A number of stucco grilles from early Spanish and Romanesque churches, which were shown on the screen, had a charming and thoroughly Oriental appearance. It would also seem, from the evidence submitted, that the south European campanile was derived from the square North African and Spanish type of minaret, itself derived from the early Syrian church tower.

NEWS IN BRIEF.

The appointment of Field-Marshal Lord Plumer to be Honorary Colonel of the Inns of Court Officers Training Corps is announced in the *London Gazette*.

The King and Queen of Yugoslavia returned to Belgrade on November 19 from Paris. M. Rakitch, Yugoslav Minister in Italy, was in attendance on his Majesty during the journey between Milan and Venice.

King Zogu received M. Mihailovitch, Yugoslav Minister to Albania, at Tirana on November 19, when he presented his Letters of Credence. The Albanian Government on November 21 nominated M. Reuf Fitza as Albanian Minister in Belgrade.

In Congregation at Oxford on November 20, the Vice-Chancellor presiding, the degree of M.A. was conferred by Decree upon Mr. C. N. Seddon, Hon. M.A., Balliol, Lecturer in Persian and Marathi; and Mr. E. J. Thompson, Hon. M.A., Lecturer in Bengali.

The Jewish National Fund announces from Jerusalem that it has purchased 27,000 dunams (about 6,750 acres) of land on the coast at Haifa Bay, and that it now possesses 33,000 dunams (8,250) in this area, which is significant in view of its coming development.

Mohamed Pasha Mahmoud, Egyptian Prime Minister, on November 24 laid the foundation-stone of a new Egyptian State hospital in the suburb of Abbassia, Cairo. Shaikh Abdul Rahim Pasha el Demerdashi gave the site of the hospital and £1000,000 towards the cost. Lord Lloyd, High Commissioner, was present, and paid a tribute to Demerdashi Pasha's friendship towards Great Britain since the early days of the Occupation.

It is reported from Kabul that preparations are being made for wireless communication between Afghanistan and European countries, and for an air service between Afghanistan, Persia, and Turkey. An aeroplane association is being formed to raise money for the promotion of civil aviation.

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THE WEEK AT HOME

London, Tuesday Morning.

The King's Illness.

Even the Olympian observer of human affairs cannot fail to have been affected by the display of very sincere concern which has been made all over the British Empire during the last few days in the state of the King's health. The British people, as a whole, love their King, although, to be sure, it did not need this unfortunate illness to reveal that fact. That our Sovereign may speedily recover is the hope alike of the humblest and of the greatest of us.

The New Bank Notes.

Last week the Bank of England issued new ten shilling and pound notes, and it was extremely amusing to observe the popular reaction to them. Just as nowadays some people might be suspicious if they were offered gold instead of the old "Bradburys," so the ordinary man was very suspicious of the new notes.

Artistically speaking, the count has apparently gone against the new notes. The design has been modelled, it is said, on the old American "greenback"—a gloomy reminder, the jesters state, of our debt to the U.S.A. The design of Britannia appears in basic green and red. But St. George has disappeared; the helmet and trident of Britannia are also missing. No doubt we shall accustom ourselves to these losses; but in the meantime our militarists are shaking their heads.

Penny Postage.

It is curious how, whenever the time approaches for a new Budget, propaganda, with every appearance of official inspiration, is set about in favour of a return to a penny postage. This year, however, hopes have soon been damped, for last week, in the House of Commons, Mr. Winston Churchill said definitely that there could be no penny post in the near future. The Chancellor of the Exchequer stated that its introduction would mean a loss of from six to seven and a quarter millions.

This figure has rather annoyed the protagonists of the penny post, who not only do not accept Mr. Churchill's figures, but also assert that, even were it correct, the Post Office in two or three years would certainly recoup itself through additional postage. And the cynical are asking, which would the business man prefer and which would give the more stimulus to trade—the certain advantages of the penny post or the mythical benefits of the Government's De-rating Scheme? For once, however, I rather think that the Chancellor is justified: the cure of the crying ills must be attempted first, even though a cure for the lesser ills is close at hand. Nor do I think that there would be such a tremendous increase in correspondence, if we had the penny postage again.

The Trade Relief Bill.

And that reminds me of the improvement, which one had felt was bound to take place, in the prospects of the De-rating Scheme. The Minister of Health has succeeded in quieting the critics whose activities I recently mentioned. The Minister for Health, Mr. Neville Chamberlain, has stated his belief that there will be no increase in the amount which particular districts have to pay. And, so far, at any rate, neither Labour nor Liberal critic has been able to bring evidence to the contrary.

"Coupon" Newspapers.

Those who have lived out of England for some years will have been amazed, probably, to discover the immense circulations which certain journals, the contents of which were not always of the highest or even of the most readable quality, have attained in recent years. The explanation was the football coupon competitions, which thousands entered for in the hopes of getting a monetary prize. Last week, however, such hopes were suddenly snapped: for the High Court decided that such competitions were illegal.

It was both a timely and a very sensible verdict. That a newspaper should have had circulation without readers was in itself monstrous. But this "coupon stunt" was also morally harmful. Men and women used to spend hours trying to discover the probable results of professional football matches, and there were vast organisations which sold "information" on these matches to the credulous. It was all a pitiable manifestation of the immoral hope of getting something for nothing. (I do not speak of those competitions which demanded an entrance fee: they were even more flagrantly a money-making concern on the part of the organisers.) But these competitions were in truth demoralising both to journalism and to those hopeful idiots who bought the coupons. If people want a lottery, there should be (there are) other ways of organising one than through the newspapers, whose *raison d'être* must be lost in the process which happily has just been brought to an end.

Lord Birkenhead's Way.

Lord Birkenhead was never a man to take things lying down, and the criticism which was not unnaturally passed on him (it is a criticism that I find general, except among our young materialists and realists, who, like the ex-Lord Chancellor, worship unabashed at the throne of success) that he should not, while he is making so much money out of commercial enterprises, take to himself the State pension of £5,000 a year to which he is legally entitled, has considerably fluttered the legal doves. Now it is generally invidious to discuss a man's private affairs, but since Lord Birkenhead himself has chosen to conduct his affairs in the full glare of publicity, the usual practice may be forgone.

In a letter to *The Times*, Lord Birkenhead made to Sir Henry Slesser's strictures on him in the House of Commons what some consider an effective, and other a most undignified retort. He was promptly answered in the same newspaper by Mr. Grant, whose motives were, apparently, so misunderstood by the ex-Secretary of State for India, that he imagined a possible job was waiting for Mr. Grant through the good offices of Sir Henry! This sort of repartee is, I think, vulgar in the extreme. But the "F. E. Smith" that was Lord Birkenhead will out. Such conduct as he has just indulged in is inconceivable in a man of the type of Mr. Baldwin, whose recent remarks upon "parasitical directors" might well have brought a blush to the cheeks of a man less hardened or weathered than Lord Birkenhead. To say the least, this omission to forgo a pension of £5,000 at a time when, as the whole Press has just been reminding us, many parts of Wales and other mining districts are starving, can hardly build up the noble Lord's credit in Heaven; nor, incidentally, will it assist the Party into whose counsels he unhappily succeeded a few years ago in re-establishing himself. One would like to know what, for instance, Sir Thomas Inskip really thinks about the great ex-Lord Chancellor, whose action he was forced in the Commons, if not to defend, at least to explain away.

The Cricket Championship.

All eyes are set on Brisbane, where the first Test Match will soon begin. But in the meantime cricketers are discussing the new Championship system for this country, which was recommended last week by the Advisory Cricket Committee. Briefly, it is this: that eight points shall be given for a win; that five points shall be given for a win on the first innings (mixed cheers); that the points be divided if there is no result on the first innings; and, of course, that, everybody playing the same number of games, the side gaining the greatest number of points shall be champions.

The only object of criticism is the major points given for the first innings lead. What most men would like to have laid down is the moral obligation to obtain a finish. But that, probably, is impracticable in a business community.

ALTER EGO.

PERSONAL AND GENERAL

TO-DAY

November 29, 1928 (New Style).

November 16, 1928 (Old Style).

Jumada II, 15, 1347 A.H. of the Muslim Calendar.

Kislev 16, 5689, of the Jewish Calendar.

The Aga Khan will leave Marseilles on December 7 for Bombay.

Major-General Sir John Davidson, M.P., leaves England to-day (Thursday) for India.

The Earl and Countess of Selborne will leave London towards the end of next month for Egypt.

Sir John and Lady Cadman left Southampton on November 24 in the s.s. Aquitania for New York.

Lord Russell of Liverpool left London on November 22 for Marseilles to join the s.s. Narkunda for Bombay.

Sir John Chancellor, High Commissioner for Palestine, and Lady Chancellor are leaving to-day (Thursday) for Jerusalem.

Sir Archibald and Lady Birkmyre and Mr. and Mrs. Henry Birkmyre leave London to-day to join the s.s. Rawalpindi at Marseilles, on their way to Calcutta.

Major-General Sir Harry and Lady Watson left London on November 22 for India, joining at Marseilles the following day the s.s. Narkunda, in which Sir Maneckji and Lady Dadabhoy, Sir Stanley Reed and Sir Valentine Chirol are also passengers.

The English-Speaking Union will entertain Field-Marshal Lord Allenby and Lady Allenby at dinner on their return from the United States, at Grosvenor House, Park Lane, on Monday, December 3. Mr. Lloyd George will preside.

Sir Prabhaskanakar Pattani, who was summoned to England to assist in the conference of Indian Princes and Ministers in connexion with the Indian States Inquiry, embarked on November 23 in the Narkunda at Marseilles for Bombay.

His Excellency Jaafar Pasha al-Askari (who presented his Letters of Credence as Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary from the Kingdom of Iraq), and His Excellency Monsieur Nicolas Titulesco (who presented his Letters of Credence as Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary from the Kingdom of Roumania) were received in audience by the King at Buckingham Palace on November 21.

The Basrah correspondent of *The Times* reports that the Shah of Persia left Muhammarah on November 24 in a British India mail steamer for Bushire and would probably visit Khor Musa, the proposed terminus of the trans-Persian railway on the Gulf later. It is also possible that his Majesty may extend his tour into Persian Baluchistan.

THE CHURCH OF ST. GEORGE AT TROODOS, CYPRUS.

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A permanent church on Troodos for the needs not only of residents (military and civilian) but of the visitors who are coming in growing numbers each year to this popular hill station of the Near East.

It is proposed that a stone building be erected on a site, to be allocated by the War Office, near the Parade Ground, at a cost now estimated at £800.

The Special Committee includes H. Ll. Jones, Esq., Major L. F. Layton, O/C Troops, Norman Petrides, Esq., Dr. A. H. Unwin, Henry Williamson, Esq., and the Chaplains of Nicosia (Rev. H. Buxton) and of Limassol (Rev. L. Lindsay).

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BRITISH ART IN YUGOSLAVIA.

The Yugoslav Society of Great Britain, in combination with local committees in Yugoslavia, has organized an Exhibition of British Works of Art during the coming winter at Liubliana, Zagreb and Belgrade. British Artists' Exhibitions, of which the founder is Sir Joseph Duveen, and the Chairman Sir Martin Conway, M.P., have kindly arranged for the loan to the Yugoslav Society of a selection from the works of art which have recently been on exhibition in the British Pavilion at the Venice International Exhibition. These works of art include oil paintings, water colour drawings and sculpture, and are representative of most of the leading British artists of to-day, and of the various tendencies of modern British art.

The first of these exhibitions was opened on Sunday, November 25, at Liubliana, in the presence of the British Minister to Yugoslavia and the leading local notabilities, and it is hoped that these exhibitions, which are arousing great interest in Yugoslavia, will promote closer intellectual relations between the two countries.

The death occurred on November 16 of the Rev. Charles Swynnerton, Indian Chaplain (ret.), F.S.A., whose recently published book, "Romantic Tales of the Punjab," was reviewed in *THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA* on November 15.

M. Naoum Peleff, a former Chief of Police of Sofia, was shot by two unknown men on November 21 in his office, and died an hour later. The men entered the outer office, where they stabbed a clerk, and then fired at M. Peleff and escaped.

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Book Reviews

A BORN DIPLOMATIST.

"MY WAR MEMORIES." By Dr. Benesh (London: George Allen & Unwin Ltd. 21s. net.)

It is to be hoped that the great length of this book, its portentous solemnity and its very liberal use of the personal pronoun, first person singular, will not deter the general public from reading and studying an extremely fascinating record. After all it is no longer than it had to be; indeed it is shorter than its original. It had to be solemn, for it treats of solemn things exclusively, of the creation of a new free nation. If "I," "me" and "my" are very freely sprinkled about the pages, it has to be remembered that what the author has set out to do is to narrate his own doings, such narration to be read alongside of those of Professor Masaryk and others.

"Work which creates, work which challenges, has always been my element." It was fortunate that Dr. Benesh could say so truthfully, and fortunate for his people that they were blessed with a man so gifted. "It was my belief that truth would prevail, but I did not expect it to prevail unaided." "We had to thrust our cause into the main streams of world events, in the midst of which it would become too important a factor to be ignored." These two short extracts give an idea of the spirit in which Dr. Benesh's work at Paris was done. Arriving as a young University teacher, who was a revolutionary refugee from the territories of an enemy country, gradually, by clinging to acquaintances made in past days, he managed to get on terms of discussion with others, until the Press and finally the ears of Ministers were reached. From that stage, which was not easily attained, it was comparatively plain sailing to secure, first personal, and then diplomatic recognition, and it was then not long before the proud day came when he and his fellows were recognized as the Provisional Government of a State, still in the hands of the enemy, but clearly earmarked for surrender to its new masters. Not only that but, by virtue of the army which actually existed, largely owing to Dr. Benesh himself, they were also recognized as active belligerents, allies and, as such, entitled to take part in the Peace negotiations. None of these events occurred by chance. Every one was carefully worked up to, and the ends were all along clearly kept in view. The success they had was the success due to good and permanent work.

In a few lines it is impossible to call attention to more

than a few points, and readers must be referred to the book itself for details. These they will find intensely interesting and instructive. One great virtue possessed by the author is the ability to look at events with the eyes of others. This enables him to write sympathetically of Baron Sonnino and others who stood in his way. Even the attitude of the Allied Powers to the tentative Austrian proposals for peace, though the carrying of them through would have meant the end to all his hopes, never seems to have succeeded in preventing him from appreciating their point of view, while he comforted himself with the reflexion that the "philosophy of history" made such success impossible. Of statesmen with whom he worked he has left many lively little sketches. Those of Lord Balfour and Lord Cecil are excellent. His energy and industry can hardly be believed were it not that it was only such energy and industry that made the results possible. For five years he appears to have had no rest or relaxation for body or mind; while the circumstances in which he had perforce to live did not help him to husband his strength.

"In spite of the passing difficulties which were encountered at the Peace Conference between the Yugoslavs and the Roumanians on the subject of the Banat, and between the Roumanians and ourselves regarding Carpathian Ruthenia, the co-operation during the War prepared the ground for that post-War Little Entente policy at which Masaryk and the rest of us had been systematically working since 1917." The Little Entente was, then, definitely in his eye even before the War ended, and Masaryk and he got their way here too. The question whether this particular success has been in the long run a gain to Europe will not receive in every quarter the answer that Dr. Benesh will give it. The Little Entente has undoubtedly been of great advantage to Czechoslovakia; its value to the two other countries, thereby drawn into the vortex of Central European politics to which they do not belong, is problematical, and it would seem as if the only factor that now keeps the Little Entente in being is the lack of courage on the part of both of these Governments, in hesitating to acknowledge that it is a hindrance to their development in the sphere where their real interest lie, in South-Eastern Europe. Dr. Benesh does not appear to have any illusions as to the dangers threatening the State which he has done so much to create. We wish that we could think that in his extra-Czechoslovakian activities he has taken the best means for combating these threats.

It should be added that the translation of the book is very well done and that the publishers have taken seriously their duty to present the book in a manner befitting its value, even down to its symbolic green binding.

C. S-W.

EASTERN COUNSEL.

"HITOPADESA: THE BOOK OF WHOLESOME COUNSEL." Edited by Lionel D. Barnett. (London: Chapman and Hall, 21s.)

The series of translations into English of Eastern wisdom is constantly growing, but we doubt whether any will surpass the series known as "The Treasure House of Eastern Story," of which "Hitopadesa" is the first volume. To begin with, it is under the general editorship of Sir Denison Ross, who certainly has a flair for the less known works and the by-ways of Oriental literature. And secondly, it is being most beautifully published by Messrs. Chapman and Hall, who have made an excellent choice of the Westminster Press to print the books; so that the translations, almost apart from their content, are a physical delight to read. Among the volumes that are promised to accompany "Hitopadesa" we note with particular interest that the book of Hayy Ibn Yaqdhan by Abu Bukr Ibn Tufayl is one, and that a selection from the Masnavi of Jalal-ud-Din Rumi is another. Another,



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selections from the Gulistan and Bustan of Sa'di, has already been published, and will be reviewed in THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA in due course.

This version of "Hitopadesa," which, by the way, contains as frontispiece a finely fantastic animal group by Cynthia Kent, is based on the translation from the original Sanskrit by Francis Johnson, but it has been revised and in part re-written by Mr. Lionel Barnett, the eminent Keeper of the Department of Oriental Printed Books and MSS. in the British Museum.

Readers of the famous Sanskrit tales and fables known as "Pancha-tantra" will know very well the sort of book that "Hitopadesa" is. Into the mouth of animals of the lower creation are put the precepts of human kind, for into the Hindu the principles of, say, statecraft, could be more easily instilled in this elementary form. The device is, of course, as old as Time and as new as To-day: it never fails to delight. Through the medium of crows, tortoises, deer, tigers, jackals, elephants, and so on, we are instructed on "The Acquisition of Friends"; through bulls, lions, monkeys, asses, serpents, and the rest, we learn of "The Separation of Friends"; through geese, peacocks, ganders, and rabbits, we gain knowledge of "War"; and the arts of "Peace" we discern through turtles, cranes, mongooses, crabs, frogs, goats, and what-not. It is in the second chapter that we meet again those two charming jackals, Karataka and Damanaka, who are familiar to readers of the original "Pancha-tantra."

Quotation from such fables is difficult, for one precept leads on to its homely illustration and thence to precept and illustration again; so that there are, actually speaking, few examples of finality that could fitly be quoted. But here are a few of the memorable axioms:—

Even without riches a valiant man attains a rank of honour and elevation; a mean wretch, though well endowed with wealth, comes to a station of dishonour. Can a dog, although wearing a necklace of gold, acquire the splendour of a lion, which springs from nature, and consists in possession of a collection of virtues?—(From "Acquisition of Friends.")

And this is how Damanaka, in "Separation of Friends," destroys the Absolute:—

Is anything naturally beautiful or not beautiful? If aught pleases anyone, to him it will be beautiful.

Observe the realism of this precept, taken from the section on "War":—

A King should duly appoint for his minister a native of his own land, faultless in the observances of his caste, of tested integrity, familiar with sciences, not addicted to vice, free from loose habits, one who has studied the departments of law, renowned, of ancient family, clever, and able to raise money.

And who could quarrel with the tone of this, taken from "Peace"?—

What dexterity is there in deceiving those who have come to trust in one? What manliness is there in killing him who has climbed into one's lap and fallen asleep there?

Enough has, perhaps, been shown to illustrate the wisdom of these fables: to indicate their homely and most attractive setting were impossible. It is one of the mysteries of mankind that their originator died an unknown man, for all that is certainly known of the author of "Hitopadesa" is that he lived between the eighth and fourteenth centuries. It is presumed, however, that he lived under the Pala dynasty of Bengal, probably, as Mr. Barnett says, between the ninth and twelfth centuries. However that may be, immortality is assured for his tales; and we should end, as we began, in thanking Messrs. Chapman and Hall for their enterprise in publishing this series of Eastern treasures, and particularly for their worthy presentment of such treasures.

The Duke of the Abruzzi, a cousin of the King of Italy, and a well-known explorer, has returned to Addis Ababa after having found the source of the Webi Shebeli River, which is stated to be in the Sidama district.

R.A.F. APPOINTMENTS.

The following appointments in the Royal Air Force are notified:—
Wing Commander.—J. McCrae, M.B.E., to Armoured Car Wing, Iraq, to command (October 21).

Squadron Leaders.—J. J. Breen, to No. 84 Squadron, Iraq (October 22); F. J. Vincent, D.F.C., to No. 45 Squadron, Middle East East (October 30); J. H. Green, to Headquarters, R.A.F., Trans-Jordan and Palestine (October 27).

Flight Lieutenant.—W. J. Seward, to Headquarters, Iraq Command (November 15).

Flying Officers.—T. B. Prickman, to No. 45 Squadron, Middle East (October 27); M. A. Platts, to No. 2 Armoured Car Company, Middle East (October 30); C. Warsaw, to No. 14 Squadron, Middle East (November 3).

Pilot Officers.—G. E. E. Singleton, to No. 14 Squadron, Middle East (October 27); D. Menzies, to No. 45 Squadron, Middle East (October 28).

The following are posted to No. 4 Flying Training School, Middle East, with effect from November 15:—A. H. Abbott, F. S. Barron, A. G. M. Cary, C. B. Field, E. G. Granville, N. R. G. Hunter, R. I. Johnson, H. L. McCulloch, R. M. Messiter, G. F. P. O'Farrell, O. J. O'Hara, C. E. W. N. C. Pelly, C. Sarsfield-Samson, R. W. Wallace, T. E. Whittome, A. C. R. Mackenzie, E. C. Ridler.

Stores Branch.

Flying Officer.—E. G. M. Charleson, to No. 4 Flying Training School, Middle East (October 30).

Medical Branch.

Squadron Leader.—R. J. Aherne, M.C., to Palestine General Hospital (November 1).

Flight Lieutenants.—E. J. Jenkins, to No. 14 Squadron, Middle East (November 1); R. G. Freeman, to R.A.F. Depot, Middle East, instead of to Headquarters, Middle East, as previously notified (October 20).

M. Pappas, Greek Minister to Turkey, arrived in Angora on November 19.

Sir James Beethom Whitehead, K.C.M.G., of Efford Park, Lymington, Hants, late British Minister to Serbia, formerly serving in St. Petersburg, Rio de Janeiro, Berlin, Tokyo, Brussels, and Constantinople, died on September 19, leaving estate of the value of £160,122, with net personalty £120,656.

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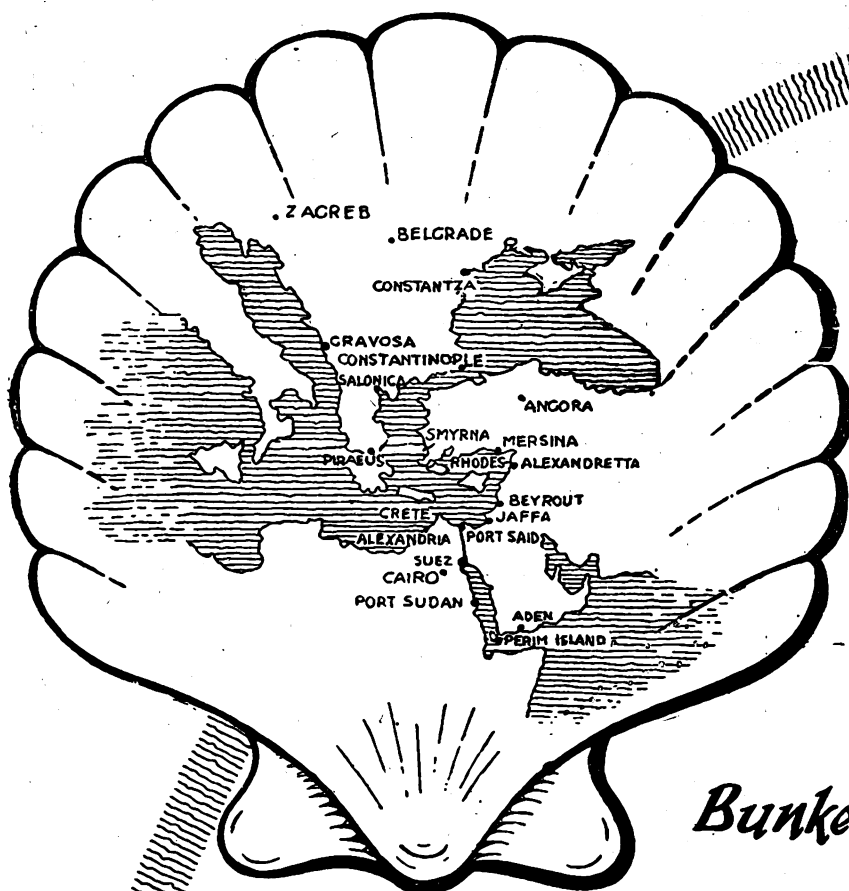
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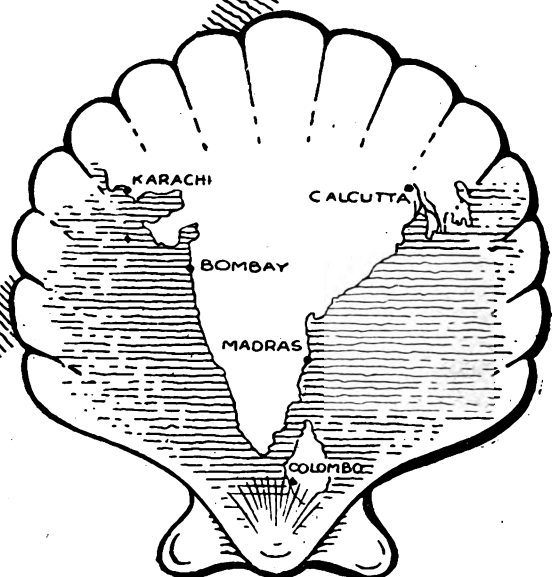
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NOTES AND NEWS

170, Strand, London, W.C.2,
Tuesday Morning.

Roumania and Foreign Enterprise.

M. Maniu, the Roumanian Premier, has lost no time in explaining the attitude of the National-Peasant Party to foreign enterprise and foreign capital. As I pointed out in these columns recently, it was made clear at the recent "Parliament" of the Party that a view diametrically opposite to that of the then Government was taken on this question, but opinions expressed in Opposition are not invariably translated into action when the world is viewed from the Government benches; but while there was little doubt that the National-Peasant Party would reverse the Bratianu policy which led nowhere, it is none the less satisfactory to have the whole-hearted statement of M. Maniu that it is hoped that foreign experience and capital will find as large a field as possible in Roumania. It now remains for the Maniu Administration to pave the way for foreign assistance to the country by such steps as the removal of restrictions on the employment of foreign capital and the modification of the Mining Law. The decision of the Government to follow its predecessor in the matter of the negotiations for a loan will no doubt be generally approved. The points in favour of a loan issued under the auspices of the League of Nations are obvious, but the disadvantages are equally clear also. Roumania wants the loan at once, so that progress may be made as quickly as possible in the work of reconstruction.

The Sudan's Dura Harvest.

As I have pointed out in these columns, recent trade statistics throw a most encouraging light on developments in the Sudan. It would be unwise, however, to base too great expectations on the fact that both imports and exports are steadily expanding. The Sudan, it must be remembered, has only recently passed through a very severe economic depression, the main cause of which, it will be recalled, was the failure of the dura crop. Last year's dura crop was a very good one, and the development of the import trade this year is largely the reflection of this result, but beyond allowing the re-export of certain quantities of imported dura, the Sudan Government has not yet raised the embargo on the export of this commodity which has been in operation now for three years. The latest news regarding this season's dura crop is not so promising, as it is said to be below the average. That will probably mean a continuance of the embargo.

The New Sudan Railway Extension.

Much is hoped for the extension of the railway from Gedaref to Sennar, as the line will tap a particularly fertile region of the Sudan, the development of which has hitherto been hampered by the absence of communications. This extension is to be finished by February 1 next, and it will thus be able to deal with a fair amount of traffic before the rains begin. Apart from its value to the region it actually passes through, the line will be available for traffic from El Obeid destined for Port Sudan. A portion of the Gezira produce should also use this route. The value of this development will be that the congestion existing on the Wad-Medani-Khartoum-Atbara line will thus be relieved.

The Bulgarian Loan.

As was to be expected, the Bulgarian Stabilisation Loan was quickly over-subscribed. Previous experience

with issues made under the auspices of the League of Nations suggested that the loan would open at a premium, and no doubt the demand for the loan was to some extent due to that belief, but as a matter of fact when dealings opened on Monday a small discount was established, which is presumably to be attributed to reports forthcoming in the last few days of disturbed conditions in Bulgaria. It is not to be expected that the loan will long remain under par, for there is little in the record of Bulgaria in the last few years to cause misgiving as to the country's progress. In the British Consular Report on Bulgaria, which has made a particularly timely appearance at this juncture, and extracts from which will be found elsewhere in this issue, reference is made to the improvement in the economic situation of the country in the past year, to which a Budget surplus and a satisfactory crop contributed. The loan now concluded will certainly not mean for Bulgaria the beginning of a prosperous period, but it will mean that the country will now be better situated to face the task of the continuance of reconstruction in which by sheer determination it has already achieved substantial progress. Apart from the actual financial help, the loan is further a distinct moral asset to Bulgaria, as it marks the definite establishment of relations with other countries and cannot fail to give Bulgaria the feeling that she is no longer ploughing a "lonely furrow."

Limitation of Exhibitions.

There has been an enormous increase in the number of trade fairs and exhibitions in Europe since the War, and while many of them fulfil a useful function, it is probable that at least half could be dispensed with without any adverse effect on trade development and to the general benefit of manufacturers whose representation at the various fairs and exhibitions has now become a very expensive business. The International Exhibitions Conference, which has been meeting in Paris, has been considering the question of the limitation of these events, but it is to be feared that the convention drawn up by that body will not greatly contribute to that end, for the Conference decided to deal only with events of three weeks' duration or more and to leave the question of smaller international exhibitions and trade shows (which form the bulk of these events) for consideration at a later date. It would surely have been better, one would think, to have taken advantage of the Conference to come to a clearly-

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defined decision on the whole question. It goes to show the weakness of these international meetings that it should be necessary to approach a matter, which hardly holds out much promise of controversy, in such a delicate spirit.

Near East Tariffs.

It is in the Balkans that trade restrictions have been most in evidence since the War, and while some of the countries in that region have shown signs of mending their ways, it cannot be said that the general tendency in the Near East at the present time is towards freer trade. In some cases, indeed, the trend is definitely in the opposite direction, and that fact makes one despair of the possibility that the resolutions passed at Geneva will be carried into effect in the near future. The new Turkish tariff is a case in point. In view of the enthusiasm that the Angora authorities have shown in the creation of a new Turkey it was only to be expected that the tariff would be a thorough and very comprehensive instrument of policy. Details of the tariff, which after approval by the Government has to undergo the formality of consideration by the Grand National Assembly at Angora, are not yet available, but the object for which it has been framed is the adequate protection of existing Turkish industries and of industries which are capable of being established. The tariff which it will presently supersede is declared to be inefficient as a protection for Turkish trade, which affords an indication as to the nature of the new dispensation. It is not my intention specially to criticise Turkey for her protectionist policy (that, I think, is by far the best phrase to describe the development of trade restrictions), but merely to illustrate the fact that the passage of pious resolutions at conferences at Geneva is not likely in the circumstances to get us much farther. The tendency to increase tariffs and to maintain and extend trade restrictions of various kinds is clearly solely due to the conditions brought about by the War—conditions which have imposed, and are imposing, on various countries the need to utilise to the full economic weapons to enable them to obtain the necessary markets to afford employment for their citizens. In the case of Turkey the real ground for criticism is that those in authority lack the requisite experience, and the new tariff is therefore quite likely to have some unexpected consequences.

Bengal-Nagpur Railway.

At the meeting of the Bengal-Nagpur Railway Mr. Robert Miller, the Chairman, was able to give a very satisfactory account of the working of the line for the past year. Twelve months ago a decrease was recorded in the gross earnings following a series of increases, but this time the upward movement has been resumed, and at Rs.9,16,23,492 the gross earnings constitute a record. Coal is the principal commodity carried by the railway, and it is interesting to note that five-eighths of the increase in the goods traffic was in respect of general merchandise. Naturally this wide movement of traffic is very significant as to the economic development of the region served by this railway. An interesting point made by Mr. Miller is that China has become a consumer, and bids fair to become a large consumer, of Indian coal. Hitherto China has been a large purchaser of Japanese

coal, and Mr. Miller is of the opinion that if the coal owners of Bengal utilise their opportunity the demand for this coal will not only be permanent but will increase.

COMMENTATOR.

MOTORS IN THE RED SEA DISTRICT.

The total of 1,928 automobiles were registered on January 1, 1928, in the 11 small countries comprising the Aden consular district (says the American Vice Consul at Aden, Mr. James L. Park, in a recent report); of this number 65.34 per cent. are American.

The colony of Eritrea, being almost entirely Government-supported, shows an automotive activity which is interesting, for of the total of 134 motor vehicles, only 12 are government-owned. This is due to the very good road between the port of Massawah and the capital, Asmara, over which there is constant passenger and freight traffic, and to the high railway freight rates. Passengers, too, avoid the railway whenever possible.

In addition to the usual number of used cars shipped from Aden to Mokalla, in the past year there have been imported a surprising number of new cars, transhipped at Aden and handled by Aden merchants. The Sultan of Mokalla has given the trade every encouragement. The country lends itself well to the use of cars, even without roads, and its agricultural commerce, under the Sultan's progressive policy, would indicate a rapid increase in imports. It is a country well worth watching from the automobile standpoint, mainly because the people themselves are interested in motor transport, and their purchasing power is probably at present higher than that in any other part of Arabia.

Passenger cars and buses are imported into Hijaz almost entirely for the pilgrim traffic between Jidda and Mecca.

Asir, like Yemen, is not of any particular interest, and its 20 cars are old. These cars are for individual use by the governing officials and the wealthier merchants. Arabs of this section of the world are inclined to look upon cars more as temporary playthings than real economic necessities.

There are no motor vehicles of any description in the Sultanate of Oman; there are no roads to accommodate them, but in many parts of the peninsula built roads are hardly necessary for other than heavy traffic. A car can follow a camel caravan route with comparative ease, but encounters considerable difficulty in any irregular portion of the terrain. Oman is not rich or important.

The Palestine Official Gazette of October 16 contains the draft of an Ordinance to amend the Tobacco Ordinances, 1925-27, containing, *inter alia*, the following provisions with regard to the importation, etc., of cigarette paper:—No person shall import into Palestine cigarette paper unless he shall previously have obtained a licence from the Director of Customs for such importation in the manner prescribed. No person shall convert tissue or other paper into cigarette paper or use tissue or other paper for the purpose of smoking tobacco. Every person who at the date of this Ordinance is in possession, for the purpose of sale, of cigarette paper, whether manufactured in Palestine or imported, shall forthwith notify the Excise Authority of the amount of such cigarette paper in his possession. The Government shall have the option of purchasing the paper at cost price or of marking it with the Government stamp.

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Irrigation in Egypt

Under its present Government Egypt is on the threshold of important developments in irrigation. An international Commission of three members is at present engaged in examining the various plans for the heightening of the Aswan Dam; a decision regarding the project for a dam at Gebel Aulia, south of Khartoum, is also not likely to be long delayed, and, in addition, to the completion of the Nag Hamadi Barrage, begun in November, 1927, various improvements in existing drainage and irrigation systems are being undertaken. All these works have an important bearing on the prosperity of Egypt, and it may not be without interest to describe in detail the system of irrigation as practised in the country.

Below we publish the first part of an article devoted to the subject, which will be continued in subsequent issues:—

IRRIGATION IN EGYPT.

The term Irrigation covers the conservation, distribution, and application of water for the growing of crops. Egypt is entirely dependent on the Nile; without that great river it would be merely a part of the surrounding desert. Thirteen millions of people live on five and half million acres of irrigated land. This concentration is the more remarkable in that there are practically no industries, and all imports are paid for in agricultural produce.

The ultimate sources of the Nile are in the Southern Hemisphere, nearer to Cape Town than to Cairo, and it is already a mighty river at the point where it issues from Lake Victoria, 5,500 kilometres, or about 3,500 miles, from its mouth. If all the water which comes out of the great Equatorial Lakes arrived in Egypt, irrigation problems would be greatly simplified; but in its long journey, first through tropical swamps, then through the thirsty desert of the Sudan, the Nile loses a large proportion of its flow. When the monsoon rains fall on the mountains of Abyssinia the tributary rivers, Sobat, Blue Nile and Atbara, discharge into the main Nile during August and September a volume of water many times greater than that of the parent stream. These Abyssinian rivers, great in flood, dwindle to very small dimensions in the dry season, and they contribute little to the summer supply of Egypt. Their water is heavily charged with earth washed down from the mountain-sides, and any reservoir used to store it would soon be filled up with a deposit of mud, and so rendered useless. All the annual flood, therefore, which cannot be directly applied to the land has to be allowed to escape into the Mediterranean Sea. This is a wasteful process but quite unavoidable. Conservation schemes are thus limited to the storage of clear water, and to the reduction of loss from the river by the improvement of its channel through the swamp region. The only great work of this nature so far completed is the Aswan Dam, which stores about 2,500 million tons of water in winter after the flood has passed, and releases it for use when required. During summer about one-third of the water used in Egypt comes out of the Aswan Reservoir.

Egypt is naturally divided into two distinct sections, viz., the narrow Nile Valley from the southern limits of Egypt to near Cairo, and the fan-shaped and widespread lands of the Delta. Two systems of irrigation are at the present time practised in Egypt, the old simple system of basin irrigation and the modern system of perennial irrigation. Both systems are practised side by side in Upper Egypt, while Lower Egypt makes use only of perennial irrigation.

IRRIGATION IN UPPER EGYPT.

Basin Irrigation.

In prehistoric times the great River Nile used to sweep the entire width of its valley from the desert edge on the east to the opposite edge on the west. It was King Menes, founder of the 1st Dynasty, who took the first

step to control the waters of the river. He constructed a great bank or dyke parallel to a part of the western shores of the channel and tied it up with cross banks to the Libyan desert side, thus dividing the cultivable land into a series of compartments or basins. When the flood arrived, these banks were cut at their higher ends to allow of the entrance of the turbid silt-laden waters into these basins. The water was allowed to remain in them for a period of 40 days, until the soil gets thoroughly saturated and the rich Nile alluvium deposited. The lower reaches of the bank were then cut and the water escaped back into the river. As the waters receded, seed was sown, and the cultivator had merely to wait for his harvest. King Menes' plans have since been extended to the eastern side of the river, the big basins being divided and again subdivided to facilitate their filling.

At the present time the basins are grouped into systems, each system having its own feeder canal and one or more escapes into the Nile. Some basins are still further divided by one or more banks parallel to the direction of the river, to separate the high lands near the Nile from the lower lands close to the desert. The dividing banks are pierced with masonry regulators to govern the amount of water necessary for each basin. The heads of the feeders and the escapes into the Nile, or in between two systems of basins, are provided with masonry regulating works to facilitate the control of the water into and out of the basins. The depth of water in the basins varies between .50 m. and 1.50 m., the mean depth being about 1.00 m. If the flood has been a low one and the basins have not been quite filled directly from the river, then, wherever possible, the waters of the higher system of basins, instead of being emptied back into the Nile, are emptied into the lower basins to complete their irrigation.

The area of basins in Upper Egypt amounts to 1,195,000 acres, and that of Nile berms and islands inundated by the high floods 92,000 acres, or a total of nearly 1,287,000 acres. In years of very low floods a certain proportion of this area remains dry, especially in the high basins of Aswan and Kena provinces. In such low years the areas deprived of irrigation lose their year's crop, and the State Treasury loses the annual Land Tax. To remedy this state of things, the Esna Barrage was built on the Nile in 1923, with the object of raising the water levels of the Nile so as to ensure the filling of the basins north of it. The Assiut Barrage, built on the Nile in the year 1902, serves a similar purpose, and so will the Nag Hamadi Barrage, now under construction, each remedying the effects of low floods on the basins downstream of their sites.

The crops grown in basins and known as *Nili* or winter crops are wheat, barley, beans, lentils, flax, helba, etc., one crop only being harvested in the year.

Perennial Irrigation.

Basin irrigation has stood in Upper Egypt without a rival since the dawn of civilisation until the year 1873, when Khedive Ismail Pasha introduced perennial irrigation to replace the old basin system. For this purpose he dug the Ibrahimia Canal, the biggest artificial irrigation channel in the world. It has its intake near Assiut, and runs northwards for a distance of 268 kilometres along the top of the elevated land near the Nile; it is the only perennial canal directly fed from the river in Upper Egypt. The bed width of the Ibrahimia Canal is about 60 metres from the head to Deirout at Kilometre 22. Its discharge in flood may reach 70 cubic million metres *per diem*. In flood, the Ibrahimia serves the system of basins lying to the north of Assiut, in Middle Egypt. Originally the summer or perennially irrigated area for which the canal was dug amounted to 559,000 acres. The perennial irrigated area commanded by it was protected by a longitudinal bank, known as the "Moheet," to the west of which lie all the basins.

Originally the canal had no head work to regulate its discharge, and its water levels were dependent on the natural levels of the Nile. In the year 1901, when the construction of the Assiut Barrage was in progress, a head regulator with a navigation lock was built.

The following year the Aswan Dam, the Assiut Barrage and the Ibrahimia head regulator were all complete, and it was possible then to raise the water levels in summer and to supplement Ibrahimia with a part of the water stored in the Aswan Reservoir.

In the meantime the problem of the conversion of basins in Upper Egypt to be commanded by the Ibrahimia Canal had been taken in hand. Remodelling works on the Yusufy and Fayoum were carried out from 1899 to 1901, and in the latter year a beginning was made in converting basins into perennial irrigation in Assiut province. The work was extended northwards to Minia, Beni-Suef and Giza provinces, the whole of the conversion being completed in all these provinces by 1910.

Besides the area of perennially irrigated land on the east of the Nile commanded by the Ibrahimia Canal, the basins to the east of the river in Giza Province were converted into perennial irrigation, and two pumping stations were installed for this purpose at Leisi and Qurimat in the year 1908, the area served by both being 46,000 acres. In addition to these stations there are some privately-owned pumps on the Nile for perennial irrigation, the largest of which is the Kom Ombo Estate pump, serving an area of 35,000 acres.

Perennially irrigated land in Upper Egypt grows cotton, sugar cane, and dura as the principal crops. The total cultivable area in Upper Egypt provinces as regards irrigation can be classified now as follows:—

Perennial area	...	...	...	...	1,005,000 acres.
Basins	...	...	...	...	1,195,000 acres.
Berms and islands	...	...	...	...	92,000 acres.
Reclaimable lands	...	...	...	...	300,000 acres.
Total	...	...	...	...	2,592,000 acres.

FAYOUM PROVINCE.

General Description.

The Fayoum is a large depression in the Libyan desert, about 12,000 square kilometres in extent, consisting of cultivated land, lake and desert. The cultivated land occupies the lowest part of the depression, and is formed of alluvium similar to that in the Nile Valley. The ancient Egyptians are said to have used the Fayoum as a regulator of the Nile Valley, by diverting the waters of the river into it in time of flood, and allowing the quantity not lost by evaporation to run back into the valley, when the river was low.

The Fayoum of to-day is unique in Egypt. It is a fertile province, situated in the desert and entirely separated from the Nile Valley, except for a very narrow connecting strip of low land. It owes its existence, nevertheless, to the Nile, and while all the irrigation water used in the province flows into it, none flows out.

The Bahr Yousef, which receives its supply from the Ibrahimia Canal at Deirout, runs for a distance of 316 kilometres and finally leaves the Nile Valley and enters the Fayoum Province at Lahoun. After a further distance of 22 kilometres it flows through the town of Medinet El Fayoum, the ancient Arrince.

Irrigation System.

The land level at Lahoun is about 26.60 metres above sea level, at Medinet El Fayoum, 20 kilometres from Lahoun, 22.50, and at Lake Qaroun, which is 21 kilometres from Fayoum, it is 44.50 below the mean sea-level. The average land slope in the Fayoum is about 3.00 metres per kilometre, varying from a minimum of 10 centimetres per kilometre to a maximum of 10.00 metres per kilometre, whereas the mean land slope in the Nile Valley is about 10 centimetres per kilometre.

Certain areas of Fayoum were in the past under the

basin system of irrigation, but these were gradually converted to the perennial system, the last basin (Hod El Tuyur) being converted in 1886.

Owing to the excessive slope of the land, the old canals were run at steep gradients, causing erosion in the bed and sides; to check this action and to raise water for irrigation, weirs, made of wood, brush and mud, were put across the channels.

Progress went on gradually, until the end of the 19th century, masonry weirs of different types replaced the old stick wires at the sites of the falls, and direct irrigation was effected through openings, or pipes, taking off from the canals, on the upstream side of these weirs.

As the Fayoum Province is surrounded on all sides by high ridges of desert, and has no connexion with the Nile Valley except at Lahoun, where the land levels allow water to flow into the province and do not permit any to flow out, drainage water from the cultivated land has naturally to find its way to the lowest land, now occupied by Lake Qaroun.

Of the drains flowing into the lake there are two main ones, Wadi El Nazla and Butts Tamia Drains, which together serve 195 feddans. They are ravines cut down in many places to the Eocene limestones below the alluvium.

As Lake Qaroun is the only place into which all the drainage water of the province goes, the drainage problem is a constant pre-occupation for Irrigation officers in charge of water distribution in the province. The lake level rises and falls seasonally, the variation being due to the amount of water entering the lake and the evaporation. As a rule, the lake falls in summer and rises in flood time, when most of the land is under cultivation and the drainage is excessive. Yet drainage can be minimised by restricting the irrigation supply to actual requirements.



The Postal Account

It is often supposed that to live a long way from the nearest branch of a bank, or to be constantly unable to go to the bank in person, is a handicap to the enjoyment of the full advantages which, it is admitted, a banking account offers. Perhaps it is assumed that to conduct an account by post involves 'more letter-writing', or is costly, or is not welcomed by the Bank. It is the aim of the Westminster Bank to dispel such misconceptions by a leaflet entitled *The Postal Account*, which explains the convenience of the method, and offers some clear suggestions.

A copy will be gladly sent on application to the Secretary

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The surface area of the lake varies with its water levels, and at the present average level of 45 metres it is 51,200 acres. The quantity of water entering the lake has been estimated for the last six years at an average of 565,000,000 cubic metres per year, the approximate evaporation factor is 7 millimetres per day.

In addition to the invaluable function of Lake Qaroun to the Fayoum Province from the drainage point of view, it is also a means of living for some 2,500 men engaged in the fishing industry.

Utilisation of Water Falls.

As a result of the excessive slope of the land in the Fayoum numerous water falls are formed along many of the canals and drains, offering free power for the turning of corn mills and water wheels by wooden turbines.

The mills are worked either by turbines of a pattern introduced from India about the year 1870, or by undershot wheels. The former work in falls of not less than 1.50 metres, while the latter work under smaller falls of not less than 0.60 metres. There are about 226 water corn mills in the Fayoum Province and 70 undershot water-wheels for raising water to irrigate high lands. The latter serve an area of about 2,000 acres and pay no Government taxes. Some of these wheels working under falls lift water up to a maximum height of 6 metres. The capacity of the wheel depends on the discharge of the canal and the fall.

The existence of high falls in the large canals and drains has encouraged big land owners and municipalities in the neighbourhood to make use of the power produced by them. In 1904, a turbine was erected on the Butts Tamia Drain, where there exists a fall of about 6.5 metres, with a mean discharge of 5.00 cubic metres per second. This turbine generates 360 h.p. utilized in working: (a) Two centrifugal pumps, one ten inch and the other sixteen inch, for irrigating high lands in the vicinity; (b) A ginning factory producing about 200 bales of cotton a day; (c) A corn mill; (d) For lighting purposes.

The municipality of Fayoum Town have utilised the power of the water fall on one of the neighbouring canals in generating electricity for the lighting of the town and its water supply.

A station was constructed in 1926, with two turbines and a space for a third to be erected in the future to cope with the expected increase of demand. These turbines work under a fall of 4.60 metres to 5.70 metres, with a discharge varying from 5 to 20 cubic metres per second and work generators producing 540 kilo-watts.

The Fayoum soil is suitable for the cultivation of any of the crops grown in Egypt. The present area under cultivation is about 350,000 feddans. There is also a possibility of an extension of cultivation on a further area of 50,000 feddans, when the Nile major projects are executed and a sufficient summer water supply is available.

(To be continued.)

TENDERS INVITED.

Tenders are invited for the following contracts, and must be made by the dates mentioned.

(Particulars of tenders marked D.O.T. are to be obtained from the Department of Overseas Trade, 55, Old Queen Street, S.W.1.)

EGYPT.

Asphalt.—The Director-General, Tanzim. Department, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of 6,800 tons of asphalt required for the year 1929-1930. January 22.

Steam Lorries.—The A/Director-General, Tanzim Department, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of three steam lorries required for the Department. December 15.

Police Uniforms, Etc.—The Director of Equipment and Finance Department, Ministry of the Interior, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of police uniforms, etc. December 15.

Steam Lorries.—The Ministry of Public Works, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of three steam lorries. December 15. (D.O.T.)

Steel Book Cases.—The Egyptian Ministry of Public Works invites tenders for the supply and erection of 115 steel book cases for the Royal Library in Cairo. December 31. (D.O.T.)

INDIA.

Steam Pumping Plant.—The Indian Stores Department, New Delhi, invites tenders for the supply, delivery, and erection of steam engines and pumps. December 6. (D.O.T.)

TURKEY.

Field Telephone Wire.—The Direction-General of Posts, Telegraphs, and Telephones, Angora, invites tenders for the supply and delivery of 50,000 metres of rubber-covered field telephone wire. December 18. (D.O.T.)

Crushing Machines.—A Turkish firm is desirous of purchasing machines for crushing and drying valonea acorns. (D.O.T.)

FORTHCOMING SAILINGS.

The following are the sailings for the Near East and India, the ports of departure and closing dates for cargo being given in parentheses:—

Anchor Line.—S.s. Massilia for Bombay (Birkenhead, December 6). (For passenger sailings and dates see advertisement.)

Anchor Brocklebank Line.—S.s. Mahanada for Calcutta (Birkenhead, December 11).

Bibby Line.—S.s. Oxfordshire for Port Said, Port Sudan, Colombo, and Rangoon (Birkenhead, December 12).

British India Line.—S.s. Hatimura for Bombay and Karachi (London, December 1); s.s. Morvada for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, December 15).

Cunard Line.—S.s. Bantria for Gibraltar, Malta, Patras, Piræus, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, and Constantza, also at Volo if sufficient inducement (Glasgow and Swansea December 7, Liverpool December 8); s.s. Bactria for Casablanca, Gibraltar, Genoa, Leghorn, Naples, Palermo, Messina, Catania, Bari, Venice, Trieste, and Fiume, also at Corfu, Gruz, and Ancona if inducement (Liverpool December 22, Swansea December 27).

Johnston Line.—S.s. Aviemore for Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Bourgas, Varna, and Constantza (Liverpool, December 1); s.s. Kenmore for Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, and Constantza (Liverpool, December 15).

P. and O. Line.—S.s. Rajputana for Bombay (London, December 7); s.s. Behar for Calcutta (London, December 8).

Prince Line.—S.s. Cyprian Prince for Tunis, Malta, Alexandria, Jaffa, Haifa, Beyrout, and Cyprus (Manchester, December 13).

Ellerman and Papayanni Lines.—S.s. Algerian for Algiers*, Smyrna, and Constantinople (Liverpool December 1, Swansea December 1); s.s. Castilian for Malta, Alexandria, Jaffa*, and Haifa* (Liverpool, December 1); s.s. Fabian for Gibraltar, Malta, Alexandria, Jaffa*, and Haifa* (Liverpool, December 8); s.s. Gerano for Genoa, Leghorn, Naples, Palermo, Messina, Catania, Bari, Gruz*, Ancona*, Venice, Trieste, and Fiume (Liverpool December 8, Swansea December 13); s.s. Andalusian for Malta, Alexandria, Jaffa*, and Haifa* (Liverpool, December 22); s.s. Oporto for Patras, Piræus, Volo*, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, and Varna (Liverpool, December 22); A steamer for Gibraltar, Malta, Alexandria, Jaffa*, and Haifa* (Glasgow, December 28); s.s. Kyno for Gibraltar, Malta, Alexandria, Jaffa*, and Haifa* (Liverpool, December 29). *Subject to sufficient inducement. Cargo taken on through Bill of Lading to:—Algerian ports via Algiers; Moroccan ports via Gibraltar; Tripoli (Barbary) via Malta; Syria and Cyprus via Alexandria; Greek outports via Piræus or other convenient ports.

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The directors of the Prudential Assurance Company have elected Mr. Edgar Horne to the Chairmanship of the company, vacant through the death of Mr. A. C. Thompson. Mr. Horne, who is the son of a former Chairman of the Prudential Assurance Company, is a director of the International Sleeping Car Share Trust and is on the Advisory Board of the British Overseas Bank.

THE WEEK'S FINANCE.

(By Our Financial Expert.)

London, November 27.

The fortnightly settlement which had to be arranged during the past week disclosed some difficulties for those who had shown undue speculative confidence, but the arrangements passed off satisfactorily and after the account was disposed of the Stock Markets took on a brighter tone. An outstanding feature of the week has again been the steadiness of gilt-edged stocks, and this can be explained partly by the absence of large-scale sellers from the market and partly by the expectation of an early conversion announcement by the Treasury. The Bulgarian Stabilisation Loan was an outstanding success, the lists being closed early in the morning of the day of issue. Home rails were dull on disappointing traffic returns. An American buying movement was responsible for strength in Marconis and in some of the leading gramophone issues, but the smaller fry amongst the latter have been inclined to droop. The oil market, after a quiet opening, was more active, though profit taking was frequently in evidence. While it is not possible to gauge from the movements of the past week whether the downward trend in Stock Market activity is likely to continue there are those who point to the amazing confidence which New York continues to show as an indication that the present slight setback may be regarded as only temporary. But it should be borne in mind that the closing weeks of the year are not the best time in which a movement which has been somewhat abruptly checked can be restarted.

London Catering Fusion.

A short while ago negotiations were proceeding between Slaters Ltd., the London caterers, and another catering concern believed to be the A.B.C., but it was found impossible to reach an agreement. Interest has now been aroused by the announcement that Slaters have absorbed the Bodega Company which is in the same line of business. Substantially the undertaking will be acquired in exchange for shares in Slaters, whose capital will be increased by the issue of 500,000 Ordinary shares and 100,000 6½ per cent. Preference shares for the purpose.

Slaters has had a somewhat chequered career since it was registered in 1894 to take over the business of an

older company registered only five years earlier. In the years preceding the War dividends were declining and for the four years preceding 1918-20 no dividend was paid on either preference or ordinary shares. Since that year there has been a steady increase in prosperity. The profits for the year ending September 30 last were £52,040 as against £48,121 for the preceding year. Although the Ordinary dividend which had been 9 per cent. for the last three years, has been raised to 10 per cent., only £28,000 of the profits has been distributed, the remainder being carried to various reserves. The directors report that additional plant is being laid down, both in the bakery and in the ice-cream factory. With regard to the acquiring of the Bodega business they remark that "the businesses are well adapted for joint management." With these additional possibilities for development it is reasonable to suppose that the recent progress of Slaters Limited will be maintained. The Ordinary shares yield £7 2s. per cent.

Tax Free Investments.

Investors, like other people, are sometimes perplexed by the difficulties of income tax returns, and are led to wonder if they would not benefit by investing in "tax free" investments. Actually, of course, since taxes are levied by the Government, it is only the Government which could relieve any investment of the obligation to pay income tax. There is, in fact, only one security quoted on the London Stock Exchange of which the income bears no tax, and that is the 4 per cent. War Loan. On the 5 per cent. War Loan, however, the Bank of England does not deduct income tax when paying the interest, as is the general rule, but the holder must declare the interest received in his income tax return, and therefore pays the tax in the end. It is an advantage of investment in building societies that their interest is not subject to tax.

Many registered companies declare dividends at certain rates "free of tax." The income tax is not avoided in these cases, however; it is paid by the company in the first place, and since the shareholders constitute the company, the burden of payment therefore falls on them just the same. In comparing such dividends with those of other companies, allowance is made for income tax at the standard rate of 4s. in the £—i.e., a dividend of 5 per cent. free of tax is equivalent to one of 6¼ per cent. tax payable. Tax free payments were more popular at the time when income tax was rising rapidly. Now that the rate of tax is less likely to change, less attention is paid to the question of whether the investment is free of tax or not. The non-deduction of tax at the source in the case of the 5 per cent. War Loan makes it attractive to some investors, because where the tax is deducted it is deducted at the rate of 4s. in the £, and those who pay 2s. have the bother of making a claim for the difference.

Reconstruction Loans.

The closing of the lists of the Bulgarian Stabilisation Loan, indicating that the issue was fully subscribed, within a few minutes of their being opened, demonstrates the popularity of this class of security with the discriminating investor. In its efforts in the direction of restoring stable conditions in Europe, the League of Nations has allowed several loans to be issued under its auspices by the newer States, and others which were particularly in need of foreign financial assistance after the War. While the League is in no sense a guarantor of these issues, it allows its name to be used only if the borrowing country grants officers of the League a certain amount of supervision over its finances, with a view to ensuring the prompt meeting of obligations under the Loan. In fact, the security for these loans is excellent, specific sources of revenue being often allocated to the debt service, and the securities now stand at prices much above those at which they were issued. As regards Recon-

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CALCUTTA—Andrew Weir & Co.
COLOMBO—Skrine & Co.
BEIRA—Beira Shipping Agency.
DELAGOA BAY—John T. Rennie & Sons.
DURBAN—Andrew Weir & Co.
EAST LONDON—Messrs. Dunn & Co.
PT. ELIZABETH—Mackie, Dunn & Co.

MOSSEL BAY—Messrs. E. Searle & Co.
CAPE TOWN—Thomson, Watson & Co.
HONG KONG—The Bank Line, Ltd.
BANGKOK—Siam Forest Co., Ltd.
SINGAPORE—Hattenbach Bros. & Co.
MAURITIUS—Adam & Co.

LONDON—ANDREW WEIR & CO., 21, Bury Street, E.C.3

struction Loans quoted on the London Stock Exchange, the attention of those who desire a foreign investment giving a fair yield combined with reasonable security, may be directed to the Belgian 7 per cent. Stabilisation Loan, finally redeemable in 1956, which gives a yield of £6 8s. per cent.

ROAD CONSTRUCTION IN ABYSSINIA.

Abyssinia appears to have every link in the chain leading to prosperous economic development excepting communications (says the United States Minister Resident and Consul General at Addis Ababa, Mr. Addison E. Southard, in a recent report). The one railway in the entire country runs from the port of Jibuti, French Somaliland, inland for 500 miles to Addis Ababa. No highways have yet been completed.

Addis Ababa, a city of 150,000 population, has during the past six years developed a fair number of streets and suburban dirt roads suitable for motor vehicles, but the streets merely extend beyond the city limits, and perhaps three-quarters of the total street mileage is gullied and boulder-strewn. Harrar has very little street mileage suitable for motor vehicles.

The inherent conservatism of the Ethiopians partly explains the lack of highways in the country. The only place where motor vehicles can be used to any extent is Addis Ababa, with its comparatively few miles of macadamized streets. For centuries pack animals have carried merchandise and people to and from the Provinces. To the Ethiopian who has always lived within the country there seems no particular reason for spending money or labour on highway construction, but now that his fancy has been firmly grasped by the motor car he is feeling considerably the urge to extend the area over which he may ride on rubber-tyred wheels. As a result, there is rapidly growing interest in and pressure for the construction of highways.

Financing is the most important obstacle to the development of a highway system. The country is rich in products but not in actual money. There is also plenty of labour, but the use of bare hands alone in building the hundreds of miles of highways contemplated is rather a discouraging prospect. Machinery must be purchased and engineers brought in from outside. This requires ready cash. The Government's financial system does not appear equal in its present organization to the problem involved. It collects taxes, but to an important extent in kind, because of the lack of ready money. Ethiopia in many parts still carries on its trade by barter. The Government has no public debts and has never borrowed money; bond issues are alien procedures which the Government will not quickly or readily approach as a means of raising cash; and it appears obvious that foreign capital and perhaps enterprise must be depended upon for at least the initial highway construction which is imminent in Ethiopia.

As a result of combined Ethiopian and foreign interests, there already exists a tentative highway construction programme. The first highway, upon which it is understood construction will shortly begin, runs from the railway town of Dire Daoua to Harrar, which is the centre of a rich agricultural and stock-raising area. The road will be about 30 miles in length and will support a heavy traffic when completed.

Two roads are planned to extend each about 200 miles from Addis Ababa into the areas of Sidamo and Jimma, to the south and south-west, respectively, of Addis Ababa. From these two areas comes much of the produce exported from Addis Ababa to the outside world. It now requires weeks to come in by pack animal at excessive costs. The routes offer no important engineering difficulties.

Another route, more difficult because of the terrain, is the one running west from Addis Ababa to Gore and Gambela on the Sobat River. This is also a rich area, although a great deal of produce goes out by river during the high water in summer to Khartoum via the Sobat and

White Nile, and there is also much travel and traffic by the present caravan trail to and from Addis Ababa.

A fourth road considered is one from Addis Ababa to Lake Tsana, a distance of approximately 200 miles. This, however, is likely to depend upon the result of present negotiations for construction of the Lake Tsana Dam.

These four routes, not including the Dire Daoua to Harrar road, which seems assured, are tentative and depend for immediate construction upon foreign capital. The Ethiopian Government is understood to be disposed to consider granting concessions if and when applied for.

New highways will give outlets to the insistent pressure of the people and country for expansion of their agricultural production. They will, on the other hand, facilitate the distribution of imported manufactured goods to a people whose demand and purchasing power will have thus automatically been many times increased. In this latter respect automotive vehicles and equipment will feel the first effect.

JAFFA ORANGE EXPORTS.

The Empire Marketing Board's correspondents at Jaffa report that as the result of considerable investigations they are led to the opinion that shipments to the United Kingdom will not be very much larger than last year. Everything, it is stated, will depend on the quantity of green fruit which is shipped immediately and on the weather in the latter months of the season. A provisional estimate for the present season gave two million boxes as the probable quantity available for shipment to the United Kingdom, as against 1½ million boxes last season.

NEWS FROM ALL SOURCES.

The production of the Anglo-Egyptian Oilfields for the week ended November 9, amounted to 5,074 tons.

A commercial, shipping and consular treaty was concluded between Czechoslovakia and Yugoslavia on November 14.

Sir Thomas Strangman has joined the Board of Java Investment Loan and Agency and has been elected Chairman. Sir Thomas was Advocate-General and Member of the Legislative Council, Bombay, 1916-1922.

An international conference dealing with direct goods traffic on the Central European railways opened at Cracow on November 26. The delegates included representatives of Yugoslavia and Roumania.

It is reported that the Swedish Match Trust has made an offer of a loan to the Roumanian Government on similar lines to that concluded with Yugoslavia.

The traffic receipts of the Egyptian Delta Light Railways for the eleven days ended October 31 amounted to £E15,831, making the total from April 1 £E173,074.

Scrip certificates of the Greek Six per Cent. Stabilisation and Refugee Loan of 1928 should now be surrendered for exchange for Definitive Bonds with interest coupons attached.

The number of motor cycles registered in certain districts in India at June 30 last was as follows:—Madras City, 2,207; Nilgiris, 349; Trichinopoly, 63; Madura, 78; Coimbatore, 149. Registrations in districts of the Madras Presidency, other than those mentioned, totalled 608.

Bulgaria's tobacco harvest is estimated to amount to about 20,000,000 kilos. Excluding the quantity required for local consumption, about 6,000 kilos, and after making allowance for bad fermentation, waste, etc., there will remain approximately 12,000,000 to 13,000,000 kilos for export. The area under tobacco has been reduced in old Bulgaria this year, while that in the new territories (Macedonia) has increased.

Roumania's exports of petroleum products in September, amounted to 207,443 tons as against 199,033 tons in August. The principal countries of destination were:—Italy, 43,169 tons; England, 32,532 tons; Egypt, 20,056 tons; Austria, 16,367 tons; Germany, 14,756 tons.

Motors and Motoring.

By G. B. B.

Night Driving.

The last few weeks has seen a revival of the old controversy regarding the rear lighting of cycles, and a number of letters have appeared in the Press on the subject which cannot have done a great deal of good to the cause championed by the respective writers. For instance, we have had a letter from a cyclist who defended the action of certain of his friends in not carrying a rear reflector and so breaking the law, on the amazing ground that the motorist, also, was breaking the law in travelling at any speed in excess of 20 m.p.h. Granted that is so, the fact that one man breaks one law is no justification for another man breaking any other enactment. Then we had a letter from a motorist complaining that during a certain night drive he had overtaken 24 cyclists without rear reflectors. Well, if he could see them well enough to count them as he passed, when they had no reflectors, obviously reflectors were not necessary to enable him to see them! The truth of the whole matter is simply this: motorists driving at night with due regard to other road users, actual or possible, have no difficulty in seeing pedestrians, cyclists, dogs, or other animals. Rear lights or reflectors are quite unnecessary. Everything, in this matter, depends on the driver, and the driver who cannot see a cyclist unless he carried a reflector, equally could not see a pedestrian in the dark, and consequently the sooner he gives up night driving the better.

On this subject, it may be said that motorists should pay attention to Clause 5 of the Bill introduced into the House of Commons by Viscount Cecil. This requires that, until the Minister of Transport makes regulations, drivers shall comply with the regulations set out in the schedule of the Bill for securing the safety and convenience of persons who use the highways and of persons driving vehicles. The underlying idea of the schedule is that speed should be regulated according to circumstances and the condition of the roadway, such as the gradient, width and surface, height of hedges, number and character of cross roads, time of night, and whether moonlight or moonless, vision and visibility, presence or possible presence of pedestrians, cyclists, cattle, other vehicles or general traffic and so on that might reasonably be expected. Other points are that a driver must obey all directions given by a highway authority and must pass on the right of every other vehicle proceeding in the same direction, with the exception of trams. No vehicle shall pass or attempt to pass any tramcar which any person is entering or leaving, and overtaking or passing another vehicle proceeding in the same direction, on a curve or bend in the highway, shall also be forbidden. It is also proposed that the driver of any horse-drawn vehicle or of any mechanically-propelled vehicle exceeding five tons weight, unladen, shall at all times keep the vehicles as close to the near side of the road as is possible.

Motor Omnibuses.

It is interesting to note that the London and North-Eastern Railway are, like the Great Western, augmenting considerably their road transport services. The latter railway have long been active in that direction and the L.N.E.R., who operate on a large number of routes in North Durham and South Northumberland, have just purchased a further dozen omnibuses, which are a great improvement on those at present in use. The new coaches are made by Thorneycrofts and are 32-seaters on pneumatic tyres, with semi-bucket type seats. This company has purchased the business, including the roll-

ing-stock and goodwill, of Messrs. Emmerson Bros., of Hexham, who have been running for some time past a passenger service between Newcastle and Carlisle. At one time it was thought that the Newcastle Corporation would purchase this business as a going concern, but the Ministry of Transport had other ideas. The sleeper road-coach is also likely to be developed considerably in the near future and already we hear of proposals for double-deck coaches to sleep 12 persons in the lower deck, with seating accommodation for 20 more in the upper saloon. To ensure due steadiness of running, I believe these would have to be on six-wheel chassis, otherwise there would be a good deal of rolling at curves and swaying at high speeds. The chief trouble seems to be the height of these vehicles. Sleeper coaches imply night driving, and high vehicles are prone at night time to meet with low bridges and overhanging branches of trees. Drivers, unless running on well-known routes, would need cast-iron nerves to handle vehicles of that size.

Self Starters.

Now that the colder weather is with us, many motorists are experiencing trouble with starting where self-starters are fitted. But the trouble is seldom or never with the starter itself, but is generally due to the quality of the oil used. If it is too thick for winter use, or if it is of the cheap and nasty kind, the engine gets gummed-up whilst standing, and in that case, short of freeing the pistons by an injection of petrol, hand starting must be resorted to. Another possible cause of trouble is that the batteries may be in bad condition or run down, so that they do not supply enough energy to the starting motor.

The Imperial Bank of Persia has declared an interim dividend for the half-year ended September 20, 1928, at 4s. per share, free of income tax, payable on and after December 17. The transfer books will be closed from December 3 to December 15, both days inclusive.

The directors of the Prudential Assurance Company have appointed Sir George Lewis Barstow a director to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Mr. A. C. Thompson. Sir George Barstow is Government Director of the Anglo-Persian Oil Company.

A Belgrade message states that according to official statistics the figures for exports from Yugoslavia for the first ten months of the current year were five per cent. higher than those of the corresponding period of last year. These exports weighed 3,780,000 tons and had a value of five milliard, two hundred and thirty four million dinars.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

Country.	Method of Quoting.	Parity of Exchange.	Latest Quotations.
Alexandria.....	Piastre to £	97½	97½
Amsterdam ...	Florins to £	12.107	12.07½
Athens	Drachmæ to £ ...	25.22½	375
Belgrade.....	Dinars to £	25.22½	276
Berlin	Marks to £	20.43	20.34½
Berne	Francs to £.....	25.22½	25.18½
Bombay	Sterling to Rupee	18d.	18 3/64—5/64
Brussels	Belga to £.....	35	34.89
Bucharest	Lei to £	25.22½	806½
Budapest	Peu to £	27.82	27.81
Calcutta	Sterling to Rupee	18d.	18 3/64—5/64
Constantinople	Piastres to £	110	968½
New York	Dollars to £	4.86 2-3	4 85½
Paris	Francs to £	25.22½	124.10
Prague	Kronen to £.....	24.02	163½
Rome	Lire to £	25.22½	92 9/16
Sofia	Leva to £	25.22½	670
Teheran	Krans to £	48	48.60
Vienna	Sch to £	34.58	34.50
Warsaw	Zloty to £	25.22½	43 3/16—7/16

British Consular Reports

IX.—BULGARIA.

In view of the issue last week of the Stabilisation Loan special interest naturally attaches to the report on economic conditions in Bulgaria dated July last by Mr. Christopher Bramwell, Secretary in Charge of Commercial Affairs at H.M. Legation, Sofia, which has just been issued. We give the following extracts:—

The year 1927 was marked by a certain improvement in the economic situation of Bulgaria, due to a stricter control over public expenditure, which enabled a surplus on the Budget to be realised, and to a satisfactory harvest of all crops except maize and rice, with the result that exports showed a substantial surplus over imports. To a certain extent home production of manufactured goods, principally cotton and woollen textiles, has been influential in producing a surplus trade balance, and it is observed that the import of manufactured goods is decreasing *pro rata* with the development of home industry, which receives great impetus from the liberal provisions of the Law for the Encouragement of Local Industry. The improvement was reflected in a general increase in bank deposits, an easing of the money market in the form of somewhat cheaper credits and a decrease in the number of protested bills; also in the appearance of several new items on the list of exports, such as sugar, wine and certain forms of fresh fruit.

That the Bulgarian economy, in order to reach an even satisfactory state does not still require to make enormous progress, would nevertheless be an unduly optimistic conclusion. Though the country's chief revenue is from agriculture, little progress has been made in educating the peasants in the use of improved and up-to-date methods of cultivation. Bulgaria's mineral resources are admitted to be a great source of potential wealth, yet the entry of foreign capital destined for, and, as it would appear, alone able to achieve their exploitation, continues to be, to a certain extent, hampered.

Imports and Exports.

Balance of Trade.—According to the computation of the Bulgarian National Bank, on December 13, 1927, this country possessed a favourable trade balance of 511 million leva, as compared with a favourable balance of 19 million leva at the end of 1926. The corresponding figures published by the Statistical Bureau, based in all probability on Customs House returns, are as follows:—

	Exports. (Million leva).	Imports. (Million leva).	Balance. (Million leva).
1926 ...	5,618 ...	6,247 ...	—629
1927 ...	6,628 ...	6,133 ...	+495

The following is a table showing the shrinkage or expansion in the shares of foreign countries in Bulgaria's import trade during 1927:—

(In million leva.)					
Lost.			Gained.		
Austria ...	39	Great Britain ...	28		
Belgium ...	28	Holland ...	22		
Czechoslovakia ...	147	Italy ...	29		
France ...	34	Sweden ...	29		
Germany ...	75	Switzerland ...	31		
Hungary ...	3	U.S.A. ...	11		

Great Britain participated in Bulgarian imports during 1927 to the extent of 737 million leva, a figure which repre-

sents some 12 per cent. of the total imports from all sources. This represents a slight improvement in comparison with the percentage of 1926, but a falling off from that of the whole period 1921-26 inclusive, when Great Britain's average percentage of imports was 14, and over the period 1910-13 inclusive, when it was 13. It should, furthermore, not be lost to view that whereas the volume of British exports to Bulgaria has remained roughly constant, this country's annual requirements have increased during the post-War period by almost a million pounds.

Though the tobacco exports for 1927 were lower than those for 1926, their declared value increased by some 200 million leva. The value of cereal exports for 1927 increased also by some 500 million leva. The falling off in the value of flour exports owing to the loss of the Greek market amounted to over 300 million leva for 1927, as compared with 1926. Several new items appeared on the list of exports for 1927. These are sugar (3,667 tons), wine (6,087 tons), fresh grapes, apples, prunes, and nuts (3,273 tons).

State of Internal Trade.

The number of bills presented during 1927 totalled 199,000, or a value of 1,585 million leva, compared with 205,000 bills, or a value of 1,820 million leva, in 1926.

In this connexion it is well to repeat what has been said in former years regarding the need of care in the selection of local agents and caution in the matter of credits. Too many United Kingdom firms have allowed credits to accumulate beyond the safety point, with consequent embarrassment or bad debts or partial and long postponed settlements. British manufacturers need not be deterred from forming or extending business connexions, subject to the usual safeguards, with the many Bulgarian firms of sound repute.

On April 14 and 18, 1928, two severe earthquake shocks caused considerable damage in the part of southern Bulgaria between South Zagora and Philippopolis, the latter town being the scene of important destruction to house property.

For the purposes of this report it will suffice to state that apart from a natural contraction in business due to temporary disorganisation of trade, uncertainty as to losses incurred and future spending power, the economic situation from the point of view of large wholesale and retail merchants and banks has not been materially affected. It is still difficult to estimate the losses sustained with any degree of accuracy. Some place them as high as £10,000,000, other as low as £3,500,000. They include principally damage to house property in Philippopolis and to tobacco stocks and warehouses, the latter being estimated at 80 million leva.

Against these losses must be set the prospects of an exceptionally good harvest, as a result of which the shrinkage of trade due to the earthquakes is not expected to reach 25 per cent.

Agriculture.

The Kingdom of Bulgaria has an area of 10,314,620 hectares. Of this area 3,184,942 hectares (excluding fallow land) were under cultivation during 1927, as compared with 2,924,752 hectares for the years 1917 to 1926 inclusive.

The 1927 harvest was satisfactory for all cereal crops excepting rice and maize. The rice crop amounted to 6,000 tons, as against 7,000 tons in 1926. The maize crop amounted to 523,600 tons, as against 737,000 tons in 1926. The 1927 harvest of all cereals amounted to 2,568,000 tons, as against 2,542,000 tons in 1926. Other crops fared well during 1927. The tobacco crop, owing to drought and a decrease in area under cultivation, was small but of exceptionally fine quality. This fact, combined with the smallness of the Greek and Turkish tobacco crops, enabled good prices to be

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Fisheries.

Fishing has not yet been adopted as a profession by Bulgarians. The Greek fishing population has entirely disappeared from the Bulgarian coast, and its place has been taken by refugees, chiefly Macedonians, who cannot be induced to take to the sea.

The State fishing school at Varna has now been supplied with a fishing trawler, *The Peroun*, built to Bulgarian specifications by a Viennese shipbuilding firm for the sum of 5 million leva. Tenders for the construction of this trawler were received from British firms, but the latter's prices were too high to be acceptable. It is hoped to make the ship pay its own way, or at least to cover the expense of instruction in deep sea fishing.

Mining.

Deposits of coal are met with in Bulgaria in all their formations from the Silurian onwards. To judge from coalfields which have undergone hitherto only a superficial survey, the country's coal reserves are enormous. The quantities of coal raised from Bulgarian mines during the past three years are shown in the following table:—

(In tons).			
Year.		State mines.	Privately owned mines.
1925		1,095,174	124,396
1926		1,050,998	154,758
1927		1,152,651	158,579
			(10 months only)

Bulgaria finds no outlet for her coal in foreign markets, and what coal is raised is for home consumption. The coal mining industry is seriously handicapped by lack of capital, but it must be added that there exists no serious export marketing organisation which would facilitate successful competition in foreign markets.

The following quantities of ores of various kinds were extracted during 1927 (in tons):—Copper, 10,934; copper-lead, 16,789; Lead, 1,230; lead-zinc, 6,720; zinc, 1,459; silver-lead, 70; manganese, 7; kaolin, 2,841.

Boring operations at Provadia, undertaken by the Bulgarian Department of Mines, have resulted in the discovery of vast rock-salt deposits, which should have the effect of making Bulgaria independent of foreign supplies. Since 1923, and up to 1926, the production of salt (extracted chiefly from the salt lakes in the Bourgas district) has fluctuated between 25,000 and 38,000 tons per annum. This fell short of home requirements by from 30,000 to 36,000 tons, which were imported. The production of salt in Bulgaria during the first ten months of 1927 attained to 53,000 tons.

During 1927 an unusually keen interest was evinced by mining engineers and geologists (chiefly of German nationality) in Bulgarian mineral deposits. There are prospects of a considerable development in the scale of the latter's exploitation. Liquid petroleum was discovered in the course of 1927 in a well in the Tondja valley, and the Department of Mines is effecting trial boring operations in that region.

A syndicate who hold a concession at Bresnik for the distillation and refinement of shale oil, are still working there with a 4-ton experimental plant. The definite launching of a scheme, involving the finding of £500,000 capital and the erection of permanent plant, awaits the completion of much preliminary arrangement. The Bulgarian Government have agreed to place before the National Sobranje a Bill prolonging by two years the term of the Concession's realisation on condition that such realisation shall be expressed in the construction of not less than 30 retorts capable of distilling up to 100 tons of shale daily, and possibly of 64 retorts of 200 tons throughout, and that for the realisation of this enterprise a company will be formed, having an initial fully

paid up capital of from £250,000 to £500,000. Any eventual participation of the Bulgarian Government in the company would probably take the form of free deliveries to the latter of coal for a period of from 10 to 15 years.

Industry.

Every encouragement is being given by the Bulgarian Government to the development of local industry. It cannot, however, be said that the latter fared uniformly well during 1927.

Owing to the imposition by the Greek Government of a standard on imported flour with which they have been unable to comply, the Bulgarian flour mills have been deprived of the chief market for their produce, and are now said to be suffering from the results of over-production.

The Varna Textile Factory "*Textile*" has increased the number of its looms to 650, and has installed as many as 100,000 spindles, the latter so that it may no longer be entirely dependent upon imported thread. British trade will not be prejudiced since the factory has hitherto purchased all its yarns in Italy. The annual production of this factory now stands at 9 million metres of cabots and oxfords. This factory and the factories at Gabrovo now produce sufficient cabots to supply the local demand, and imports of cabots from the United Kingdom, the United States and Japan have ceased in consequence. A corresponding decrease is reported in the imports of oxfords from the United Kingdom in consequence of the development in this branch of Bulgarian industry.

The "*Czar Boris*" cotton spinning mill at Varna (the only one in Bulgaria) has also increased its output. It now manufactures daily 1,000 ten pound packets of cotton yarn of counts up to 14, but its machinery is not of a type which can deal adequately with the manufacture of the finer qualities. Competition with British yarns is already severe in the lower counts, and is likely to be met in the higher counts as well, as and when the Varna mill improves its installation.

The sunflower seed-crushing industry is suffering from lack of credits. Much to the benefit of the industry in general a large number of the smaller factories have been forced to close down, and profits have resumed a more favourable level in consequence.

Tanneries fared well during 1927.

Roads.

There are probably few countries where the existence of good roads would benefit the national economy as much as in Bulgaria. The condition of Bulgarian roads remains, however, far from good. This is chiefly due to lack of credits, but is stated in great measure to be also due to the use of unscientific primitive methods of upkeep and repair.

In consequence motor transport is in its infancy in this country, which of all others should stand to benefit considerably by its increased use for connecting up remote country districts with the few existing railway lines. The number of motor vehicles in use in Bulgaria at the time of writing may be estimated at 3,000. No precise returns for the whole country are yet available. The greater proportion of the vehicles are passenger cars, either for private use or for use as taxis in the larger towns. The makes of cars represented here are, in order of popularity,

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American (U.S.), Italian, French. There are a few British cars in Bulgaria, but their numbers are negligible. Though the market for passenger vehicles is small there should be a possibility of selling commercial vehicles of the six-wheeled type, and British manufacturers would do well to study this matter in view of their superior experience in this type of construction, the high reputation enjoyed in this country by British materials and workmanship, and the likelihood of a considerably increased road-making activity as a result of increased credits arising out of the proposed reconstruction loan.

DEVELOPMENT OF ELECTRICITY IN BULGARIA.

There has been a gradual advance in electric power developments in Bulgaria in the past several years as shown in a report of the Ministry of Agriculture. The number of wire systems distributing electric power have increased considerably as compared with pre-War years (says an American Consular report). At the end of 1900 there was only one system in operation, and in 1914 the number had been increased to four. The greatest progress was made between 1923 and 1927; 10 systems were in operation at the end of 1923, and 74 at the end of 1927. The ownership of these transmission systems is divided as follows:—Twenty-six are the property of different communes, 27 are owned by co-operative associations and banks, 7 by joint-stock companies, and 14 are privately owned.

There are 30 hydroelectric stations actually in operation in Bulgaria. Of these stations, 11 have a capacity up to 100 h.p., 11 from 100 to 500 h.p., 4 from 500 to 1,000 h.p., 2 from 1,000 to 2,000 h.p., and 2 above 2,000 h.p. The Electric Society of Sofia and Bulgaria owns one of these latter two stations, which has a capacity of 3,720 h.p. The other one is owned by a concern known as "Granitoid" and has a capacity of 7,800 h.p.

The total energy produced by these hydroelectric stations during 1927 was 25,634,994 kilowatt-hours, of which 15,192,040 kilowatt-hours was supplied by "Granitoid" and 9,500,000 kilowatt-hours from the Electric Society of Sofia.

There were 109 steam stations in Bulgaria at the close of 1927, of which the principal are situated in the districts of Plovdiv and Bourgas. Of these stations, 60 have a capacity up to 100 h.p., 29 from 100 to 500 h.p., 5 from 500 to 1,000 h.p., 4 from 1,000 to 2,000 h.p., and 2 above 2,000 h.p. One of these largest stations, with a capacity of 7,200 h.p., is owned by the Electric Society of Sofia, and the other, with a capacity of 3,200 h.p., is the property of the syndicate "Watcha."

The total electric production of the steam stations during the year 1927 is estimated at 11,097,540 kilowatt-hours, of which 5,800,000 kilowatt-hours was produced by the Electric Society of Sofia and Bulgaria.

Company Meeting.

BENGAL-NAGPUR RAILWAY.

Record Gross Earnings.

The seventeenth ordinary general meeting of the Bengal-Nagpur Railway Company, Ltd., was held on November 22 at 132, Gresham House, E.C. Mr. Robert Miller, Chairman of the company, presided.

The Secretary (Mr. R. C. Volkers) having read the notice convening the meeting and the auditors' report,

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said:—Last year I had to record a fall in the gross earnings as compared with the previous year, the respective figures for the two years being Rs.832 lakhs for 1926-27 and Rs.842 lakhs for 1925-26. The fall was slight in itself; but as for several years previously I had had the pleasure of recording a progressive increase in gross earnings,

year by year, I felt it necessary, in order to counter any pessimistic feeling that might possibly have been awakened in your minds as to the earning capacity of the railway on the one hand and as to the development of trade on the other, to assure you that though the two vital elements were for the moment not at their best, the circumstances which hindered their progress were of a transitory nature.

It is, therefore, with great satisfaction that I am now able to record the very substantial increase of Rs.84,87,212 in the year 1927-28, making the gross earnings of that year Rs.9,16,23,492, which I need hardly add, constitutes a record. My satisfaction, and yours, too, I expect, is the greater because the analysis of the increase in goods traffic, which is to be found in paragraph 10 of the directors' report, shows that no less than five-eighths of that increase was received from the carriage of general merchandise, exclusive of fuel which falls under the classification of fuel. The working expenses for the year amounted to Rs.5,61,49,584, being in excess of the figure for the previous year by Rs.80,86,847. An analysis of this excess and a statement of the causes out of which it arises will be found in paragraph 11 of the directors' report, to which I invite your attention. I need augment the explanation there given only in the case of the first two items of the analysis, namely, maintenance of structural works and maintenance and supply of locomotive power. Both of these heads are now beginning to record expenditure on the extensive and intensive programme of raising the standard of the line and locomotives to deal effectively and economically with the large expansion of traffic which must occur within the next five years.

The financial results of the years are an increase of Rs.4,10,361 in net earnings, and a decrease of Rs.8,86,645 in surplus profits, due to a sharp rise in the amount of interest payable on capital consequent on the inclusion in open line capital of the construction expenditure on new lines opened during the year. The company's share of the surplus profits amounts to Rs.7,47,583, which gives a return of 1.66 per cent. on the company's ordinary capital stock, as compared with the return of 1.94 per cent. obtained in the previous year. This sum, after payment of Indian income and super tax, enables a dividend of 1½ per cent. to be paid to stockholders in addition to the guaranteed interest of 3½ per cent., and also allows of an addition to be made to the reserve, which will then stand at approximately £120,000 on January 1, 1929, as compared with the figure of £106,800 at which it stood on January 1, 1928.

The year 1927-28, on the results of which I have been speaking, has, with the wonderful stride it made in the race for gross earnings, set a very hot pace for its successor of 1928-29; nevertheless, the indications available up to date justify the conclusion that 1928-29 will certainly maintain the gains made by its predecessor, and may even do a little better. We have been fortunate so far this year, in that we have had no extensive flood damages, with their consequent interruption of communications and loss of traffic; but at the same time we have suffered indirectly from labour unrest, of which in past years railways seem to have been the principal centre, and which is now extending to large industrial areas.

The construction of the railway from Raipur to Vizianagram and its natural complement the Vizagapatam Harbour is progressing. When these important works are completed, which I hope will be in about three or four years, we may expect a heavy increase to arise in the demands on the railway for transportation of general merchandise. That increase will not only embrace exports of produce from the Central Provinces, but also exports from areas beyond the present influence of the railway, which are now carried to port by other railways. It will not materialise in all its fulness immediately the railway and the harbour are completed; but its beginning will then become apparent and the volume of its expansion will depend largely on the ability of the railway to carry the additional traffic and on the capacity of the harbour to ship it. This anticipated increase in the demand on the railway for transportation is one of the many factors calling for the strengthening of the track and the introduction of more powerful locomotives.

When I tell you that the estimated cost of carrying out this important work is the rupee equivalent of approximately four million pounds sterling, the greater part of which will fall upon revenue, you will naturally ask how this additional burden is to be met without serious detriment to the return received at present by the stockholders. Ladies and gentlemen, the reply, put in a nutshell, is that the revenue funds required will have to be made available largely out of what would otherwise have been the surplus profits of the railway. In other words, Government and the company will be contributing the cost in the proportion of their respective open line capitals. The intensive programme on which the work is being carried out covers a period of about three years, during which the company will be in a position to maintain the dividend at the present rate, inclusive of guaranteed interest, of 5 per cent., less English income tax, by drawing upon the reserve fund.

The report and accounts were unanimously adopted.

According to the *Morning Post* Constantinople correspondent, by an agreement with a Turkish Government organisation the Ford Company has secured a depot in Constantinople for the storing and distribution of motor cars and other products of the company in the Near East. The American company will acquire the lease of seven warehouses and two offices adjoining the sea at Tophane, Galata (about a mile north of the Galata bridge over the Golden Horn), with the quay, cranes, and other installations. The lease is for ten years, and the rent for the first year is 21,000 dollars (£4,200), with an increase of 500 dollars (£100) each succeeding year.

Cotton and Cotton Goods.

THE LIVERPOOL COTTON MARKET.

Messrs. Reynolds and Gibson report as follows for the week ended November 21 :—

Egyptian Futures.

Sakel Contract.—Steady markets with a gradually hardening tendency have been generally experienced during the past week; whilst it is true that there has been rather more trade support in evidence, this has hardly been responsible for the firmer undertone displayed. Near positions continue to be depressed by further tenders of the white Egyptian varieties; the proportionate effect of these on the local position is out of all reason to the quantities involved, as apart from the contract losing ground as a trade and speculative medium thereby, importing business is at a standstill. Without the customary supply of contracts from the latter source the market is bound to be narrow, and unless conditions change rapidly we may witness what in ordinary circumstances would be quite moderate operations causing wide fluctuations.

As mentioned previously, trade interests have shown more activity during the week, but the offtake still runs a long way behind the normal experienced at this period of the season; perhaps on the whole spinners are not as much against the market as they were a short time ago, but they are not finding the necessary encouragement in the yarn demand to cause them to cover beyond their near requirements. Prices in Alexandria have been maintained at a steady level; receipts continue on a heavy scale with sufficient buying by importers in evidence to prevent any sustained pressure. For the immediate future we do not look for much change in prices; we rather doubt, however, whether any advances from the present level will hold unless accompanied by more trade support than accorded recently.

Upper Contract.—Business in this market has been on a broad scale, further selling against importations being met by speculative and straddle buying. Spinners' demand throughout the week has failed to attain figures recorded during October, and while this is due in certain cases to mills being well bought forward, the low basis of American staples has caused many concerns recently to adopt a more conservative attitude and to await further developments before entering into heavier commitments. We notice in certain reports from Alexandria that attention is drawn to the very large orders in importers' hands and to the heavy exports; we would like to point out that much of this cotton has been bought to be stocked at this side, and has not ceased to operate as a market factor. Whilst probably values will be held by the action of the American markets, any advances from the present level will meet with opposition, as we believe that owing to the heavy crop Alexandria will continue to be a ready seller for some little time yet.

Egyptian Spot.

Business has again been rather on the quiet side, in so far as the native Egyptian growths have been concerned, and at the moment signs of any immediate improvement are wanting. However, a substantial increase in the forwarding figures was recorded last Friday, and, although the demand for spot and forward cotton could hardly be called brisk, prices have again hardened some 15 to 25 points, in sympathy with futures.

The inquiry for Sakel cotton has been on a very moderate scale, and by far the greater part of it has been for "off," or "inferior" qualities; in fact, the demand for low cotton (any growth) has been quite a feature this week. A limited amount of business has taken place in Sakel at from 50 to 75 on, but an inquiry for anything above this range has been a rarity.

Uppers have been in fairly good request within the limits of 50 off to 25 on, January contracts. Quite an active demand has recently sprung up for low quality Uppers at from 9½d. to 10½d., but we doubt if our market has produced what was expected by the would-be buyers. The higher grades have once again been neglected. About 1,300 bales of Sakels, 400 bales of Uppers, have so far been tendered this month. Pilon and Nahda cotton have been in moderate request, but other specialities have been ignored this week. Some improvement has been noted in the offtake for Sudan Sakel.

Forwardings to spinners last week were returned as 10,483 bales Egyptian and 1,225 bales Sudan. Estimated spot sales for this week were returned at 1,700 bales Egyptian and 1,000 bales Sudan. Quotations of Sakel have been advanced 15 points on balance. Uppers are 25 points higher, and Pilon 20 to 25 points higher on the week. F.G.F. Sakel 10-day, 18.40d. F.G.F. Upper 10-day, 12.25d. F.G.F. Pilon 10-day, 13.00d. nominal.

THE EGYPTIAN MARKET.

The Alexandria Company, in their report for the week ended November 15, state :—

Since our last report, the futures market has been only fairly active, but the tone has been decidedly firm. The week's summary of price movements is as follows :—Sakellaridis : November, 35.06 dollars, 0.44 dollars up; January, 35.55 dollars, 0.50 dollars up; March, 35.99 dollars, 0.48 dollars up; May, 36.40 dollars, 0.45 dollars up; November, 1929, 36.80 dollars, 0.60 dollars up. Ashmouni :

December, 22.15 dollars, 0.97 dollars up; February, 22.65 dollars, 0.98 dollars up; April, 23.10 dollars, 0.90 dollars up; October, 1929, 24.14 dollars, 1.11 dollars up.

Sakel.—Following the publication of the fourth American Bureau Report on the 8th inst., the week under review opened with very firm markets. The report gave as the probable figures of production 14,133,000 bales against an estimate of 13,993,000 bales the previous month. At the end of October last year the estimate was 12,842,000 bales, and the final outturn of the crop at the end of the season amounted to 12,783,000 bales. The figure of 14,133,000 bales was lower than that anticipated by the majority of operators, and its announcement and the fact that New York closed the same day with over 50 points advance, brought out a fair amount of bear covering here. The resulting advance was, however, not altogether maintained, as spinners did not seem inclined to follow the rise, and the demand fell away slightly, while the reversing of straddles by sales of Sakel against purchases of Uppers also told against the market.

Hedging against spot cotton has only been effected on a limited scale this week, in spite of the large arrivals which are now coming in from the Delta, and as an explanation of this we are of the opinion that business up-country this season has been conducted on a reasonable and commercial basis, so that when cotton arrives in Alexandria it is not thrown on the market for sale at any price, as has been too often the case the last few seasons. We continue to hold to our opinion that the market, for some time yet, will fluctuate round about present levels, as any tendency to higher prices will be curbed by the heavy movement of the crop, which must of necessity continue for some weeks more.

Against the second November tender, 8,250 kantars dockets were issued, making the total tender from the beginning of the month 15,250 kantars. The Sakel/Upper straddle (January/February) shows a difference of 1,290 points, against 1,338 points last week and 873 points at this time last year.

Uppers.—The sharp advance in New York met with a full response from the Upper market, the upward movement being reinforced by the undoing of straddles previously referred to. Demand from spinners this week has been better than last, and as indications seem to be in favour of a continuation of the improvement, we have

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Other Varieties: Nahda continues to move off readily, whenever offered, at last week's spot differences. In White a fairly good business has been done and spot differences are on the easy side.

Barclays Bank (Dominion, Colonial and Overseas) announce that they have received the following cable from their Cairo office:—
 "The Statistical Department of the Ministry of Finance announces that the total imports for Egypt for the month ending October 31 amounted to £E5,148,758, against £E4,747,796 for the corresponding month last year, and exports to £E5,714,322, against £E4,487,967 in October, 1927. Cotton exports were £E4,656,496, against £E3,702,106."

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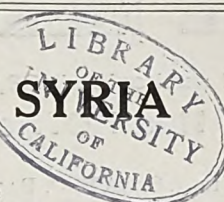
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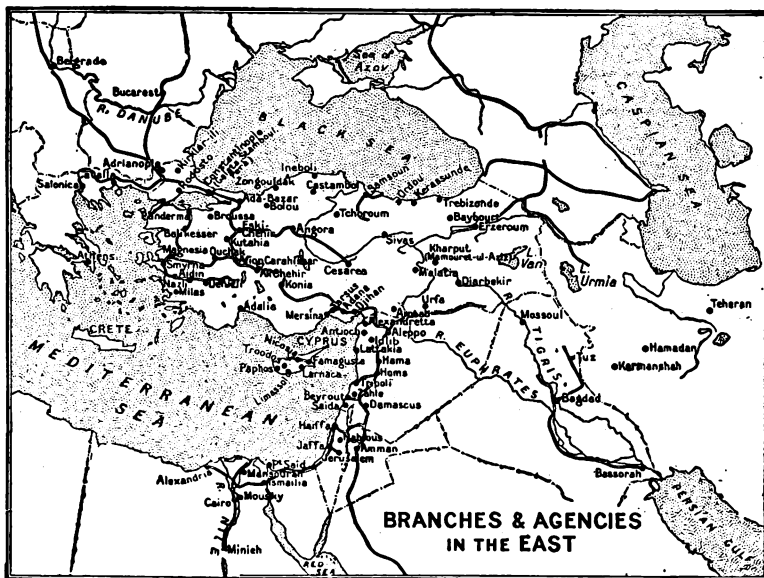
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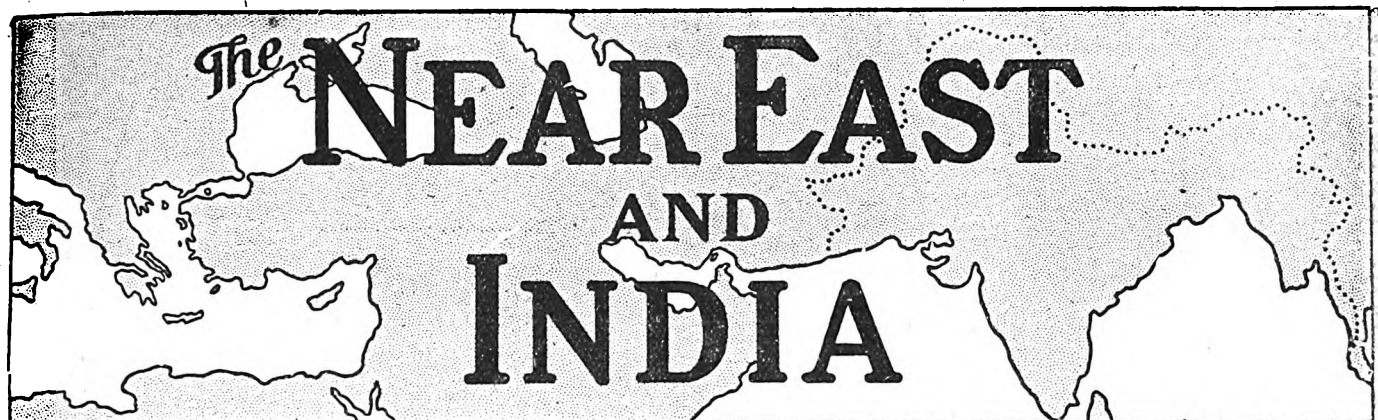
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The NEAR EAST AND INDIA

No. 916.—VOL. XXXIV.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 6, 1928.

Editorial Offices : "THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA," 170, Strand, London, W.C.2.

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Notes of the Week.

Serbs and Croats.

The breach between Croats and Serbs will have been still further widened by a fatal collision between police and the townsfolk of Zagreb on December 1, the tenth anniversary of the creation of Yugoslavia. The immediate cause of the trouble was the action of some students in flying three black flags from the spire of the Cathedral; but it was a provocative and characteristically unstatesmanlike act on the part of the Belgrade Government to force official celebrations on Zagreb when the Croats had declared that they would have none of them. In view of the strained relations between the two peoples, it would have been thought that Dr. Koroshetz's Ministry would have made a virtue of necessity and postponed celebrations in honour of Yugoslav unity until such time as there was some degree of unity and harmony in the ten-year-old State to celebrate. Belgrade, however, was of a different mind. Troops and police, acting on orders from the capital, were mobilised for their part in the official ceremony. The sight of the black flags in the place of the national emblem set the crowd jeering at the henchmen of Belgrade, and when the flags were pulled down and the three perpetrators of the prank arrested, jeers gave place to stones. The inevitable shots were fired, and were returned from the crowd. There were a certain number of casualties, and "the day of rejoicing for the liberation of Croatia" became a day of mourning for some and of intenser indignation against the Serbs for all. The shooting of Croats in the Skupshtina has been capped by the shooting of Croats in Zagreb. It is easy to realise how the incidents of December 1 will add fuel to the fire of Croatian wrath, just at a time when every effort ought to have been made by Belgrade to avoid further exasperation of the Croats.

An Albanian Vendetta.

The little store that Albanians set on their own lives and on those of others, and the mental development of the nation as a whole, are well exemplified by the latest public crime in which an Albanian is implicated. A year

ago, Tsena Beg, Albanian Minister to Yugoslavia, was murdered openly in a Prague hotel by an Albanian student, who held the Minister guilty of subordinating his country's interests to those of Yugoslavia. In view of the feeling at that time between Albanians and Yugoslavs, the student's attitude provided some basis for a political crime. As the murderer was standing his trial in a Prague court last Friday, he was suddenly shot dead by a member of the public, who proved to be an Albanian, and a former valet of Tsena Beg. On the Minister's death he had entered the service of his brother, Gani Beg, and had accompanied his new master to Prague, as the latter wished to attend the trial of his brother's murderer. The valet does not appear to have been able to follow the short proceedings in court, as they were conducted partly in Italian, but he took exception to the prisoner's demeanour, and, according to his own statement, allowed his feelings to overcome him and fired at his late master's murderer. There is nothing in this admission incompatible with Albanian mentality, and it obtains some confirmation from the fact that Gani Beg was also present in court, where he would hardly have chosen to be, if he had been party to the murder. The deed indicates the long way that Albania has to go before she will have shaken herself free from the trammels of an oriental mediævalism. She was celebrating last week the sixteenth anniversary of her independence, or, more strictly speaking, of her establishment as a separate State.

The New Alphabet in Turkey.

December 1, 1928, will presumably be recognised henceforth in Turkey as the official date for the passing of the Arab script and the introduction of Latin characters. On that day Turkish newspapers were obliged to appear in the new guise. Already all signs of the Arabic characters have disappeared from public places; but the fierce wind of reform is being tempered to certain sections of the public. Government servants are being given until January 1, 1929, as the date from which all official correspondence must be written in Latin characters.

From that date, too all new books must be printed in the same characters, but certain official documents in Arabic script may circulate until June 1, and others, such as Bank notes, Treasury Bonds, share certificates and money orders are to retain their Arabic characters until further notice. The rapidity with which the adoption of the new alphabet has been carried through is a striking testimony to the driving power behind the Turkish reform movement, and it is certainly a reform which will add to the amenities of many foreigners in Turkey, for whom the learning of Turkish words will have been materially simplified.

The Wailing Wall.

The publication last week of a White Paper dealing with the recent incident at the Wailing Wall may serve, as is profoundly to be hoped, as the final word on a wretched controversy. The Paper emphasises what had already been made clear in these columns, that the problem has unfortunately been removed from the religious to the political or racial sphere, and is, therefore, the less susceptible of easy solution. It is because of this fact that items of "news" concerning the Wailing Wall have to be received with unusual caution. For instance, we were informed a short while ago that the Muslims, in order to assert their "rights" over the Western Wall, were adding new courses to it. This "information" not unnaturally provoked considerable indignation; one great journal in this country likened the process to "the construction of a cinema theatre on the top of Westminster Abbey." But in the House of Commons last week the Secretary for Dominion Affairs, Mr. Amery, who will not, we imagine, be accused of want of sympathy with the Zionists, stated, in answer to Lieut.-Commander Kenworthy, that he was not satisfied that this stone construction by the Muslims on the top of the Wailing Wall was a violation of the *status quo*. He added that it would appear that the construction above the building that surmounts a portion of the Wailing Wall was "an integral part of a structure begun many months ago," and that "it was never suggested, at the time when the work was started, that it would involve any infringement of the *status quo*." It will be seen, therefore, how cautiously all reports concerning this unhappy dispute should be received. The absolute impartiality of the Palestine Administration is thus proved anew; and in the gradual realisation of this official determination to respect justice, all echoes, let us hope, of this unhappy controversy will die away.

Syria and Turkey.

If the report from Angora be correct that an absolute deadlock has been reached in the negotiations, to which reference has recently been made in these columns, between the French Ambassador, Comte de Chambrun, and the Turkish Foreign Minister, Tewfik Rushdi Bey, the people of Syria, at any rate, already in suspense over the prorogation of the Constituent Assembly, will have fresh cause for anxiety. It is said that neither the French nor Turkish representative will recede from his previous position; and, indeed, it would be in the highest degree surprising if the French representative of Syria's claims were to withdraw from his internationally sanctified position in regard to the Turco-Syrian frontier. One fails to feel surprise at Turkey's action only because she has previously, in defiance of international arbitration, shown a flaunting face. In the meantime, however, Syrians and Turks are reported to be leaving their homes in the disturbed "No Man's Land" in the neighbourhood of the frontier; and the Turks of Alexandretta and Antioch, who were, of course, guaranteed special privileges by the Franklin-Bouillon Agreement with Angora, are said to be showing signs of restlessness. The Turks profess to be anxious over the problem of the Kurds living near the railway line; and in this anxiety, probably, is to be found the explanation of their refusal to accept the arbitration of the International Commission to which they had pledged their temporary word.

Kurds and Syria.

The fact appears to be that Turkey is still unsatisfied with the position of the Kurds outside her boundaries. One remembers the constant endeavours which had to be made to convince her that the Iraq Government, in retaining Southern Kurdistan within the Iraq State, would not allow this region to become a breeding-ground of discontent for Kurds in Turkey, who, as the Nationalists of Angora thought, might so be reinoculated with the virus of aspirations for independence. Now in Syria a similar problem seems to exist. Certain Kurds—13,000 tents is the number given—under Osman Agha Hajo have taken refuge within the confines of Syria. These Kurds are convinced that the policy of the Turkish Government towards their brothers in Turkey is hostile: they do not believe in the amnesty proclaimed by Angora towards Kurdish fugitives, for, according to them, such of the tribesmen as have been misled by Angora's promises and have returned to Turkey have been shot. Under the protection of Syria, therefore, these Kurds are said to be attempting to preserve some form of independence, an independence which the French authorities are by no means ill-disposed to accord to them, seeing that they could serve in some sense as a buffer-state between Syria and Turkey. With such talk of a "national home" for Kurds, the Turks are naturally very far from pleased; and hence, in all probability, their stubbornness in the negotiations over the Syrian frontier. The Kurdish problem, it would seem, is destined yet to have very considerable influence upon the politics of the Middle East.

Great Britain and the Yaman.

The official replies in Parliament are almost uniformly optimistic whenever questions are asked concerning British relations with the Imam Yahia of the Yaman, the progress of negotiations for a Treaty, and so on. Exactly why seekers after knowledge should receive such continual reassurance it is a little difficult to explain: the opinion of foreign observers, at any rate, does not appear to square with the belief that the Imam will take the British to his bosom without the cession of the small principalities between himself and Aden. However, when Lord Lamington in the House of Lords last week asked for information upon the relations between the Aden Protectorate and the Yaman, the Earl of Onslow, Under-Secretary for the War Office, affirmed that a statement had been received at Aden in September last that the Imam was willing to resume negotiations, that the British Government were prepared to recognise the complete independence of the Yaman provided that the old Anglo-Turkish frontier between the Yaman and the Protectorate were recognised by the Imam, and that a successful conclusion to negotiations now in progress was hoped for "within a reasonable time." From this reply it would appear that the Imam is prepared to recede from the position which he has formerly adopted in regard to his frontier—otherwise how could hopes be entertained of a successful issue? But there is in this reply little concrete ground for satisfaction. On few problems of Imperial importance have the shades of obscurity so densely settled as on this question of Anglo-Yamani relations. If the new Resident at Aden does succeed where others have failed, he will indeed deserve congratulations in full measure.

INDIAN NOTES.

The Country League.

The Memorandum for the Statutory Commission, which we print in another column, is the first publication of the newly-established Country League. When the question of forming the League was mooted in London last year it was felt that such an organisation was needed, in order that adequate and effective expression might be given to the opinions of the more stable elements in the life of India. It was, of course, recognized that, so far

as these elements are Indian, their various Associations, Societies, Leagues, etc., would voice their views; and, similarly, that the attitude of the Europeans would be defined by the European Association and the Chambers of Commerce. But it was, as we think rightly, maintained that, not only the Commission, but India and the British Parliament, would attach greater weight to a representation expressing the joint views of those, whether European or Indian, who have large material interests in India, and who are apprehensive of the results of the revolutionary changes contemplated by extremist politicians. It was to be, as we understood, the primary function of the League, on its establishment, to frame such a representation and to follow it up in due course with oral evidence before the Commission. The League has now been organised, and the memorandum has been framed and submitted to the Commission. We have read it with great interest, but we confess to a feeling of disappointment. That the task was difficult may be readily conceded; but we cannot help thinking that the League has not made the most of its opportunity. In fact the memorandum does not appear to be much more than a re-iteration of the recommendations which have been already put forward by the European Association and the Associated Chambers of Commerce. It is not, of course, to be adversely criticised simply for this reason. On the contrary both the European Association and the Chambers approached the problem in a statesmanlike spirit, recognising, as they clearly do, that large concessions to Indian aspirations must be made. But we had hoped that the League would have issued a reasoned statement defining the general attitude, towards further constitutional change, of the classes for which it stands, and making also an exhaustive examination of these various proposed changes as affecting their interests. The memorandum does not, however, say much of importance or interest beyond what has been said by other associations. As will be seen from it the League agrees that the final goal of Indian political development is the realisation of self-government as an integral part of the British commonwealth of nations. And it supports provincial autonomy, subject to the reservation that the Central Government should assume responsibility for the maintenance of law and order and the control of the Police. It is in respect, for example, of far-reaching recommendations of this character that we should have liked to see an attempt made to develop and to discuss the views of the members of the League. For any such recommendations are certain to be bitterly opposed by the political classes; and it follows that a well-considered and temperate statement by a representative body of the reasons upon which they are based would have been in the highest degree helpful.

A Supreme Court for India.

Sir Amberson Marten, the Chief Justice of the Bombay High Court, was a witness before the Simon Commission at Poona recently. His evidence was given *in camera*, and no complete report of it has, therefore, been issued. But according to some of the Indian newspapers one of the subjects with which he dealt was the proposed establishment of a Supreme Court in India. To this scheme the Bombay High Court is, Sir Amberson is reported to have said, in opposition. As we stated in these columns about twelve months ago, the scheme is one which has been under discussion for many years. It was originally put forward by those Indian lawyers who take the view that all Indian litigation should be disposed of in India. In other words, that the right of appeal to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council, which Indian litigants now have, should be withdrawn; and that the final appeal from the provincial High Courts should be to a new appellate tribunal to be set up in India. Later on it was suggested that India, following the example of Canada and Australia, should have a Supreme Court, but that Indian litigants should be allowed to retain their right of appeal to the Judicial Committee. The argu-

ments in favour of the proposal, whether in the original or in the modified form, were never very strong. For it was unlikely that the cost of litigation would be less in the new Court than in the Privy Council; it was equally improbable that the delays would be lessened; and it was practically certain that the Indian Court would not command the confidence of litigants to the extent that the Judicial Committee commands that confidence. The proposal has now been brought forward in a new connexion; and some of its former opponents, for example the European Chambers of Commerce, are supporting it. They argue with some force that, if India is to be federalised, a Supreme Court will be necessarily a part of the federal machinery, as it has been found to be in other federal States. It will be required to interpret the Constitution, and to adjudicate upon the reciprocal rights and obligations of the Central and the Provincial Governments, and of the latter as between themselves. The Associated Chambers take this line in their memorandum to the Commission. Indian opinion is in accord with it, and the European Association is also, we believe, supporting it. But the Chambers stipulate that the right of the Indian litigant to appeal to the Judicial Committee must be preserved. The right is maintained in Canada and Australia; and in South Africa, although there is no actual right of appeal, the Royal Prerogative may be exercised on the advice of the Judicial Committee. Another argument which has been advanced in favour of a Supreme Court is that, if the Indian States come into the Constitution, a Court to the jurisdiction of which they will be amenable will be a necessity.

Difficulties in the Way.

As we have said, there is considerable force in these contentions. At the same time they do not overcome the practical difficulties to which we have referred. And we gather from the reports in the Indian newspapers that it was with these practical difficulties that the Chief Justice of the Bombay High Court was mainly concerned in his evidence. The question of the location of the Court is one of them to which he is said to have referred. If the location is to be Delhi—the capital of India—Counsel will have to be brought in each suit at enormous expense from Calcutta, or Bombay, or one of the other large centres, where there is a qualified Bar. If, on the other hand, it is proposed to locate the Court at one of the three Presidency towns local jealousies would be at once aroused. The alternative is a travelling Court which would be obviously a costly and unworkable proposition.

(Continued on page 677)

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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 6, 1928.

MACEDONIA: A NEW PHASE?

From the tenour of the Bulgarian Prime Minister's speech in the Sobranie last Friday it is evident that he was conscious of being able to approach the Macedonian question with far more general support than has been possible for any of his predecessors. The change in the public attitude has been summed up by one Bulgarian writer in the words: "Macedonia or Bulgaria." So long as the activities of the Macedonian Revolutionary Organization were directed against Yugoslavia it could count on the natural sympathy of the Bulgarian people with the Macedonian cause. In recent years, however, much of the energy of the Organization has been taken up with internal feuds, and with disciplinary action involving the lives of prominent Bulgarians. The sequence of murders in Sofia and elsewhere has been recognized as a reproach to Bulgaria. At the same time the outlook of the people has been undergoing a change. The policy of successive Governments of exemplary loyalty to the terms of peace imposed upon Bulgaria has been endorsed by the nation as a whole, and there exists in the country a genuine desire for friendly relations with Balkan neighbours, even though it may have behind it the conviction that only by such means can Bulgarian aspirations, as firmly held to-day as ever, be fulfilled. The excesses of the Macedonian Organization have not only kept alive the hatred of the Serbs, who have not been slow to remind Bulgaria of the fact, but have also been a source of embarrassment to any Powers that may have been anxious to befriend the Bulgarians. A new spirit is abroad in Europe since the War, however much the old Adam may be asserted here and there; but the Macedonian Organization has been unable to divest itself of the mentality of thirty or forty years ago. It was formed to fight constituted authority, and it has not had the intelligence to discover that methods which were successful against the Turks may not be so well adapted to the altered circumstances of to-day. The Macedonian question is a more subtle problem now than it was when the Turks ruled in the country, and it cannot be solved by a mere terrorist campaign.

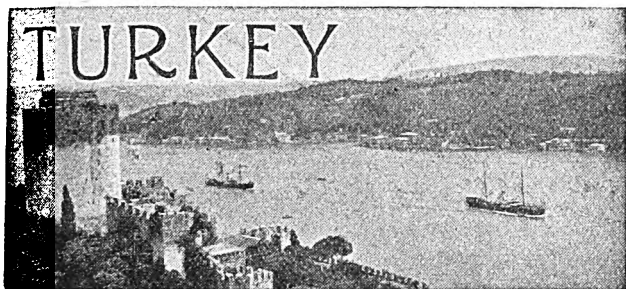
M. Liapcheff spoke in strong condemnation of the violent methods of the Macedonian Organization, and called upon the Bulgarian people to react against them. At the same time he was equally candid in declaring that the real causes of revolutionary feeling are to be found in the régime in force beyond Bulgaria's frontiers, and he looked to the Governments of the Great Powers to play their part in solving a difficult problem, on the ground that such action would be the best method of working for the effective pacification of the Balkans. Although the Macedonian problem is not likely to be solved until action

on the part of Bulgaria and of Yugoslavia is co-ordinated, there can be no doubt that the first practical step must come from Bulgaria. The activities of the Macedonian Revolutionary Organization have long since brought its leaders within the arm of the law, and it is for the Bulgarian Government to deal with them. When it has done this effectually, it will be in a strong position in requiring of the Great Powers that the Yugoslav Government should cease to manufacture revolutionaries on its own soil and to compel their kinsmen on the Bulgarian side of the frontier to come to their assistance. The contention so long favoured by Belgrade that there is no Macedonian question will not hold water to-day. Successive Serbian Governments are responsible for a Montenegrin question, a Macedonian question and a Croat question, all within ten years of the founding of what was to have been the United Kingdom of the Southern Slavs. There has been a tendency among the friends of Yugoslavia abroad to make every allowance for the difficulties entailed in the handling of the Macedonian problem, and there has been no disposition to accept all the statements that have been circulated regarding Serbian administration of that province. The object lesson of Serbo-Croat relations, however, has disillusioned those who are in the best position to know of what the Serbian character under proper guidance is capable. It is realized that, if ten years of centralised power in Serbian hands have goaded into hopeless antagonism the Croats, who were prepared on the formation of the Kingdom to play second fiddle to their Serb brothers, the plight of Macedonians forced against their will under the Serbian yoke may well have been unenviable. In these circumstances it would be idle to suppose that a complete solution of the Macedonian problem can be found in the suppression of the Revolutionary Organization on Bulgarian territory. This step is essential, but, unless it is accompanied by a radical change in the treatment of Macedonians in South Serbia, the present leaders of the Organization will find others, driven by Serbian action, to take their place.

As soon as definite military action has been launched by the Bulgarian Government against the Revolutionary Organization in the Petritch district, or wherever it is to be located, the French and British Governments, who urged the step recently upon the Bulgarian Cabinet, should call upon the Belgrade Government to proclaim an amnesty in South Serbia and to change all officials who have become marked men for their ruthless application of the former methods of oppression. There may be no precedent for such a step on the part of the two Great Powers, otherwise than their recent representations to the Bulgarian Government. On the latter occasion they ran the risk of driving from office a sound and capable Government and exposing Bulgaria to a period of political chaos. In the case of Yugoslavia no such danger offers; the existing Government under Dr. Koroshetz makes no claim even to be a united body within its own ranks; not satisfied with the alienation of the Croats, it has now provoked fatal riots in Zagreb by the attempt to force upon the inhabitants a Serb celebration with which they had refused to identify themselves. The continued domination of a clique within the Radical Party must arouse misgivings among the Serbs as a whole. Inexperience and excessive nationalism may prevent them from devising a remedy of their own accord, but their sound sense and self-interest will prompt them to welcome any means of escape—from whatever quarter it comes—from a demoralising and humiliating position.

*The Near and Middle East

From Our Own Correspondents.



Constantinople, November 21.

The Population of Constantinople.

M. Jacquart, the specialist who was entrusted by Angora early this year with the Census of the population of Turkey, has just published a "Statistical Year-book of the Turkish Republic," portions of which make interesting reading.

The population residing within the administrative limits of the Prefecture of the City of Constantinople is indicated as totalling 690,635 souls, of whom 625,400 are classified as Turkish citizens and 65,235 foreigners. Of the latter, those of European origin, numbering 52,234 are given as: Hellenes 25,419; Italians 7,190; Russians 5,647; Bulgarians 3,470; Serbians 3,046; British 2,475; French 2,245; Germans 1,387 and Albanians 1,355.

In regard to the balance of 13,101 foreign subjects, Asia and Africa together account for 6,840, the United States and Australia for 386, the rest figuring under "miscellaneous" and "unassigned."

The number of Hellenic subjects at 25,419 is well below the figure currently assumed, up to the issue of this publication, to be residing in this city—to the undisguised satisfaction of the Turkish Press—whereas the Russian quota of the foreign population, numbering nearly 6,000 souls and embracing, presumably, both white and red Russians, is very considerably in excess of the total supposed to have been left in Constantinople after close upon five years of unintermittent emigration of these people to Europe and America. Of the 2,475 British subjects, the bulk are known to be Maltese.

An interesting aspect of these figures—one peculiar to this city of many tongues—is the following classification of the Constantinople population into sub-divisions according to the language (mother tongue) spoken:—

Turkish 477,449; Greek 89,748; Armenian 44,529; Jewish 38,890; French 5,751; Albanian 5,546; Italian 4,765; Bulgarian 3,475; Arabic 2,913; Kurdish 1,673; English 1,287; Persian 1,060; Tartar 445; Circassian 127; and Miscellaneous 12,977; total 690,635.

The Turkish language is, therefore, the mother tongue of, roughly, 75 per cent. only of a Turkish population of 625,400, the balance being accounted for by Turkish citizens speaking the following languages: Greek 61,602; Armenian 43,505; Jewish 35,893; Albanian 4,293; Arabic 2,585; Kurdish 1,642; French 1,480; Bulgarian, 1,005; Persian 341; Tartar 333; Italian 273; English 84; Circassian 60; and various languages 2,753. Total 155,851.

It is interesting to observe that, although the Spanish language is the mother-tongue of many thousands of Constantinopolitans, no allusion whatever is made to this fact in M. Jacquart's statistics, the bulk of the Spanish-speaking element being classified under "Jews" speaking "Jewish." The Italian, "Lech" or Polish, Yiddish and Turkish languages, spoken almost exclusively by certain classes of Jews, are apparently also classified under both

"Jews" and "Turkish citizens speaking Jewish."

In regard to religious beliefs, the population of Constantinople is given as being composed of: Muslims 447,740; and Non-Muslims 242,895; total 690,635.

The non-Muslims are classified as: Greek-Orthodox 97,077; Armenians 52,576; Jews 46,698; Catholics 22,578; Christians (?) 15,945; Protestants 4,289; and Miscellaneous, unknown and atheists 3,723; total 242,895.

It is not clear what the 15,954 "Christians" are meant to represent in this last schedule, the figures of which, save for 46,698 inhabitants of the Jewish rite, represent denominations of the Christian faith only. It may be that some slip has occurred in the classification of the 52,576 Armenians, who may belong to either the Gregorian, Catholic or Protestant Church, or that Latins, Tiniotes, Chaldeans, Uniates, Copts and others may have been lumped together simply as "Christians."

Commission of Inquiry in Western Thrace.

At the request of the Turkish Delegation sitting on the Mixed Commission for the Exchange of Populations, a specially constituted Sub-Commission was instructed some weeks ago by the latter to proceed to Western Thrace with a view to inquiring *in situ* into the alleged ill-treatment by the Greek Authorities and population of the Muslim inhabitants of that region.

Jemal Husni Bey, President of the Turkish Delegation, having claimed the right to a seat on the Sub-Commission, the main Commission agreed to the Turkish demand, simultaneously appointing to that body, however, M. Diamandopulo, President of the Greek Delegation. Various difficulties and "contretemps" having been overcome by the tact and *savoir faire* of the President of the main Commission, its off-shoot duly set off *in corpore* for the theatre of the alleged misdeeds.

What exactly happened in that relatively unfrequented hinterland it is not easy to say, but, at all events, the Sub-Commission is back in Constantinople again without apparently having achieved any useful purpose—if one may judge by the somewhat acrimonious articles which are appearing in both the Turkish and local Greek papers. The Greeks accuse the Turkish members of the Sub-Commission with having endeavoured to steal a march on them by cross-questioning Muslims in the absence of any Greek Delegate, while the Turks complain that the Greeks did all they could to prevent the Turks from putting any questions at all.

Although it is highly improbable that the *impasse* thus created will lead to anything more than one of the usual little storms which occasionally ruffle the otherwise comparatively smooth waters of the Exchange of Populations Commission, it cannot be denied that for some considerable time past feelings have been running high in certain official Turkish circles over these alleged grievances in respect of the Muslim population of Western Thrace.

A Sub-Commission composed entirely of neutrals—of whom there are many attached to the Commission of Exchange—with one Turkish and one Greek Delegate, would probably have been in a position to get at the truth within a relatively short space of time, to the satisfaction of both parties concerned.

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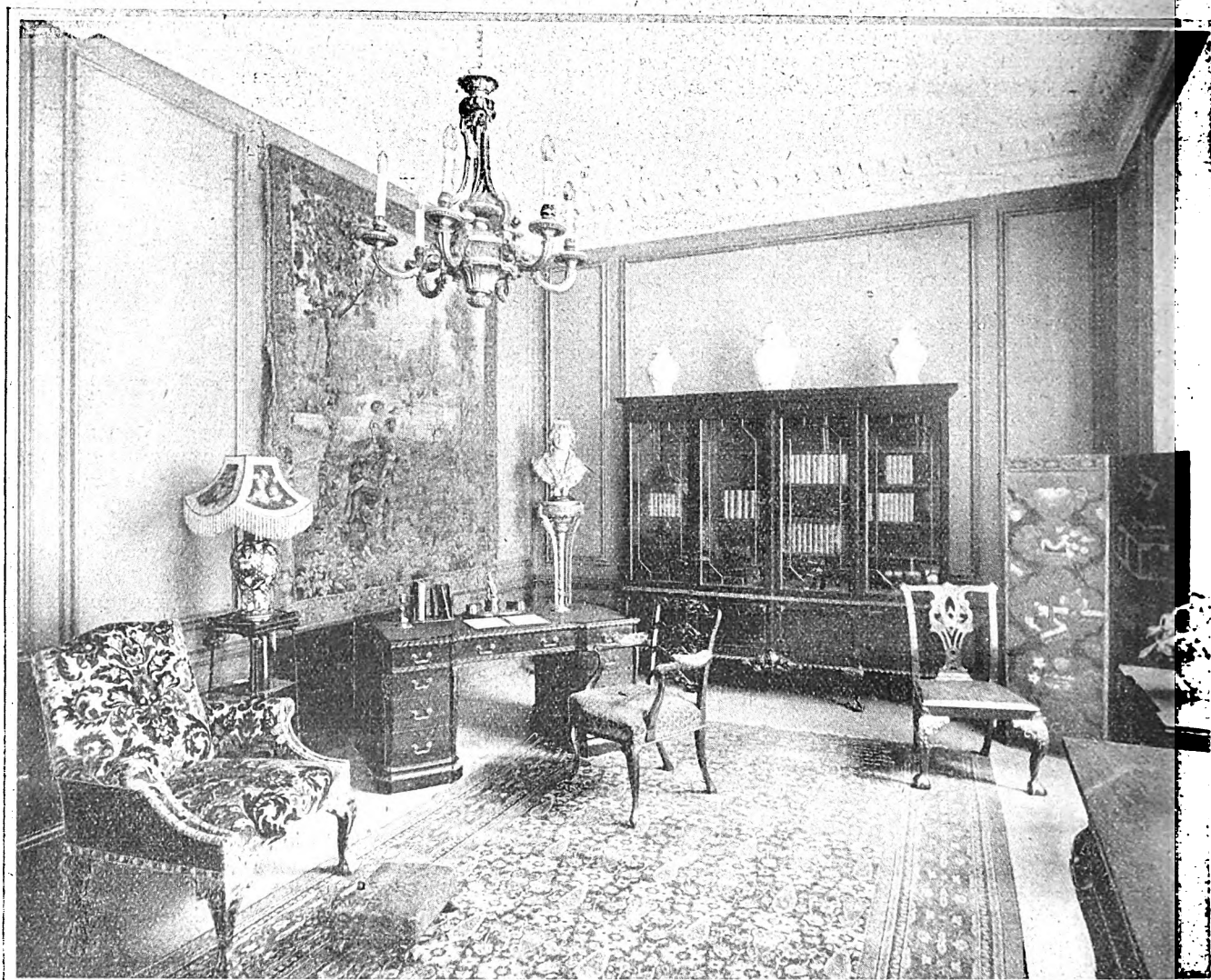
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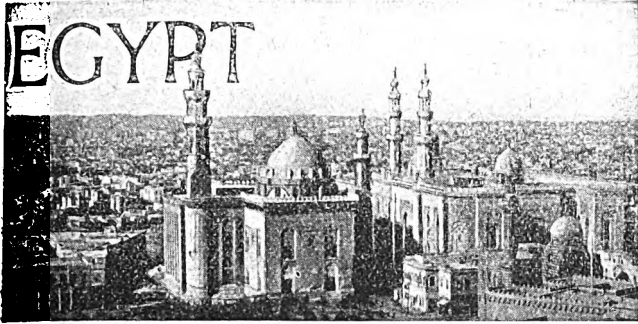
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Cairo, November 24.

The Prime Minister's Tour.

The Prime Minister has continued his triumphal progress through the provinces, and last week made an exceedingly successful tour of Sharkia and Menufia. The object of these visits has been partly to counteract the wholly unjustifiable campaign against the irrigation schemes made by the Wafd, which, in order to bolster up its position and make that of the present Cabinet difficult, has not hesitated to appeal to the passions of the fellahin; and partly in order, in laying foundation-stones of the provincial hospitals, to give everyone clearly to understand that the Government intends to put into full execution its programme of economic and social reform. Both these objects appear to have been attained. On the one hand there is plainly visible in the country a wave in favour of Gebel Aulia, the work on which will be started as soon as agreement has been come to in regard to the questions of compensation to the people whose land will be inundated when the reservoir has been created, and of the control over the water which will thus be made available. On the other hand, it has been possible during these tours for the people to see that the authorities have not waited for the foundation-stones to be laid actually to start the work. Indeed, so much has already been done, that most of the thirty hospitals projected for the current year, certainly those allotted to Lower Egypt, will be ready for inauguration by next May.

The Season.

Shepherd's Hotel has re-opened its doors, a sign that the winter season has started. Great preparations have indeed been made—most of the hotels have increased their accommodation—in anticipation of the annual tourist invasion which this year is stated by responsible authorities as likely to be even greater than the previous year. As yet no definite programme for the entertainment of our visitors has been drawn up, but, to judge by the amount of fare provided at the present moment, ample opportunity should be afforded them to while away such time as may be left to them after they have finished with sight-seeing and the normal round of social engagements. At the present moment it is somewhat interesting to note there are no fewer than four English shows on in Cairo, *viz.*, the Atkins Shakespearean season at the Royal Opera House; the Loie Fuller Dancers at the Kursaal; the Great Carter at the Ezbekia Theatre; and the Handley circus at Abbassia. In addition, Pavlova and her troupe are at present in Alexandria and will be here at the beginning of next month, when the place of the Shakespearean troupe at the Opera House will be taken by a short season of French comedy heralding the Grand Opera season, which always holds the boards there.

Chrysanthemum Show.

The Egyptian Horticultural Society held its annual chrysanthemum show at the Semiramis Hotel this week. It was opened by Lady Lloyd, and proved more than the usual success. The spectacle in the hotel hall presented by the collection was really most beautiful, and the

organisers as well as the exhibitors are warmly to be congratulated on the result of their efforts.

Lectures.

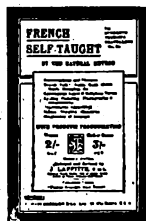
Two highly interesting lectures were given this week at the Royal Geographical Society's hall. The first was by Professor Garstang, visiting lecturer at the Egyptian University, who spoke on the influence which ancient Egyptian culture had had on all the countries adjacent to her, even into the heart of Africa. The second was given by Professor Bonamy Dobree on Thomas Hardy and his critics. Both lectures, which are part of a series, that the lecturers in question are giving, were attended by the High Commissioner, and attracted a very large audience who followed them with deep interest.

A Banking Innovation.

This week, for the first time in the annals of banking in Egypt, the banks ceased to have direct relations with one another in the matter of cheque transactions and passed all their operations through a clearing house which by agreement between them has been installed in the premises of the National Bank of Egypt in Cairo, under the control of an independent committee composed of representatives of subscribing banks, with the Governor of the National Bank of Egypt, or in his absence the Sub-Governor, as its president. The need for this innovation has long been felt, for the cheque business has gradually assumed very great proportions. Incidentally, the use of cheques, not so very long ago disliked by Egyptians, has become quite popular among them, and this has added to the volume which the banks have been called upon to handle daily. As far back as 1907 an attempt was made to introduce a clearing house, but it met with little response from the foreign banks, *i.e.*, non-English banks, and it is only now as a result of the increase in business that the efforts in this direction have been successful. The innovation is for the present being restricted to Cairo, but if, as is expected, it proves satisfactory, a similar clearing house will be established in Alexandria, where, although the number of cheques passing daily is not so large, the amount involved is infinitely greater owing to the cotton and grain transactions.

The Late Major Thompson.

It has been with the greatest regret that not only the British but also the Egyptian and foreign communities have heard of the sudden death of the President of the International Quarantine Board of Alexandria, Major C. P. Thompson, which occurred this last week. Major Thompson had seen long service in the Egyptian Government before he succeeded Dr. Alexander Granville as head of the important institution which looks after the health of the pilgrims, and whose main duty is to prevent epidemics spreading to Europe. He had gained universal esteem by his ability, and his character and temperament eminently fitted him for the difficult and at times delicate work falling to his post. His death is all the more deplorable in that the number of Britons who combine a wide knowledge of the country with the peculiar qualities needed for handling its difficult problems has become very small. Indeed, his death is as much a loss to Egypt as it is to the British community.



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THE HIJAZ.

Jidda, November 20.

The End of Summer.

The last hours of October drowned the long summer with a deluge of rain, accompanied by a veritable tornado, which between them did considerable damage to a number of houses in Jidda, including the office of the British Agency. Last winter, was, as I have duly recorded in my letters, practically rainless, and the recent fall breaks a spell of drought which has lasted since November 25, 1926. The actual amount which came down on this town within a space of three hours was 2.57 inches, and since then further showers have brought the total rainfall up to date to 3.57 inches. Yanbu appears to have done equally well, if not better, and there is great rejoicing in the land. The desert is already clothed in green velvet and will soon be blossoming like the rose. The year's water supply is well assured, and the only unhappy man is the Director of the Condenser, who wonders where he will find a market for water.

The Coming Pilgrimage.

All thoughts are naturally concentrated on the prospects of the pilgrim season, which opens within the next few days with the arrival of the first batch of pilgrims from Java to the number of about 250. Under the new regulations no company can deal with the motor-transport of pilgrims to the Holy Cities unless it has a minimum of 30 cars. Accordingly the petty concerns of last year have amalgamated into larger groups, and a number of new associations have come into existence. The general impression is undoubtedly that the present season will eclipse all its predecessors in respect of numbers, which it may well do in the absence of scares that kept some pilgrims away last year.

General News.

Advices from Riyadh indicate that all is proceeding

in the deserts of Arabia according to programme—the King's programme, needless to say. South of Taif the tribe which ventured to question the Government's right to collect taxes in its highland fastness no longer exists to repent its folly, and the force which went to deal with it is back at Taif, where the Amir Faisal has gone to superintend the division of the spoils. Vague rumours of unrest among the tribes of Trans-Jordan reach us here, but too indefinitely to discuss.

The foreign element in Jidda society is slowly creeping back to the scene of its varied labours. The British, Italian, and Dutch Consuls are still away, but Sani Bey, the Turkish representative, is back from leave, restored in health and contemplating a visit in the near future to the Yaman. M. Hakimoff, the Soviet representative, is gone, and his successor is duly installed. And Bairam Bey now represents Egypt *vice* Said Bey transferred to Constantinople.

H.M.S. Dahlia visited Jidda on the 16th for a few hours *en route* to Malta. And in October two Dutch war vessels on their way to the East Indies paid a formal visit to this port, where they were welcomed and their officers and crews entertained by the Amir Faisal himself, who came down from Mecca for the purpose.



Sofia, November 20.

Bulgaria and her Neighbours.

There is a progressive improvement in the general situation of the Balkans, an improvement which can best be seen in the evolution of Bulgaria's relations with her neighbours.

First should be noted the negotiations now taking place between Bulgaria and Turkey for the conclusion of a Treaty of Arbitration. Recently, it is true, difficulties have been encountered in these negotiations, arising out of the precise formula to be adopted; but this dispute will soon be settled, and we shall shortly have an understanding which will begin an era of complete and definitive peace on this side of the Balkans, the Bulgarian kingdom and the Turkish Republic having already concluded Treaties of Friendship and of Commerce.

Bulgaro-Roumanian Relations.

The constitution of the Maniu Cabinet in Roumania has been welcomed in Bulgaria, where it is hoped that the new Government's promises in respect of ethnic and religious minorities must result in the alleviation of the lot of Bulgarians in the Dobruja. Especially are the Bulgarians pleased at the political amnesty and the promise of agrarian reform indulged by the Maniu Administration.

Hopes are high now of a close understanding between Roumania and Bulgaria, for M. Maniu has resolved to rule out the past and think only of the future.

Bulgaria and Yugoslavia.

To judge by appearances, the situation as between Bulgaria and Yugoslavia is much less satisfactory. But in reality, despite the maintenance of the order to keep the Yugoslav-Bulgarian frontier closed (the closing was decreed in October 1927 after the murder of General Kovatchevitch at Ishtip) Yugoslavia has never been better disposed towards Bulgaria, and quite recently, the Yugoslav Minister at Sofia, M. Liuba Nechitch, told M. Bouré

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openly that the pourparlers between M. Venizelos and Belgrade would not have any ill effect on the interests of Bulgaria—on the contrary, Yugoslavia's conclusion of an agreement with Greece would depend largely on the attitude of the Bulgarian Government. This was evidently an invitation to Bulgaria to abandon her reserve and to explain her position to her neighbours, in the interests of Balkan peace and prosperity.

Greco-Bulgarian Cordiality.

An even more direct appeal for friendship was made by Greece on the occasion of the handing of Letters of Credence by the new Greek Minister, M. Dendramis, to King Boris. In presenting his credentials he told the King that he had been charged by his Government to seek an entente with the Bulgarian Government; and King Boris significantly welcomed this prospect of an alliance between the two peoples, actually mentioning the words "Balkan concord." These words were thus used for the first time since the War, and signify a new element in the Balkan situation.

Naturally, it will take time to establish this sentiment of Balkan solidarity. But undoubtedly there is considerable diplomatic activity which promises well for the Balkan peoples. Even the thorny Macedonian question is not insoluble, as it is commonly supposed, provided that the Yugoslav Government exert the necessary good will.

GREECE.

Athens, November 24.

Brigandage at a Discount.

Loaded with chains, the famous Rentzairo brothers arrived in Athens a few days ago. The Bulgarians were evidently not taking any risks, since from the day of their capture the prisoners had not been allowed to change their shirts. With these ruffians under lock and key in Athens, and the Koumbaio brothers under lock and key in Corfu, Koutsovélis wounded and Bambanis on the run, brigandage is at the moment at a discount. M. Venizelos' speech at Yánina in July has proved no idle promise. However, brigands have a way of escaping from Greek prisons, and satisfaction at their capture is tempered by the reflection that they have not yet been brought to justice. It is well known that sinister elements in the towns are at the back of the brigandage, who are usually agents rather than principals. The trial should produce some interesting revelations. One pictures respectable citizens of Yánina and Preveza feeling distinctly uncomfortable now that their protégés are in custody. The brigands deserve no sympathy (some of them have 40 murders and more to their credit), but it is earnestly to be hoped that when the day comes for them to face the firing squad, some of their black-coated confederates will be ranged along with them, and pay the penalty of their squalid and cowardly crimes.

A Newspaper Battle.

During the last few days a battle between two leading newspapers has contributed to the gaiety of life. The protagonists were the *Eleftheron Vema* and the *Patris*; the latter owned by a certain M. Simos, who began life as a baker in Roumania, where he laid the foundation of a fortune by the ingenious device of concealing pieces of money in his loaves. In Athens he has been prominent as a strong Venizelist, the owner of a newspaper, and a champion of "purity in public life." However, the *Eleftheron Vema* acquired some of his private correspondence, and proceeded to publish it in facsimile, with suitable comments. When the mutual recriminations were at their height, M. Venizelos, it seems, must have sent for the combatants and told them this sort of thing must stop, the washing of so much dirty linen in public not being in the interests of the Party. So the incident closed, but not before M. Simos had unwittingly contri-

buted both to contemporary literature and contemporary art—to literature, because his published letters were gems of self-expression and to art, because his rather remarkable appearance inspired the cartoonist of the *Eleftheron Vema* to some of his most amusing, if malicious, effrontery.

Dr. Mackenzie and Dengue.

A few belated cases of dengue are reported, but the epidemic is definitely over—for this year. It is perhaps not remarkable that Dr. Mackenzie's report has not been made public—only extracts have appeared in *Hygieia*, a small paper that nobody sees—as his comments on the sanitary conditions in Athens were not flattering. The report should, however, be published in leaflet form and the widest possible circulation given to it. The most hopeful sign is that the authorities have recognized their inability to cope with the problem unaided and have decided to obtain the assistance of the League of Nations. Left to themselves, the Greeks would prefer having the epidemic over again, to making the collective effort required to prevent it. The attitude of the sanitary authorities is well illustrated by the condition of the road which skirts the principal hospital—the Evangelismós—of the city. Not being regarded as a thoroughfare, this road is left in a state of nature—i.e., in summer it is inches deep in dust, and after rain turns into a series of stagnant pools, from which the mosquitoes sally forth to do their deadly work. In addition, it is used as a rubbish-heap and for other purposes. On the other side of the road is Greece's most up-to-date school, where experiments in mixed education on most modern lines are made.

Repeated complaints produce no effect; nor in this case can the blame be laid on the Power and Traction Company, who are generally held responsible for most evils, preventible or not.

Poppies on Armistice Day.

The sale of poppies on Armistice Day realised over £50—considerably more than last year. While the Greeks are adopting the idea of "The Unknown Soldier," and plans for a monument to be erected at the foot of the Acropolis already exist, the idea of the two-minutes' "Silence" does not appeal to them.



Belgrade, November 29.

Tenth Anniversary of Yugoslav Union.

On December 1 the tenth anniversary of the Union of the Serb, Croat and Slovene peoples is to be celebrated in Belgrade. Preparations are being made by the Sokols and the national organisations to hold great processions and entertainments and to make this great national festival a day of rejoicing. A shadow, however, will be cast over the proceedings by the declaration of M. Pribitchevitch and the Croat leaders that their followers, representing a very considerable part of the Yugoslav people, will take no part in these celebrations. Owing to the difficulties of the present internal political situation it is almost impossible accurately to estimate what progress has been made in these ten years. Yet a glance at the

towns of Belgrade, Zagreb, Liubliana and especially Skoplye cannot but convince anyone who knows what these towns were like ten years ago that from the materialistic point of view at least great advances have already been made, despite all the difficulties of post-War years, war exhaustion, all the more severe since the Serbs were at war continuously for almost eight years, and failure to obtain financial help from abroad. Ten years are so short a period in the history of a nation which has been divided for so many centuries that it is impossible to judge whether the present difficulties are likely to have a permanent effect on the destiny of this people or are merely of a transitory nature. There exists a firm belief among foreigners well acquainted with the country that its great vitality will enable it to muddle through in the long run.

The Political Situation.

The changes expected on the return of King Alexander from Paris have not yet materialised. The King consulted all the party and group leaders in Belgrade, but, just when it seemed that a crisis was about to begin, he left Belgrade for Topola, where it was reported he intended to stay until after his Slava day, December 13. His sudden return this evening may mean that changes are about to begin, although this is doubted owing to the nearness of December 1.

The differences between the various factions of the Four-Party Coalition tend to become more and more acute. It is reported that M. Davidovitch has declared that, unless certain urgent measures, including a Bill on Agrarian Reform in Dalmatia and one against corruption, are passed before the Budget is voted, his party will leave the Government. But the question of agrarian reform in Dalmatia is one on which the Radicals and Democrats fail to agree, and it is very possible that this may lead to a breach between them. This possibility is increased by the illness of M. Marinkovitch, Minister of Foreign Affairs, who represents those elements in the Democratic party most closely associated with the Radicals. The Muslims too, insist that, unless their demand for the changing of the *Veliki Jupani* (Governors) of Sarajevo and Tuzla is granted, they will go into opposition.

While no official reply has been given by the Zagreb leaders to the proposals made by Father Koroshetz on behalf of the Belgrade Government to M. Savchitch, on the grounds that they will not even consider the opening of negotiations until their conditions precedent, the dissolution of the "rump" Parliament and the holding of new and free elections, have been fulfilled, it is to be judged from recent statements that they do not approve of these proposals. The Zagreb attitude is that the necessary changes in the Constitution can be decided upon only by a freely elected Parliament and, therefore, no agreement can be reached on this matter before free elections have been held. They state that the initiative for the renewal of relations can come only from King Alexander himself.

Stephen the Martyr.

It is reported that the Zagreb Municipality has decided to re-christen the famous Markov Trg and call it Stepan Raditch Trg, in memory of their late leader. Streets in the vicinity will also be renamed in memory of Pavle Raditch and Jura Basaritchek. Stepan Raditch, who was always held in high respect and affection by the Croat peasant masses, is now considered to be a martyr in the cause of Croatian liberty. Recently one of the two new bells of the Catholic Church at Gradetz, near Krizyevatz in Croatia, was christened St. Stephen the Martyr in memory of Stepan Raditch.

Pigs and International Relations.

Fear of Serbian pigs was, according to an article in *Trgovinski Glasnik*, the cause of the breakdown of negotiations between Yugoslavia and Czechoslovakia for the

conclusion of a commercial treaty. The Czech agriculturists were so insistent on the need for protection against this menace that they made it impossible for an agreement to be reached, despite the political friendship between the two countries and the great value of the Yugoslav market from the point of view of Czech industrialists.

The writer of the article recalls that this is not the first intervention of the Serbian pig into the world of diplomacy with disastrous results. The menace of Serbian pigs to the prosperity of the Hungarian landowners led to the "Pig War" between little Serbia and the Austro-Hungarian Empire, and it is even suggested that the Hungarians' desire for effective and lasting protection against them was not unconnected with the outbreak of the world War itself.

Italy on the Offensive.

Despite the formal ratifications of the Nettuno Conventions relations between Italy and Yugoslavia do not seem to improve. While the Yugoslav Government forced the Conventions through Parliament even at the cost of bloodshed and grave internal disorders and has since then constantly suppressed even the most mild anti-Italian demonstrations with a rigour and fury which have caused considerable popular indignation, anti-Yugoslav manifestations in Italy are allowed to pass unchecked and are even given a considerable measure of official support. Thus there has been a revival throughout the whole of Italy of the movement for the "freeing" of "Italian" Dalmatia and this has strong Fascist, i.e., official, support and the Government organ, *Giornale d'Italia*, has published a series of long special articles in favour of the policy of forcible denationalisation of the Slavs of North-East Italy. The methods proposed are the intensification of the persecution of the Slav priests, teachers and journalists and the colonisation of the districts inhabited by Slavs by groups of Italian ex-service men. Great indignation has been expressed in the Yugoslav Press, especially in the Zagreb and Liubliana papers, at the arrest of Leopold Kemperl, Editor of the *Gorichka Straza*, and his colleagues, Stanitch and Polyantchek. The Italians claim that these journalists were stirring up the otherwise satisfied people of Istria to hatred against Italy and were paid and controlled by Yugoslav nationalist organisations. The Yugoslavs maintain that this is merely an excuse for the crushing out of yet another of the few remaining Slav papers published in Italy and for preventing the half million Slovenes and Croats in Italy from using their own language.

English Art in Yugoslavia.

On Sunday last Mr. Kennard, British Minister in Belgrade, opened an exhibition of English Art in Liubliana. Exhibitions will later be held in Zagreb and in Belgrade. The pictures and sculpture shown are pieces which formed part of the great international exhibition of modern art recently held in Venice, and the exhibitions have been arranged by the Yugoslav Association of Great Britain under the high patronage of King Alexander.

Greece is one of the latest signatories to the Kellogg Treaty against War.

The Albanian Constituent Assembly last week finished its labours, and, in conformity with the new Article that has been added to the Constitution, has now been transformed into a Parliament.

The first submarine of the Yugoslav Navy was launched at the end of last week at Nantes. This vessel, of 630 tons, named the *Smeli* (Audacious), is 227 ft. long, with a beam of 19 ft., and is driven by two motors of 740 h.p. each.

General Gouraud, Military Governor of Paris, will leave on December 13 for India. General Gouraud, who has served extensively in the French colonies, has long been desirous of examining at close quarters the problems of British administration in India. He is expected to go as far as the North-West frontier. It is understood that he will be the guest of the Viceroy at Delhi.

CALCUTTA LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Calcutta, November 15.

The Political Tangle.

Mr. Bepin Chandra Pal, who writes his political article the day before I write mine, and therefore reviews the same ground, begins his article of this week with:—

"Nationalist Indian politics stand divided to-day, as they have stood for the last nine or ten years, or ever since Mahatma Gandhi captured the Indian National Congress, into two divisions; one representing the real political thought, and the other the frenzied political passions of the people."

After a review of the circumstances that favoured, or made possible, the Mahatma's emergence into political life, Mr. Pal has this:—

"From that time forward there has grown up a large school of Indian politicians who have made it their business to exploit popular passions and ride on the wave of popular sentiments, to advance themselves into positions of leadership for which few of them have laboured to qualify themselves. The result is that for the last nine or ten years Indian nationalist politics have been divided into two groups, one a small number who think politically and not mediocally, and who, with a clear grasp of actualities, try to follow the lead of practical statesmanship, and the crowd who neither understand nor care to understand the actualities about them, or who have any regard for consequences except the promotion of their private or personal interests in the case of those who are struggling for leadership either in the Press or on the platform, and, in the case of the thoughtless crowd who shout after these leaders, the satisfaction of their sentiment."

There are, then, three schools of Indian politicians; for the two groups that Mr. Pal writes of are both against co-operation with the Statutory Commission. An important group of Indian politicians, as you well know, is co-operating with the Commission, and never had any intention of not doing so. That group is at work, but at the moment it is working out of sight. It might perhaps be seen, if the other two groups were not raising such a dust. It is those two groups, which Mr. Pal has, perhaps, less right than he thinks to call nationalist, with the implication that the third is not nationalist, that must engage our attention. Those two groups and the dust of them.

A Game of Bluff.

To the group of which Pandit Motilal Nehru is the leader to-day, the group that Mr. Pal gives his benediction to, Lala Lajpat Rai belongs. We have had a rather involved pronouncement from him this week:—

"I am sorry I cannot be enthusiastic over the proceedings of the All-India Congress Committee. To me it seems that they were mostly farcical. Of the younger men, the only two whose sincerity, high character, and scholarship I value, are Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru and Mr. Subhas Chandra Bose. I have no doubt that everything they say they mean. Yet with all this I am afraid I cannot regard them as safe guides at the present juncture."

I doubt myself if Mr. Subhas Chandra Bose does always, or often, mean all that he says, and that Lala Lajpat Rai thinks he does is difficult to believe; for, after declaring that (to give the *Statesman's* report), "he was certain that those who advocated Dominion Status could not successfully oppose the movement for complete independence," he went on to say that "he could not himself support it, first, because the majority of those who talked of complete political independence were indulging in this talk as a bluff. They had no programme and did not mean business."

If the majority is only bluffing, has no programme and does not mean business, it is difficult to see how Pandit

Jawaharlal Nehru and Mr. Bose can have a programme, and mean business; for they are the most intelligent of the lot of them.

We have also had a Press statement from Mr. Fazal Ibrahim Rahimtulla, Secretary, All-India Muslim Conference, who attended the United Provinces All-Parties' Muslim Conference as a visitor. (They follow each other like sheep—in the things they do, and in the names they call them by.) "The impressions created," Mr. Rahimtulla says, "by the Cawnpore Conference should serve as an eye-opener to all those who are still supporting the Nehru Report. Although it was wrong to say that Muslims wanted to condemn the Report, they could not help feeling that it had overlooked their claims. Until the Report was amended to provide adequate safeguards, Muslims could not accept it."

If there has been an All-Parties' Muslim Conference at Cawnpore, Lucknow has witnessed a special session of the All-India Muslim League Council, one attended by the Maharaja of Mahmudabad, Sir Syed Ali Imam, Dr. Kitchlew, Maulana Shaukat Ali, and some forty others. Here the Nehru Report was commended to the League itself, while the Maharaja of Mahmudabad was elected to preside over the next session of the League, which will be held in Calcutta next month.

The whole story is one of big Sixes and Sevens and little sixes and sevens; of pots calling kettles black, and kettles calling pots black. What Sir John Simon must be thinking of it one can easily guess. There is nothing in India but has some resemblance to a Gilbert and Sullivan opera. It has been so all the time I have known the country.

The Depressed Classes.

If Sir John Simon had to hold the balance only between (1) those Hindus and Muslims who think the time not ripe for full Dominion Status, (2) those Hindus who think the time is ripe, (3) those Muslims who think the time is ripe, but are ready to quarrel over safeguards, (4) those Hindus and Muslims who will have none of Dominion Status, because they think the time is ripe for complete political independence, and are for cutting out the paltry Dominion Status stage—if Sir John Simon had only to hold the balance between all those, it would be bad enough; but he has others to listen to—the Europeans, the Anglo-Indians, the Country League, and, lastly, the Depressed Classes. A memorial presented this week to the Statutory Commission on behalf of those classes, makes interesting reading.

"We belong to an ancient race which ruled India about 5,000 years ago, prior to the invasion of India by the Aryans. The Aryans, whose present descendants are called high-class Hindus, have all along been treating us with the most inhuman brutality, so that our unlucky community, numerically large as it is, is now little more than a mere name. In spite of the fact that there are some highly-educated and capable men in our community, we are not given any honourable status in society, nor the right of ownership of anything. We have not even the right to safeguard our individual lives. This deplorable condition of the mute millions of the Depressed community is due to the horrible treatment meted out to us by high-class Hindus in consequence of the pronouncements of the ancient Aryans, which were embodied in the *Manu Smriti* and a lot of other Hindu scriptures of that ilk."

The deputationists who presented the memorial stated that they did not wish to be called Hindus but *Addharmis*, and in the next census they would describe themselves as *Addharmis*. The word is so given in my newspaper. It should be *adharmis*, *dharmi* being what a man with a religion is called; a man without one being *adharmi*. It is very strange that the descendants of a once-ruling race should, first, want to be named in their conquerors' language; for *dharmi* is, of course, Sanskrit; secondly, that they should choose a word that is a term of abuse in that language.

THE STATUTORY COMMISSION IN INDIA.

Memorandum by the Country League.

The following is the text of the Memorandum submitted by the Country League to the Statutory Commission:—

India's Final Goal.—Our Members are in complete accord that the final goal of Indian Political Development is the realisation of Self-Government as an integral part of the British Commonwealth of Nations. We can visualise no future for India that does not maintain a close connexion with the British Empire and that does not make provision for a Federation of Indian States and British India. In so far as British India is concerned we do not, however, commit ourselves at this stage to the definite assertion that Self-Government in India must necessarily be of the responsible type of the British Constitution, and it is more than probable that the eventual Constitution evolved for India will vary considerably from the British model. There is, however, no denying the fact that the past close relations between Great Britain and India have implanted, in Indians, a desire for a Constitution based on British traditions, and that this should be of a responsible character. That being the case we agree that this form of Government should, in the first instance, be given the fullest possible trial.

Local Self-Government.—The training ground for the electorates as well as for the individual is primarily to be found in the work of Local Self-Governing Bodies. The liberal powers which have, under the Reforms, been granted to these bodies should be continued and extended, and the franchise for them should be enlarged. It will be necessary for some time to come that the activities and work of these Bodies should be watched over and controlled by higher Authorities, which might well take the form of Local Self-Government Boards. These Boards should have adequate powers to take over these Bodies, should mal-administration necessitate such action. There will always be necessity for the careful auditing of funds in their charge, and steps should be taken to bring home to the Members of such Bodies their financial responsibilities, by the introduction of a system of surcharge based on the British model.

Provincial Legislatures.—Subject to the views of our members in each Province, who have a particular knowledge of the conditions peculiar to their Province, and whose views will be put forward in oral evidence, we favour a grant of full responsible Government to the Provinces. We are, however, anxious that the undoubted risks accompanying such transfer of power should be minimised in so far as is, in our opinion, practical, and consider that, for the present, it would be wise to place the vital portion of Law and Order, that is the maintenance of Armed (or Military) Police, the Criminal Investigation Department, the Dacoity Department, under the Central Government. We also think it necessary to make such provisions as may be required to give contentment to the British element, which we believe must be maintained, under the changes in Government hereby

proposed. We therefore propose, should the transfer of power herein recommended be agreed to, that it should be made subject to the following safeguards: (1) The Establishment of Second Chambers; (2) All Bills passed by the Provincial Legislatures shall require the assent of the Governor-General-in-Council; (3) That existing instructions to the Governor-General and Governors regarding legislation discriminating against any particular section or interest should be continued, and supplemented by Statutory safeguards.

Ministry.—The Executive Council should be abolished, and replaced by a Ministry chosen from elected representatives. The power which a Governor now has to administer Transferred Subjects in the event of failure to form a Ministry, would need to be retained.

Franchise.—We do not at present recommend any widening of the franchise. The Education of the existing electorate in our opinion requires further time before any increase is justifiable. We, however, recommend a complete examination of the composition of Legislative Councils, and Council of State, with a view to ensuring adequate proportionate representation for the various interests in the Province. We are strongly of the opinion that Landed Interests and Commerce and Industry should be given increased representation.

[An analysis of the existing representations of these Interests is appended showing, for all India, a total of 38 seats for Landholders and 57 for Commerce and Industry out of a total number of 1,067 seats.]

We further strongly recommend a large proportionate representation for Agricultural, Ex-Military, and Labour interests, and the Depressed Classes.

Central Legislature.—We are generally of opinion that it is difficult to make any great advance in the Central Government until we are assured that the further transfer of power in the Provinces has justified itself. We are of opinion that the Legislative Assembly was wrongly constituted in the first instance, and that the existing system of direct election has not ensured that sense of responsibility between a Member and his constituents. This is in the main due to physical difficulties which could not be overcome without unduly enlarging the Membership of the Central Legislature, which we cannot recommend at the present stage of development. We, therefore, favour a system of indirect election by Provincial Legislatures, and duly formed and accredited Associations representing different sectional interests.

The Viceroy's Executive Council.—We are of opinion that no change in the Viceroy's Executive Council is desirable at the moment, but it appears to us that the system of selecting the Indian Members of the Council justifies examination. For instance, the existing Members of the Viceroy's Council to-day do not include any Member of the Indian Aristocracy, and we have known instances when of late certain individuals were quite unfit for such a responsible position. In all cases we contend that such appointments should be made from the best material available of any race or creed.

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General Considerations.—If India's political development is to progress along sound lines, without undue risk of breakdown, we are strongly of the opinion that whatever changes are made in the Indian Constitution, it is essential to provide for the continuity of tradition and authority. The old order and the new must be reasonably blended, and we particularly direct the attention of your Commission to this point. It must be remembered that a large number of those individuals who have been in the past natural leaders have, for reasons which we need not enter into here, failed to adjust themselves to the changed system of Government, and they should be given every opportunity to take that share in Government which their contemporaries have in England.

Minorities.—All those who desire to see and encourage India's political development must regret communal and sectarian dissensions, which are such an obstacle to rapid progress. We are convinced that these dissensions are largely due to the fear of minorities that their interests will not be adequately safeguarded under a democratic form of government. It is the primary duty of all Governments to see that the legitimate interests of minorities are not trampled under foot, and we trust that a purely Indian Government would be no less careful of minority interests than any other national Government. As far as we are concerned, we strongly recommend the provision of statutory safeguards for all such interests, and we have no objection to these taking such form as minorities themselves may desire, provided always that the interests of the majority are not impinged upon, and that the national interests are not unduly subordinated.

Control of the British Parliament.—The Government of India Act already allows scope for the relaxation of the powers of the Secretary of State for India, and evidence of such relaxation is forthcoming in the convention which has been established regarding fiscal matters. Further conventions on similar lines might be built up, but otherwise we do not, for the moment, suggest any alterations to the existing Act, other than those necessitated by the grant of Responsible Government to the Provinces.

Education.—In our opinion the immediate need of the moment is a progressive policy in the training of Indians to fit them for the public service of India, and for training for the defence forces of India. We consider immediate steps should be taken to improve and increase educational facilities for this purpose.

Further, we are of opinion that much greater attention must be paid to Commercial and Technical Training. At the moment the very fact that a University Degree is required before entrance into the Government service has led to the University literary degree being considered as the goal of all education. This particular qualification for Government service should be done away with, and the Government Examination should be made a sufficiently high standard without this.

The obstacles which have to be surmounted in the introduction of a satisfactory system of primary education are considerable. The provision of teachers, even on the totally inadequate salary now paid, is beyond the resources of Provincial Revenues. Steps must, however, be taken to surmount this obstacle, even at the cost of increased taxation. Our experience leads us to believe that a more rapid growth of primary education can only be secured by compulsion, and this will have to be carried out area by area. We fully realise, however, that the conservative customs of the country will make the task of School Inspectors called upon to inquire about the absence of children one of extreme delicacy.

M. Raouf Fitza, the new Albanian Minister to Yugoslavia, arrived in Belgrade on November 27.

Every citizen of Constantinople must pay a poll-tax for the upkeep of highways or else give one day's labour by working on the roads. This year no fewer than 10,000 people have refused to pay the tax, and prefer to work in person.

INDIAN NOTES.

(Continued from page 667.)

Then there is the question of the personnel of the Court. The majority of the Judges would have to be Indians and Europeans with Indian experience at the Bar and on the Bench. In the matter of their selection consideration would have to be given to questions of politics, race, and creed. Any preponderance of one race or creed would be resented, more especially if the suggestion which is made by the Associated Chambers is accepted, namely, that it should be one of the functions of the Court to decide whether any legislation, or taxation, is or is not discriminatory. In this connexion it is important also to remember that the accumulated learning and experience of the Law Lords, which is the real source of strength of the Judicial Committee, would be lacking. Last year we came to the conclusion that a case for the establishment of a Supreme Court had not been made out. We now fully admit that under a federal Constitution the need would be greater. But, as we view the question, the difficulties in the way are still as formidable as they ever were, and this is also, we gather, the opinion of the Bombay High Court.

THE LONDON CYPRUS BROTHERHOOD.

A successful soirée was held at the Royal Hotel, London, on November 24, by the London Cyprus Brotherhood, which was formed at the beginning of the year, under the patronage of the Governor of Cyprus, Sir Ronald Storrs. The decorations of the ballroom included illuminated maps of Cyprus, interesting views of the Island, and a small display of Cyprus products. A feature of the evening that was much enjoyed was the exhibition of Cyprus dances which was given with special Cyprus music.

In the course of a speech during the evening, Dr. A. Zemenides, who founded the Brotherhood, gave a brief account of its activities; he said:—

... Although our Brotherhood's origin was very humble, our achievements have been considerable. We include among our members 600 Cypriots of all classes, doctors, professors, teachers, students, merchants, etc., but mostly workers in various trades; and our main object is to do all we can to assist them in improving their positions. We have already started a Day and Evening School for the teaching of English, where about 200 of them are receiving free instruction. We try to help our fellow-countrymen who have just arrived from Cyprus, as far as we can, in getting work. Of course, we look after them, should they sometimes happen to be in hospitals. In this way we offer help in a threefold form, and the benefits received by our members are evident and tangible. Generally speaking, we proceed on the principle of self-help, and, above all, there are no politics, no distinction of religion, or social and political beliefs in our Cyprus Brotherhood. There are still some difficulties in the working of our Society, but we are full of hope and confidence that with patience, persistence, wisdom and good will they will be overcome. We believe that our cause is a deserving one and our Institution of a benevolent character. Therefore we venture to advocate not only the maintenance of our Brotherhood but also its expansion. We are thinking of including honorary members as well, either for their interest, assistance or services rendered. I beg you to believe that the presence of so many distinguished guests to-night gives us great encouragement and it is also an incentive for the continuation of our endeavours.

It may be mentioned here that the entrance fee for the Brotherhood is 2s. 6d., and the weekly subscription 6d.

The Austrian branch of the Marconi Wireless Telegraph Company opened a direct service to Egypt on December 1.

Ejibili, chief of the Choka in Georgia, has been killed, together with another high Soviet official, in a motor-car accident.

Dr. Alij Ibrahim Bey, Professor of Surgery in the Egyptian University, has been made an Honorary Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons, London.

THE WEEK AT HOME

London, Tuesday Morning.

The King's Health.

One topic remains on everybody's lips: How is the King? Recent days have scarcely lessened the anxiety which all classes feel for the health of their Sovereign, and the presumably inevitable ups and downs of the illness are followed with unconcealed hope or fear.

At the moment of writing the general feeling is one of immense relief that what was apparently a very critical period has been safely surmounted, but his loyal subjects will not feel happy again until they are assured that their King is well on the road to complete convalescence.

The Government and De-rating.

It seems to be quite generally agreed—even by gloomy opponents of the Government—that the Conservatives have added to their strength through the exposition in the House of Commons by Mr. Neville Chamberlain of the De-rating proposals. Quite obviously the Labour and Liberal parties were affected by his sincerity and by the comprehensive justice of his outlook.

The premature attempt to represent the measure as ill-conceived and implying inevitable injustices has, therefore, died down—at least for the time being. It is understood, however, that both Opposition Parties will bring fresh ammunition to bear on it—when they have manufactured it! But the least interested observers, having now had time to study the proposal, predict that De-rating will be an asset to the Conservatives.

The Liberals.

In a week or so, it seems, the Liberals will have 400 candidates in the field. Enthusiasm among those who follow the ringing lead of Sir Herbert Samuel is said to be enormous; nor is it true (so the official story goes) that the organiser of the Liberal Party did say about Mrs. Runciman's standing for Tavistock, despite her rebutting of Mr. Lloyd George at St. Ives, what he is stated to have said.

In other words, the Liberals are in fine fettle. De-rating and safeguarding are simply coining votes for them; the country will never have Socialism, and so on.

Indeed the only thing, apparently, that can stop a Liberal revival is the omission to cultivate the correct psychological attitude. It is, so the Liberal officials complain, the "will to win" that is lacking.

This is all very pathetic, for in the meantime the Conservative and Labour parties go on consolidating their position. The truth is—and it does not cease to become the truth be it repeated a thousand times—that while Mr. Lloyd George occupies his present position in the Liberal Party there is no future for that party. Pretence to the contrary is mere whistling to keep spirits up.

A Social Phenomenon.

The statistics relating to divorce last year are bound to create controversy upon the question whether Acts of Parliament make men and women moral or immoral, and whether the lack of them makes more for morality than for immorality. In any case, there appears to be in England a steady increase of divorce.

The figures which have just been published show that the number of matrimonial petitions filed in 1927 was 4,444, an increase of 662 over the preceding year.

The increase is apparently not due to the Judicial Proceedings (Regulation of Reports) Act of 1926, as is commonly imagined, but to the development of the Poor Person's procedure and the power to try at assizes.

Some heads will be shaken over this increase, while other people will welcome it as a sign of the enlightenment of our times. One cannot help thinking, however, that the type of mind which the latter people represent, however noisily and zealously, is a temporary phenomenon in our midst. More than one acute observer foretells a swing back in the direction of Puritanism when the present period of Paganism has outlived itself.

All-English Beer.

Few complaints are more general or more justified than the cry about the inferiority of the beer of to-day to that of former times. It almost seems, however, that England is once more to get beer that is beer.

For experiments have been made during the last few months of making English beer with nothing but English malting barley, hops, and sugar. For some years brewers have been asserting that foreign malt was the only possible malt, but even they, it appears, have had their prejudices broken by the astounding success of the "All-English beer."

Credit for this revolution must go to East Anglia, where the brewers have delighted the connoisseurs with the new product. I have not yet seen this peerless potation, but it appears to resemble old-fashioned English ale in flavour and general character. Not in potency, of course, for the relation of tax to gravity makes it necessary to keep it at a popular price. But if the campaign which is announced this week from Norwich, Ipswich, and other enlightened towns succeeds, it will not be long before London itself succumbs to this fascinating-sounding beverage. After three years it is that the Norfolk farmers have won their battle in favour of English barley for brewing beer.

The Test Match.

England's play in the first Test match against the Australians at Brisbane was told to us in lines that lightened the gloom of these end-o'-the-year days. Not the most fatuous optimist imagined anything half so good, so ingrained is the national habit of belittling Englishmen. As an off-set to things like rates and taxes and other pests that lurk in the neighbourhood of Christmas, nothing could have been better.

The intensity of the interest may be gauged by the fact that newspaper boys are allowed to invade the arrival platforms of our great railway termini to convey the cricket news. I do not remember this ever happening before.

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PERSONAL AND GENERAL

TO-DAY

December 6, 1928 (New Style).

December 20, 1928 (Old Style).

Jumada II, 22, 1347 A.H. of the Muslim Calendar.

Kislev, 23, 5689, of the Jewish Calendar.

Sir Charles and Lady Nall-Cain will shortly leave Brocket Hall, Hatfield, for Egypt.

The Hon. Mrs. Adeane leaves London this week for Egypt, joining the s.s. Morea at Marseilles.

Ex-King George of Greece visited the Queen at Buckingham Palace on November 28.

Viscount Ikerrin left Marseilles on November 30 in the P. and O. liner Rawalpindi for Bombay.

Sir George and Lady Bettsworth Piggott left London last week for Cyprus and Egypt.

Sir John and Lady Chancellor left London on November 30 to join the P. and O. s.s. Rawalpindi at Marseilles on their way to Palestine.

Lord and Lady Manners left London on November 30 to join the s.s. Rawalpindi at Marseilles on their way to India.

Viscount Chetwynd and the Hon. Eve Chetwynd are expected to return to London at the end of February from India.

Major-General Sir Richard Bannatine-Allason left London on November 30 to join the Rawalpindi at Marseilles on his way to India.

The Maharaja of Nawanagar will leave London next week on his return to India, and the Maharo will remain in England until the beginning of January.

General the Right Hon. Sir John Maxwell and Lady Maxwell will leave London on December 21 for Egypt, where they will spend part of the winter.

Mr. T. S. Littler, of Ashton-in-Makerfield, near Warrington, has been appointed Lecturer in Physics at the Egyptian University, Cairo.

Major-General Sir John Davidson, M.P., Brigadier-General Sir Frederick Gascoigne, Sir Archibald and Lady Birkmyre, and Sir Trevredyn Wynne left London on November 30 by the P. and O. Bombay express, to join the s.s. Rawalpindi at Marseilles for Bombay. The Maharaja of Patiala and the Maharaja of Kashmir joined the s.s. Rawalpindi at Marseilles on November 30 on their return to India.

Captain D. McCallum will lecture to the Central Asian Society on December 12, at 5.15 p.m., on "Impressions of Indo-China." The lecture, which is to be illustrated, will be given in the Royal Society's Rooms, Burlington House, W. 1.

Lady Curzon has arranged to make an extensive tour in the East, leaving London probably on December 13. She is particularly anxious to see the old buildings restored in India and Afghanistan through the instrumentality of her late husband, Marquis Curzon of Kedleston.

The next two meetings of the Royal Asiatic Society are on December 11 and January 15, 1929, at 4.30 p.m., at 74, Grosvenor Street, W. 1. At the first, a paper will be read by Mr. Harold Bowen on "Notes on Early Muhammadan Titles"; and at the next a lecture, with lantern illustrations, will be delivered by Mr. D. Harcourt Kitchin on "The Baga Races of the Eastern Sudan."

The Maharaja of Burdwan, with the Senior Maharaj Kumari and his son Maharaj Kumar Abhay Chand Mahtab, is shortly returning to India, but the Maharaja expects to be back again in England in February.

NEWS IN BRIEF.

The Turkish newspapers appeared in Arabic characters for the last time on November 30. Latin type only is to be used in future.

The Turkish Minister of Finance has signed a contract for the establishment at Constantinople of a large workshop for the assembling of Ford motor-cars.

The Polish Government has invited the Roumanian Minister for Foreign Affairs, M. Mironescu, to pay an official visit to Warsaw in January, with a view to the establishment of personal contact with a leading member of the new Roumanian Cabinet.

Kechejizade Izzet Fuad Pasha, a former Senator of the Ottoman Empire, and at one time Ottoman Minister in Madrid and Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs under the Grand Vizir Damad Ferid Pasha Bushati, died last week in Constantinople.

While standing his trial on a charge of having murdered Tsena Bey Kryeziu, Albanian Minister to Czechoslovakia, in Prague, on October 14, 1927, Algiviadh Bebi, an Albanian student, was shot dead in the Criminal Court there on November 30 by a servant of the murdered man's brother.

A deputation representing members of the Greek Orthodox Church resident in London have presented to Archbishop Davidson an address, accompanied by rare ecclesiastical needlework of the 17th century, made in Epirus. The address was read by the Greek Minister in London, M. Demetrius Caclamanos. Archbishop Davidson, in thanking the deputation for the gift and the address, expressed his sense of the importance of the friendship between the Church of England and the Orthodox Churches of the East.

An amended programme has been approved for the present cruise in the Persian Gulf, and subsequent movements, of H.M.S. Effingham, flagship of Vice-Admiral B. S. Thesiger. This shows that the cruiser will spend Christmas at Karachi instead of at Aden, as previously arranged. The Effingham arrived at Basrah on November 27 from Hanjam and Muscat. She is due to leave on December 13 to carry out the following programme:—Abadan, December 13-15; Sharja, December 17-18; Muscat, December 19-20; Karachi, December 22-January 5; Bombay, January 7-11; Ratnigri, January 12; Goa, January 13-14; Calicut, January 15; Androsth, January 16; Minicos, January 17; and Colombo, January 19.

The 16th anniversary of Albanian Independence was celebrated in Tirana on November 29 with unusual pomp and rejoicing, and the King received the good wishes not only of the Diplomatic Corps, but also from a large number of prominent Albanians. Signor Mussolini sent the following telegram to King Zogu:—"The festival of the independence of Albania has in the last year become in a solemn way also a festival and occasion of good wishes on the part of the Italian nation. Indeed, no nation can celebrate it better than ourselves, as we have proved the bitterness of servitude and the joy of redemption, and because we see in a free, strong, and allied Albania a sure promise of peace in the Balkans and of security in the Adriatic."

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THE QURAN.

At a meeting of the Near and Middle East Association, held, by kind permission of Dowager Lady Boyle, at 64, Queen's Gate, on November 30, Professor D. S. Margoliouth delivered an address on "The Quran." Lord Meston of Agra, who presided, in remarking on the obligation incumbent upon Englishmen rightly to understand the Quran, quoted the famous passage in Gibbon (Chapter L.) concerning the teachings of the Prophet Muhammad. ("It is not the propagation, but the permanency of his religion, that deserves our wonder: the same pure and perfect impression which he engraved at Mecca and Medina is preserved, after the revolutions of twelve centuries, by the Indian, the African, and the Turkish proselytes of the Koran. . . .").

Professor Margoliouth began his brilliant address with an anecdote of the Bishop who set at rest the fears of one of his flock concerning the possible popularity of the Quran among English people. That the Quran was widely read, however, was proved by the translation of Sale, done in the eighteenth century, which was a national classic, and by the translations of Rodwell and of Palmer, both of which were standard works. Rodwell had already been reprinted, and Palmer was now in process of reprinting. The lecturer then gave (in order that he might not be thought unduly to underestimate the knowledge on the part of his audience of the Quran), three examples of ignorance of the Quran taken from the history of Muslims themselves. The first was at the time of Abu Bakr, the second at that of the second Abbasid Caliph, and the third example of ignorance was displayed by the Ottoman authorities in 1807. In all these instances reference was made to the Quran which had no justification in fact whatever.

Professor Margoliouth proceeded to make a striking examination of the Quran and of the Old Testament. Between these two Holy Books, he said, there were both resemblances and differences. Among the resemblances were a sublimity of language, a similar presentation (e.g., the introduction of a revealed passage with a phrase such as "Thus saith the Lord"), and a general classification of the respective contents into historical, legislative, devotional, and homiletic matter. Among the dissimilarities were the comparative lack of redundancy in the Old Testament (such repetitions as might be found in Isaiah and Kings II were rare), whereas if all redundancies were expurged from the Quran, it would be reduced possibly to one third of its present size; the fact that, whereas the Quran was accepted practically *in toto* as genuine, most of the Old Testament had at some time or other been disputed; and the unchronological basis of the Quran as compared with the more readily understandable order of the Old Testament.

The lecturer devoted some time to an explanation of how the Quran came into being, emphasising the fact that the Arabs made a habit of keeping the memory of sublime things "within their breasts," as well as, or in contradistinction to, committing such things to parchment. It was, incidentally, upon this examination of the drawing up and publishing of the Quran that Professor Margoliouth was, after his address, questioned by certain Muslims, who claimed that not only the whole of the Quran but also the order of the *Suras* were known to

Muslims before the death of the Prophet; to which questioning the lecturer gave the exceedingly adroit answer that the order in which the Angel Gabriel recited the Quran was undoubtedly the correct order! He also examined the problem of the "abrogation" of certain verses and the inconsistencies of the Quran, as exemplified in the twin injunction of both tolerance and intolerance towards unbelievers.

In concluding, Professor Margoliouth referred to the influence upon Islam of the Quran. On this, apart from mentioning his belief that a religion was to be judged by its interpretation at the hands of the choicest spirits of any particular age, he did not expatiate. He did, however, refer to the tremendous influence of the Quran upon the Arabic language. Alike in linguistic and philological matters the Quran held a unique place in Arabic literature, and to the loftiness of its language (he had previously described the fascinating rhythm of the Book) the lecturer paid a remarkable tribute.

After the lecture, Professor Margoliouth answered such questions as those relating to the status of women in the Quran (the male should have the portion of two females); to the number of wives allowed to Muslims (it might be four, or it might be the addition of the one, two, three, four mentioned, that is, ten); and to the state of Arabia before the advent of the Prophet, (reference was made by the lecturer to Bell's "Origin of Islam in its Christian Environment" and to the fact that little was certainly known—Mecca, even, was unknown before Muhammad, although various unsatisfactory attempts had been made to identify it).

This lecture was one replete with immense but lightly carried learning; and it was a happy reminiscence which Lord Meston, in moving a vote of thanks to Professor Margoliouth, indulged in of his undergraduate days at Oxford. Even then (nearly fifty years ago), he said, the lecturer had been credited with learning a new language each week, most of them bearing names unknown to irreverent undergraduates!

The following were among those who accepted invitations:—

The Bulgarian Minister and Mlle. Mischeff, the Persian Minister and the Counsellor and First Secretary of the Persian Legation, the Estonian Minister and Mme. Kallas, the Albanian Chargé d'Affaires and Mme. Vlora Bey, the Egyptian Chargé d'Affaires, the Hungarian Chargé d'Affaires, Général de Division and Mme. Després, Count Stanislas Los, Herr Karl Zeileissen, Orhan Halid Bey, Dr. Feine, Viscountess Dupplin, Lord Headley, the Hon. Lady White-Thomson, Sir Edward and Lady Boyle, Baroness de Knoop, the Baroness de Goldsmid, Lady Hewitt, Lady Tighe, the Hon. Lady Henniker-Heaton, Sir Henry and Lady Burt, Brigadier-General Charles de Winton, the Hon. Mrs. Spencer Graves, the Hon. Mrs. Edward Meade, the Hon. Katharine Thring, Major Arthur Bentinck, Captain and Mrs. E. N. Bennett, Mrs. L. Cobham, Colonel St. John Cooke, Mr. and Mrs. Philip Laszlo de Lombos, Dr. Ernest Griffin, Prebendary Gordon Ponsonby (Chancellor of Exeter Cathedral), Mr. Rhuvon Guest, Mrs. Charles Hancock, Mrs. Halahan, Mr. Bertram Thomas, Dr. Jal Pavry, Mrs. de Bunsen, and Mr. Roland Michell.

NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST ASSOCIATION.

Captain E. N. Bennett, J.P., will lecture to the Near and Middle East Association on December 13, at 8.45 p.m., upon "The Island of Crete: Its Past and Present." The meeting, over which Lady Newnes will preside, will be held, by kind permission of Miss Spalding and Mlle. Griboval, at 133, Queen's Gate, S.W.

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Book Reviews

THE MACEDONIAN CONQUEST.

"**MACEDONIAN IMPERIALISM AND THE HELLENISATION OF THE EAST.**" Illustrated. By Professor Pierre Jouguet. (London: Kegan Paul, Trench, Trubner & Co. 21s. net)

Here we have another volume of much value in "The History of Civilisation" series. Like the recent volume on Egypt by Professor Moret which we discussed lately, it is of French origin and has the clarity of exposition which seems to be a special gift of our neighbours, while, like most of the books in this series, it is capably translated. If it has a fault, it lies in its somewhat narrow conception of "Hellenisation." We should have liked to have heard more of the effect of the spread of Greek influence on art, literature and philosophy. It may well be, however, that this aspect is being or has been dealt with by other writers in one or other of these volumes.

We have a sketch of Alexander's career and conquests which, though necessarily lacking in detail, contrives to bring out all the essential facts and their relation to one another. This is followed by a similar sketch of the times of his successors and finally of the rule of the Lagids, Seleucids, and the later supplanting of the latter in Asia Minor. This part is, of course, still more difficult to compress without loss of clarity, and it is greatly to the author's credit that he has succeeded in giving us a clear, accurate and consecutive narrative which can be read with real enjoyment.

The effect of this huge enlargement of the Greek horizon is studied with reference to the Greeks themselves and to the people who thus came under Greek influence. Both sides of the question are gone into in chapters of great interest. In these discussions the author has carefully guarded himself from speculations going beyond what little knowledge has actually come down to us and has taken pains to make clear how very inadequate such sources are with regard to Asia. In Egypt we have now been put into possession of much priceless information from such unexpected places as rubbish heaps and the layers of papyrus used to make up mummy-cases, and we may reasonably expect that further light will become available from such sources. As it is, we are constantly being confronted by vexing gaps. These Professor Jouguet makes no attempt to conceal after the manner of many popular writers, but he has studied what material is available to such good purpose that he is able, as regards Egypt at least, to give us a very vivid picture of the administration of the country by her Hellenic rulers.

A quotation giving part of his comparison of the Seleucid and Lagid Empires will, perhaps, best give a taste of the quality of the book. The Seleucid, he says,

was an immense, heterogeneous Empire. No Hellenistic monarchy presents such a variety of countries or such a motley patchwork of peoples. Next to Egypt, the Seleucid Empire embraced the most ancient and glorious centres of human civilisation—Babylon, Susa, Jerusalem. It contained the ruins of Troy and the ruins of Nineveh. It was the strange common home of the most diverse forms of poetical and religious inspiration; the Psalms of David, the preaching of Zoroaster, and the epic of Homer were born under that radiant sky. The glory of Chaldea belonged to it, and that of Ionia. In it a swarm of individual dominions lived again—merchant kingdoms, empires of warriors, and priestly States, the Lydia of Croesus, the Media of Cyaxares, and the Judea of Solomon—but also the first universal dominion which had absorbed all the others—that of the Achæmenids. That fell to it with the inheritance of Alexander. Through the victor of Arbela, it continued the tradition of Darius and Cyrus. In so complex a world, the task of government was never easy, and it was perhaps harder for the Seleucids than for their fore-runners. . . . The Seleucids were strangers in Asia. Alexander might hope to rule the East and the whole world by supporting himself on the Macedonian nation, whose country of origin was incorporated in his Empire. But Macedonia did not belong to the Seleucids. It was a reservoir of men and strength on which they could not draw for ever. All these Græco-Oriental monarchies lacked a national foundation. . . . The position of the Lagids was certainly much more favourable. Although strangers in Egypt—quite as much as the Seleucids in Asia—they had to deal with only one nation, whose soul was concentrated in the person of a god-king. With this god-king they were able to assimilate themselves by the second or

third generation, by means of a skilful policy seconded by a powerful bureaucracy and the traditions of a people accustomed to obedience."

We think that Professor Jouguet is inclined to overrate the difficulty of combining the Greeks, with their passion for free city-states, with the native subjects of these Empires. It has surely to be remembered that many of the Hellenic immigrants were, as a matter of fact, not citizens of Greek city-states, but Macedonians and other inhabitants of the north of the Hellenic country who had long been accustomed to the rule of monarchs. But the book well brings out how these great Empires, both by the exhaustion of the Hellenic centres and by their own loose hold on the inhabitants of their provinces, made the way easy for the advance of the Roman Empire, while, at the same time, providing it with foundations for the building of the new edifice. The period is one of great importance and the ordinary reader knows far too little of it. He cannot do better than remedy this defect by studying this interesting and capable work.

C. S-W.

ISLAM.

"**THE ISLAMIC FAITH.**" By Sir Thomas Arnold (London: Benn's Sixpenny Library)

This little work by Sir Thomas Arnold is perhaps the most wonderful compression which we have ever seen. It is indeed a miracle of proportion and judgment which this great Orientalist has wrought in presenting, within fewer than eighty small pages, a perfectly definite, comprehensive, and, of course, accurate survey of what the Islamic Faith signifies. Nor is the quite dispassionate tone in which the rival sects of Islam are dealt with the least of the charms and merits of the work, which should be read by everyone who professes interest in the British Empire and by many besides.

Sir Thomas examines first the Creed of Islam, the creed the two implications of which are that "God is One and Unique in His essence," and that the Prophet Muhammad was sent "to proclaim anew the primitive revelation." And he makes the familiar point, which, however, can never receive too much emphasis: that Islam, not Muhammadanism, is the religion of the Muslims—for Muhammad was not the founder of Islam. He then passes to the Quran itself, laying stress on its ethical contents. Next comes an invaluable chapter on Islamic theology, that very knotty subject in which politics and religion were closely mixed.

In the sections devoted to "Good Works," "Church and State," and "Islam as a Missionary Religion," even professed students of Islam will find much stimulating matter. It is, however, when Sir Thomas approaches the subject of Asceticism and Mysticism, that he is giving the greatest opportunity for displaying his amazing learning. The book closes with an admirable discussion of the Sects

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of Islam, and here again the broadmindedness of the author is prominent, particularly in connexion with the "modernist" movements in Turkey and in India.

If one were at all to criticise, it would be to suggest that where certain "revolutionary" acts are taking place in Islamic countries Sir Thomas appears to be inclined to ascribe their motive-force to Islamic thinkers, whose doctrines may happen more or less to coincide with the tenets and deeds of much more rough-and-ready advocates of modernism. In other words, the secularisation of Islam is given, so to speak, a philosophical basis the responsibility of which may appeal more to the literary student than to the practical observer of events. Because "revolutionary" events in Muslim countries can be explained by reference to the works of Islamic authors, it does not follow that they are so to be explained. This, however, is a mere suggestion, which concerns only one of the numerous points in a book which is deserving of the highest praise.

◆ ◆ ◆ "MASSIS."

We have received the first number of *Massis*, a monthly organ devoted, as its name implies, to Armenian interests. It is being edited by Mr. A. Safrastian and is published in London (84, Bernard Street, W.C.1). The annual subscription is twelve shillings.

The word *Massis*, as the Editor points out, is the national Armenian word for Mount Ararat; *Ararat* is never used "except in connexion with the Biblical tradition and ancient records of Assyria."

The object of the journal is to review the activities of the Armenian people both in their homeland and in the Diaspora: it should, therefore, obtain a considerable circulation outside London and Manchester. In this first number are contained articles upon the progress of the Armenian homeland under the Russian ægis (it is claimed that 90 per cent. of the Armenian people who are scattered would settle in Russian Armenia if it were feasible); upon the Armenian refugees in Syria (this points out clearly the difficulties arising from the French scheme in Syria in regard to the aspirations of the Syrian Nationalists); and on news and books and congresses connected with Armenia. A particularly useful summary is devoted to the treatment of Armenian subjects at the recent International Orientalist Congress at Oxford.

◆ ◆ ◆ MUSLIM RELIGIOUS ART.

Sir Thomas Arnold gave last week, before the British Academy, the concluding lecture of this year's Schweich Lectures on "The Old and New Testament in Muslim Religious Art." He put forward the evidence for deriving the beginning of Muslim religious art, which made its first appearance at the beginning of the 14th century, from the art of the Oriental Churches—particularly the Jacobite and Nestorian Churches. He laid emphasis on the destiny of the Christian population living under Muslim rule in Mesopotamia and Persia, and on the intimate relations of the Nestorians with their Muslim neighbours; and gave examples to show that similar artistic conventions are found in Christian and Muslim manuscripts of the 13th and 14th centuries. As the Muslim theologians were hostile to all forms of representational art, and consequently no school of religious painting could spring up spontaneously in an Islamic society, such Muslims as cared to disregard the teaching of their religious guides and wished to possess religious pictures had to employ Christians or other painters who carried on the tradition of Christian art. Examples were given of such transference of Christian forms of representation of sacred subjects, such as the Annunciation, and so forth, to Muslim religious pictures. In succeeding centuries Muslim artists became more independent and devised methods of their own for the representation of their religious history, and illustrations were given of Persian and Indian pictures of the Prophets of the Old Testament and of the life of Jesus and of the Virgin Mary.

◆ ◆ ◆ BOOKS RECEIVED.

"Day In, Day Out." By Mrs. Aubrey Le Blond. (London: John Lane, The Bodley Head. 12s. 6d. net.)

"Roads to the City of God." By Basil Mathews. (London: Edinburgh House Press. 1s. net.)

"The Ruler of Baroda. An account of the Life and Work of the Maharaja Gaekwar." By Philip W. Sergeant, B.A. (London: John Murray. 16s. net.)

"Hanno, or the Future of Exploration." By J. Leslie Mitchell. (London: Kegan Paul, Trench, Trubner and Co., Ltd. 2s. 6d. net.)

"The Shadow of Egypt." By Helen Halyburton Ross. (London: Thornton Butterworth. 7s. 6d. net.)

"The New Democratic Constitutions of Europe." By Agnes Headlam-Morley. (London: Humphrey Milford. 8s. 6d. net.)

THE PERSIAN COURT ARTIST.

An exhibition which will certainly interest all students of Oriental art is now being held at the Leicester Galleries, Leicester Square, where M. Paul Mak is showing some of his beautifully decorative work. These pictures are in effect the manifestation of a Western, or semi-Western mind at work through an Eastern medium.

The story of M. Mak is a romantic one. He was born near Moscow in 1890, of a noble Russian family. Like that of many Russians of the old régime, his youth was spent in both artistic and military training. He was wounded several times in the Great War, and was actually in hospital when the Bolsheviks came to power. As a matter of fact, it was only his artistic ability which saved him from death in the Boutirka prison. He happened to make a sketch of the Governor of the prison, who was so struck by it that he arranged the pardon of the bourgeois prisoner. But M. Mak was obliged to stay in Russia until 1921.

Then, however, he managed to escape into Persia. In Persia, having arrived quite penniless, he resolutely set himself to the study of Persian art. This he achieved with such success that certain Court officials of the Shah Riza Pahlavi came to know of his talents. He was commissioned to paint a huge portrait of the Shah (measuring fourteen metres), and afterwards was appointed official artist to the Court at Teheran.

As we have said, M. Mak, who has a marvellous facility in design and in detail, works primarily on the Oriental conventions, but Occidental observers will at once notice certain similarities to the works of men like Beardsley or Lindsay. If M. Mak has not seen the works of these men, it only shows how similar results may be achieved by the following of separate roads.

Some of these drawings are direct, other are allegorical representations. Possibly the allegorical, or purely decorative, are the finest. In these he takes some episode in the history of the Persians, real or legendary, and illustrates it with various pictures all contained within the highly decorative frame of the one picture. To this category "Invasion of Tamerlane," and "Leila and Majnun" belong. But there is much besides, in his studies of dervishes, death, dreams, hashish, Persian beggars, and so forth, that will delight the student of the legends and history of the East.

The appearance of M. Mak is a most stimulating phenomenon. For no one, probably, is so well situated as the Russians creatively to interpret to the West the art, whether Music or Painting, of the East. One remembers the Oriental background of such composers as Borodine, Balakireff, Rimsky-Korsakoff, and so on, as one remembers the largely Oriental background of such a painter as Roerich. But no one, perhaps, has adhered as closely to the Oriental medium as has M. Mak. We advise British students of Eastern art, therefore, to visit this exhibition. They may find a fault or two, such as a certain weakness in actual drawing—that is, if their standard be perfection. But that they will be highly stimulated we have no doubt. Pattern for pattern's sake, detail for detail's sake, colour for colour's sake, finesse for the sake of finesse—all these essentially Oriental indulgences are here in abundance. The originality of the Slav is most happily combined with the traditions of the art of the Shials.

The Bishop of the Church of England in Jerusalem (Dr. MacInnes) on November 18 installed, at the Collegiate Church of St. George the Martyr, Jerusalem, the Rev. Harold Jocelyn Buxton as Archdeacon of the Church of England in Cyprus and the Rev. Weston Henry Stewart as Archdeacon of the Church of England in Palestine and Syria.

The Turkish Grand National Assembly at Angora on November 30 ratified unanimously the Turco-Italian Treaty of Neutrality and Conciliation, together with a Convention dealing with judicial matters. The Assembly also ratified the Treaty of Friendship and Co-operation with Afghanistan and a supplementary Protocol to the Turco-Persian Treaty.

Commercial and Financial Section.

NOTES AND NEWS

170, Strand, London, W.C.2,
Tuesday Morning.

Roumania's Mining Law.

That the new Roumanian Administration intends to waste no time in carrying into effect their policy as laid down at the meeting of the "Parliament" of the National-Peasant Party held last summer will be clear from the statement of the Minister of Industry and Commerce, M. Madgearu, to a delegation representative of the oil industry of Roumania that he has prepared a Bill for a reform of the Mining Law. This law, which may be said to have exemplified the policy of the Bratianu régime, had the effect in practice of preventing the further development of the oilfields, and naturally in the circumstances met with general opposition on the part of the oil industry. The Bill, which M. Madgearu proposes to introduce, will provide that henceforward foreign capital shall be on an equal footing with Roumanian capital, and is further to secure the free development of oil production. The delegation put forward various other points to the Minister who showed from his reply his keen desire to conciliate the industry. Thus he promised that a reduction of transport charges would be considered, that the royalties question would be settled within a fortnight, that communal taxation should be revised, and that the roads leading to the oil districts should be repaired. On one point only, and that an important one, was he unable to give the delegation satisfaction, and that was in respect of the export taxes on oil products, which he explained could not be lowered as they entered into the Budget. One assumes that in this case M. Madgearu was speaking for the Finance Minister, and in view of Roumania's financial position, it need occasion no surprise that the Maniu Administration should find it impossible in the first year of office to reduce these taxes. It may no doubt be taken for granted that as soon as finances admit the question of the reduction of these taxes will come up for consideration.

A Cotton Substitute.

In the days of artificial substitutes for common commodities it was only to be expected that sooner or later the monopoly enjoyed by cotton would be challenged. In recent years various attempts have been made, as a matter of fact, to launch a substitute for cotton without success, but the latest development promises to have a different fate. Next year "Artificial Cotton," to give it the name by which it is known, although it is neither artificial nor cotton, is to be placed on the market by the English Artificial Cotton Production and Marketing Company. The available facts regarding this product may be shortly summarised. A plant which was found to yield a material resembling cotton was discovered in British Guiana, and plants and seed were brought to England, and the artificial cotton is now being grown in certain areas in Essex and Sussex. The plant can be grown on ground suitable for little else, which is obviously a very strong point in its favour, and the resultant product is understood to be similar to coarse cotton with a staple of an inch. The yield is stated to be between 800 and 900 lb. per acre, and it is understood that a crop of between three and four

million pounds will be available next summer for spinners at sixpence per lb, a price which is rendered possible by the production of various by-products from the plant.

High Yielding Crop.

From the figures available, which I have quoted above, it is possible to make some interesting comparisons. A yield of 800 to 900 lb. per acre is roughly equivalent to one of 8 or 9 kantars per feddan which happens to be just double the present average yield of cotton in Egypt. Then a crop of three to four million pounds is approximately equal to 7,500 to 10,000 bales on the rough and ready calculation of four kantars to the bale. This number of bales is not very imposing, when viewed in relation to the world's cotton crop, but it must be remembered that next year's will be the first marketed crop in England, that the product has to prove itself to the industry, and that a rapid rate of expansion may be possible. This would seem to depend very largely indeed on an adequate supply of land being available. To produce even half a million bales, which represents less than one-fortieth of the cotton crop of some years, would require from 250,000 to 300,000 acres, which is a large amount in a country where the total arable acreage (to take the 1926 figures) is no more than 9,873,000 acres. That is not to say that sufficient land cannot be obtained, though England stands in a very different category from an undeveloped country, and the problem is clearly simplified by the fact that the plant will grow on ground unsuitable for other crops.

Orange Growing in Palestine.

The estimate for the export of oranges from Palestine for the current season is about 2,000,000 cases, which is very much the same as the total for the two previous seasons. The area under orange groves is being steadily extended, and it is anticipated that by the end of the present year it will amount to about 16,500 acres as compared with 10,000 acres at the end of 1926. It is estimated that an area of approximately 53,500 acres is still available for the growing of citrus fruits, so it will be realised that the limits of the expansion of Palestine's staple industry are far from being reached. It is obvious that in the present position of Palestine the soundest policy is to concentrate on an industry which has served the country so well in the past, and it is satisfactory to know that this is being done, for the growing popularity of the Jaffa in the world markets is a sure guarantee that further expansion can be safely undertaken.

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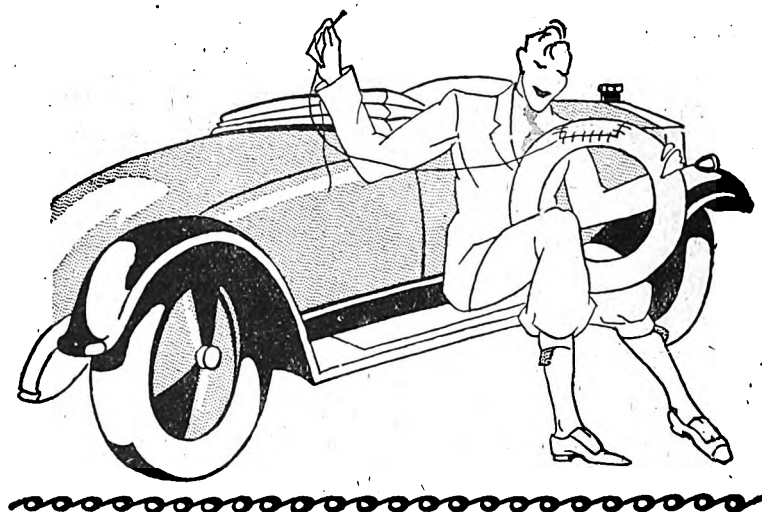
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Turkish Coal Competition.

The fact that Turkey has obtained a second contract for the supply of coal to the Athens Gas Works suggests very forcibly that Turkish competition in the Mediterranean coal market is not going to be the flash in the pan that it was thought likely would be the case. The contract is for 12,000 tons at a price of 17s. 6d. per ton c.i.f. Piræus, and it is understood that this is at least 7s. below the price at which Durham coal was tendered. It may help to bring home the impossibility of competing on these terms if I mention that in pre-War days Durham coal for delivery at the pithead was about 8s. per ton, and we have moved along since 1914 in respect of such important matters as freight charges, etc. That Turkish coal is vastly inferior to the Durham product apparently does not weigh with the Greeks.

The Greek Carpet Industry.

Before the arrival in Greece of the refugees from Asia Minor the Greek carpet industry was of trifling dimensions, but in the next few years it underwent a rapid development. Thus while in 1924 there were 30 carpet factories in Greece with 950 looms, in 1925 there were 70 with 2,500 looms and 6,500 workers. The production in 1926 amounted to 50,000 sq. metres as compared with 120,000 sq. metres for 1925, while for 1927 the production was 180,000 sq. metres valued at £500,000. Side by side with this growth in production there has been, until the present year, a steady expansion of the export trade. Thus while the export of carpets in 1924 totalled 60,000 sq. metres, it rose to 80,000 sq. metres in 1925 and to 90,000 sq. metres in 1927. For the present year, however, the total is expected to be only slightly above the figures for 1924, for which development various explanations are advanced such as the shortage of workers, numbers of whom have been attracted from the industry by the prospect of higher wages in France or elsewhere. Other important factors in the present depression in the industry are the competition of other countries and the fact that Greece has to import raw materials. It is not without significance that the figures for the export of Turkish carpets and rugs for 1925 to 1927 showed a steady upward progression. For 1925 the figures were 3,995,994 kilos (1 kilo equals 2,2046 lb.), for 1926 4,709,311 kilos, and for 1927 5,344,328 kilos. These figures suggest that the efforts to revive the industry, following the loss of Greek and Armenian workers are having a considerable measure of success, and it seems probably that here is to be found one of the chief causes of the decline in the Greek trade.

COMMENTATOR.

RAINS IN SYRIA.

A Mersina Correspondent writes under date November 24: "The rainy season has come at last after five months of drought. It rains at night, and keeps fine during the day so that people can go to their work. Unfortunately the streets are rivers of mud and water, especially those by the sea. The Mayor sent men yesterday afternoon to drain off the water and fill in the low lying ground. In Tarsus and Adana it is worse than it is here, and motor cars stick in the mud. Yesterday we were without electric light owing to a short circuit. Snow has already appeared at our mountain summer resort, Guzna, and there is a cold wind. I hear that it is possible that from January next Sunday is to be the closing day instead of Friday.

The Bank of Greece has reduced its re-discount rate from 10 to 9 per cent.

The Yugoslav Budget estimates show an expenditure of 11,954 million dinars, as compared with 11,580 millions for 1928-29.

During October 4,010 tons of locust beans were exported from Cyprus, reducing the present stock of locust beans in the Island to 31,846 tons, including 370 tons of the 1927 crop.

JAFFA ORANGE EXPORTS.

Cabled information from the Empire Marketing Board's correspondent at Jaffa reports stormy weather, with rain-fall, from November 21 to 24, and no sailings that week. Shipments recommenced on the 25th inst. with the Ingrid-sturm carrying 25,000 boxes to Hull and Newcastle. Total shipments up to November 25 amounted to 123,000 boxes, as compared with 162,000 boxes at the corresponding date last year.

Transhipments in the present season have amounted to approximately 30,000 boxes, and 35,250 boxes had been dispatched by rail via Kantara up to November 17. The majority of the rail transit fruit is destined for this country, but small quantities are consigned to other European countries, the Far East, etc.

THE SALONIKA FREE ZONE.

The trade in merchandise in the Free Zone of Salonika, which has always been fairly active, has developed considerably during this year. For the first ten months the imports amounted to 331,799, while the total for the exports was 335,955 tons. It is interesting to note that Great Britain is easily first among the countries from which goods were imported. The figures for the principal countries concerned in the trade are as follows:—

	Imports from.		Exports to.	
	Tons.		Tons.	
Great Britain	67,972	...	560	...
United States	47,727	...	341	...
Yugoslavia	24,311	...	14,016	...
Belgium	24,240	...	2,141	...
Russia	23,758	...	65	...
Roumania	23,663	...	21	...
Canada	19,048	...	—	...
Italy	15,277	...	426	...
Argentina	15,233	...	—	...
Turkey in Asia	12,455	...	43	...
France	10,929	...	3,841	...
Egypt	10,624	...	1,362	...

The Turkish Ministry of Education has issued an order that all schoolmistresses must wear hats when off duty. When on duty they must be bareheaded.

A Turkish Military Mission consisting of 10 senior officers under Kiazim Pasha, sub-Chief of the General Staff, left Turkey on December 2 for Afghanistan, where they will act as instructors to the Afghan army.

It is stated from Athens that Captain Hurley, the Australian airman, whose machine made a forced landing near Tatoi, has been admitted to hospital, suffering from a slight wound in the head. He is making satisfactory progress. The aeroplane, the Spirit of Australia, is so badly damaged that she will not be able to continue the flight.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

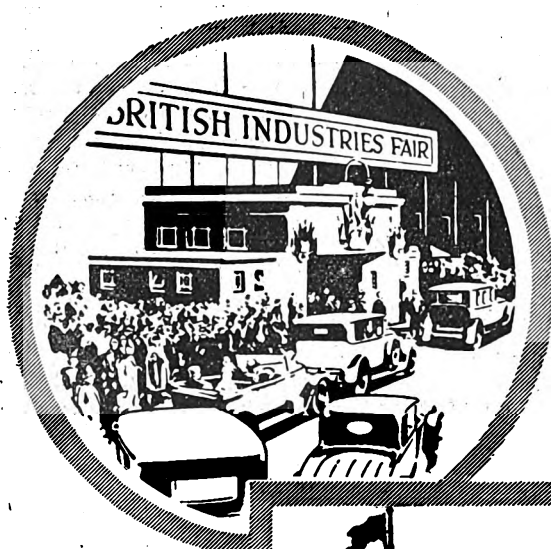
Country.	Method of Quoting.	Parity of Exchange.	Latest Quotation.
Alexandria.....	Piastre to £	97½	97½
Amsterdam ...	Florins to £	12.107	12.07½
Athens	Draehmæ to £ ...	25.22½	375
Belgrade.....	Dinars to £	25.22½	276
Berlin	Marks to £	20.43	20.35½
Berne	Francs to £	25.22½	25.17½
Bombay	Sterling to Rupee	18d.	18 3/64—5/64
Brussels	Belga to £	35	34.89
Bueharest	Lei to £	25.22½	820½
Budapest	Peu to £	27.82	27.81
Caleutta	Sterling to Rupee	18d.	18 3/64—5/64
Constantinople	Piastres to £	110	967
New York	Dollars to £	4.86 2-3	4.85 1/16—3/82
Paris	Francs to £	25.22½	124.10
Prague	Kronen to £	24.02	163½
Rome	Lire to £	25.22½	92.65
Sofia	Leva to £	25.22½	671
Tekheran	Krans to £	48	48.60
Vienna	Sch to £	34.58	34.50
Warsaw	Zlotv to £	25.22½	43 3/16—7/16

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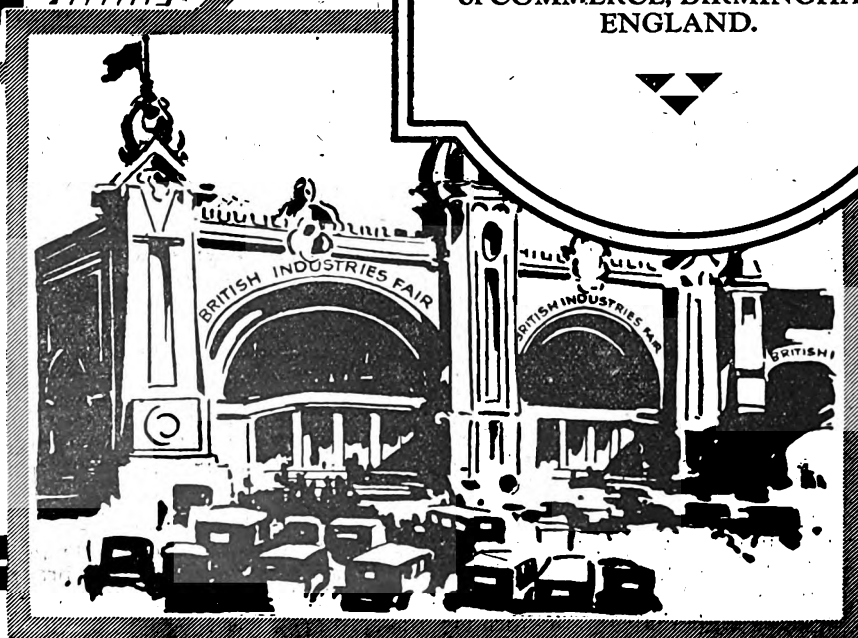
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Irrigation in Egypt

LOWER EGYPT.

Historical Note.

At the time of the conquest of Egypt by the Arabs the whole of Lower Egypt was irrigated on the basin system, that is by flooding large areas of land enclosed by earthen banks. The country was then populous and flourishing, as the numerous ruins of towns and villages spread throughout the marshes and waste lands in the far north of the Delta still testify. When the great Mohamed Aly became ruler of Egypt in the year 1811 the basin system was limited to the zone lying south of a line running roughly 40 miles south of the sea coast. North of this line, i.e., outside the basin zone, the water flowed into the seaboard lakes and on into the sea itself. This was the case during the flood season in August, September, and October, but during the months of low supply the water of the Nile entered only a few canals, and the cultivated area was insignificant, being limited to gardens, vegetables, a small quantity of cotton, rice and sesame.

Mohamed Aly, in his desire to develop the wealth of the country, rightly directed his attention to the Nile, and he ordered the deepening of the canals and the clearance of their inlets, so that they might draw water from the river during the low summer stage and thus enable the areas already cultivated to be extended. The clearance work was extremely difficult, and had to be repeated every year after flood. As at that time the population of Egypt did not exceed two millions, the recruitment of labour for the annual silt clearance from canals of about fifteen million cubic metres was a severe burden on the inhabitants, especially as they were compelled to work under the "Corvée" or forced labour system. It was clear, therefore, that the problem of an adequate water supply called for a more comprehensive solution, if the increase of cultivation and the general prosperity of the country were desired.

Mohamed Aly Pasha, resolving to subdue the Nile as he had subdued the whole country, ordered in 1833 the closing of the Rosetta Branch of the Nile with a stone bar, so as to divert all the water into the Damietta Branch and thence into the numerous canals fed from it, but which had not been completely cleared. Linant Pasha, the engineer who was then in the service of the ruler of Egypt, explained to the latter the great danger that must result from the execution of his order to close the Rosetta Branch, as it would deprive Alexandria and the Behera Province of water and expose Cairo to inundation in flood time.

From this incident arose the idea of constructing on the two branches of the Nile, barrages provided with sluices and gates, for the regulation of the supply of water to the three main irrigation canals, which had their off-takes upstream from the barrages.

Mohamed Aly Pasha did not wait for his engineer to prepare the designs and drawings for this project, but asked him to estimate the amount of material required for this great work so that it might be transported to the site, and a beginning was at once made with the digging of the foundations, the building of workshops and the transport of plant to the site.

Linant's scheme was to construct the Damietta Branch Barrage in the cultivated land near Darawa and that of the Rosetta Branch near the village of Kafr Mansour, then to divert the river to the two Barrages. For various reasons his project was first neglected and then abandoned; the materials and even workshops were pulled down and removed.

In the year 1848, Mogel Bey, a French engineer, came to Egypt and again pointed out to Mohamed Aly the advantages of building the barrages at their present site at the bifurcation of the Nile. He amalgamated the idea of building these barrages with that of transforming the

surroundings into fortifications and fortresses to command the Nile with its two branches; thus converting this region into one of strategical importance for Egypt.

The Viceroy was delighted with this idea, which coincided with his military aspirations. He approved the project, and ordered the work to be begun immediately. It was carried on with great energy until the time of his death, but in 1853 his successor Abbas Pasha, who considered that the work was not being executed with sufficient dispatch, dismissed Mogel Bey and entrusted the work of completing the barrages to Mazhar Bey, who actually finished them in 1861.

It will thus be seen that it was Mohamed Aly Pasha, the grandfather of King Fuad, who first suggested and secured summer irrigation for Lower Egypt, by building the Delta Barrages at the site where the river bifurcates just north of Cairo. By this means cultivators are able to obtain two, and even three, crops a year in the place of one under the basin irrigation.

It is true that the Barrages did not at first fulfil the purpose for which they had been constructed, owing to the difficulty experienced in those days in laying the foundations of such structures. Two pumping stations had subsequently to be erected on the Western Branch of the Nile at Khataba and Atf to supply water to Behera Province and Alexandria, and it was intended to extend this system of pumping stations so as to obviate the difficulty of clearing the beds of those canals which were too high to draw summer water.

In the year 1863, there was a shortage of water in the Damietta Branch. To improve matters the Rosetta Barrage was closed, with the result that the sand beneath the floor was forced out in places and ominous cracks appeared. Later in 1867, a section of this Barrage separated from the main portion of the work. The whole work was condemned and was not used again until 1884 after the arrival of Sir Colin (then Colonel) Scott Moncrieff from India. After various tests to prove that the Barrages were capable of being repaired, the work was put in hand and as a result it was possible to increase the height of the structure by one metre in that year. Permanent restoration and strengthening were decided upon, and work was begun in 1886.

Briefly, it consisted in lengthening the masonry floor on the upstream with a new line of sheet piling 16 feet deep across the whole river at the end of this new masonry, repairing and strengthening the old floor, and adding a masonry extension to the downstream side of the floor. As the result of this work the Barrages were capable of holding 4 metres head of water.

In 1891 springs spread in certain sections of the end of the floor. Various expedients were tried to remedy the defect, including stock ramming with clay, but to no purpose. Finally cement grout was employed with marked success. Bore holes were bored through the piers to the bottom of the foundations; liquid cement was poured in from the road level, being forced by pressure into all the interstices.

In 1898, two weirs, one downstream Rosetta Branch and the other downstream Damietta Branch, were built and provided with navigable openings for the purpose of decreasing the head on the barrages. The work on these two weirs was completed in 1901, and henceforth it was possible to raise the water upstream the Barrage during summer some six metres above its natural level, and to divert to the canals the whole flow of the river in summer. Even so the demands for irrigation of the large areas lying between the two branches of the Nile and the sea and those east of the Damietta Branch could not be satisfied by the canals serving them.

A second barrage was projected at Zifta lower down the Damietta (Eastern) branch of the river. This was built in 1903. Two subsidiary canals, the Mansouria and Abbasi, were constructed to irrigate the province of

Dakahlia and part of Gharbia when the main feeder canals from above the Delta Barrage are unable to carry the very large quantities of water required in the early stages of the flood season and at various times for winter crops.

Now, owing to the completion of these works, and at the same time to the construction of the Aswan Reservoir, which since its completion in 1902 has stored water during winter, so as to increase the natural river discharge in summer, the summer cultivation in Lower Egypt has risen to no less than 1,400,000 acres, and the canals served by the Barrage carry up to 70 million tons of water daily. During summer and until the arrival of the flood nearly three quarters of the water discharge of the Nile are used in the irrigation of the Delta, where most of it is devoted to the watering of long-staple cotton, on which the prosperity of Egypt depends.

In summer the Barrages are tightly closed, so that all the available water may be forced into the main canals of the Delta which radiate from this point. In autumn the Barrages are opened to allow the muddy water to pass down the river branches to the sea, the sluices being operated so as to retain only that fraction of the total flood which can be utilised for irrigation at this season.

The summer discharge of the Nile, augmented by the release of stored water from Aswan Reservoir, is divided carefully between the various canals according to the area of cultivation dependent on each. If we take, for example, the main canal which serves the Central Delta, the land between the two Nile branches, we shall find that its share of summer water is only about fifteen million tons per day, or roughly twenty tons for every acre of standing crop, mostly cotton, on the ground at that season. To water an acre needs about four hundred tons, so each field may be irrigated once in twenty days with this supply. At intervals of ten or fifteen miles the main

canal is spanned by a Regulator, that is by a weir with adjustable sluices like a barrage in miniature, and used in the same way to raise the water level and force the required discharge into the heads of branch canals, each serving from twenty to one hundred thousand acres of land. These branch canals in their turn feed smaller branches, called Distributaries, each serving from one to ten thousand acres.

The last stage of distribution controlled by Government is the passage of the water from the Distributary into the private irrigation ditches of the farmers, through Outlet Culverts designed to give to each his fair share according to the area of land which he cultivates. The smaller culverts consist of simple pipes laid under the canal bank, but no engineering work in the land is so important in the eyes of the peasant as his pipe outlet. The reason for restriction is that during part at least of every summer demand exceeds supply, and irrigation water has to be carefully rationed to its users. The method of distribution then adopted is irrigation by rotation. All the distributary canals are divided into three big groups, serving in the aggregate approximately equal areas. To each group water is given for a definite period, usually six or seven days, the canals of the other two groups being meanwhile closed, and the total supply is thus concentrated on one third of the total area. The arrangement of groups and periods is widely advertised beforehand, so that everyone concerned may know when to expect water to be available in that particular canal which serves his land. This system is thoroughly understood and generally appreciated.

In times of scarcity, when the low stage discharge of the Nile is below normal, there is not enough water to fill even one third of the canals up to their full supply level, and water has to be lifted on to the land. At such seasons hundreds of centrifugal pumps, steam or motor driven, thousands of Persian wheels turned by bullocks and of Archimedian screws worked by hand, are kept going all day and most of the summer night. Each farmer is anxious to finish watering his field before the ending of the rotation period stops further irrigation for twelve or fourteen days.

The amount of energy devoted to lifting irrigation water in Egypt is colossal; the practice is obviously wasteful, but there are compensations. One can be quite sure that lifted water is economically used. The peasant will guide it most carefully along the furrows between the rows of growing cotton, whereas he may be tempted to adopt more wholesale methods in the application of water which can be drawn by gravitation from a canal without expenditure of money or energy on his part. Cotton is the all important summer crop of the Delta, and many experts think that it is more liable to be damaged by too much than by too little irrigation water. In any case millions of pounds would have to be spent on conservation works up the river, and large sums on perfecting the distribution system, from the main canal to the pipe outlet, before lift irrigation in summer could be entirely dispensed with.

(To be continued.)

Mr. James McMurray, C.B.E., late chief manager in Persia, has joined the Board of the Imperial Bank of Persia.

The traffic receipts of the Egyptian Delta Light Railways for the ten days ended November 10 amounted to £E14,837, making the total from April 1 £E187,911.

The numbers are announced of 654 Four per Cent. Egyptian Government Irrigation Trust Certificates which have been drawn for redemption on January 1.

Mr. Leslie Cooper, the general manager of the Bank of British West Africa, has been elected chairman of the Committee of the British Overseas Banks' Association for the ensuing year.

The Standing Committee of the Board of Trade, appointed under the Merchandise Marks Act, in their report issued last week recommend that foreign-made carpets, carpeting, floor rugs, floor mats, and matting, made wholly or mainly of textile materials, including felt or paper, should bear a label indicating their country of origin.



The Postal Account

It is often supposed that to live a long way from the nearest branch of a bank, or to be constantly unable to go to the bank in person, is a handicap to the enjoyment of the full advantages which, it is admitted, a banking account offers. Perhaps it is assumed that to conduct an account by post involves 'more letter-writing', or is costly, or is not welcomed by the Bank. It is the aim of the Westminster Bank to dispel such misconceptions by a leaflet entitled *The Postal Account*, which explains the convenience of the method, and offers some clear suggestions.

*A copy will be gladly sent
on application to
the Secretary*

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Engineering Topics

By G. B. B.

Boring.

The paper on the new borehole outfit which was read before the Society of Engineers by Mr. F. H. Mackintosh, was of more than usual interest, and it would seem that the invention should prove to be one of the most valuable advances made in connexion with civil and mining engineering for some time. Broadly speaking, it is a tool which enables anyone to make his own boreholes unaided and at a moment's notice. The engineers for preliminary investigation into a contract, the prospector miles away from civilised parts, where weight has to be reduced to a minimum, and even the geologist to whom only the academic side of this science appeals, will surely welcome this instrument which renders them independent of professional drillers and their plant. The principle of the new tool lies in the property inherent in clays and similar substances, of flowing laterally under pressure. The tool makes a hole about one inch in diameter, but as this is made solely by displacing the material, no debris is brought to the surface, consequently no disfiguring spoil heaps mark the sites of boreholes. The speed with which the tool can be used is surprising, as twenty or more boreholes, each of about 30 feet in depth, can be made in a day's work at no further cost than that of the operator's time. Contrasted with a bill for a similar number of holes made in the orthodox way with drilling rigs, the cost is ridiculously small. But by far the greatest advantage lies in the fact that the operator, by doing his own drilling, thereby gains a much better idea of the sequence and condition of the strata, than the perusal of the most carefully and accurately worded "log" could possibly allow. Moreover, the tool can be used in situations where a drilling rig would be out of the question, such as on the velvet turf of a carefully tended lawn.

In spite of the smallness of the hole, a core sample can be obtained which is amply sufficient to enable a stratum to be identified. It will be realised, of course, that the speed of penetration varies according to the nature of the soil. In marshy ground or wet clay, holes 49 feet deep can be made in just over twelve minutes, whilst in tough London clay a speed of one foot per minute can easily be made up to a depth of 30 or 40 feet. The tool, depending as it does on the tendency of certain materials as clays, coherent sands, brick earth and the like, to flow under blows or pressure, cannot penetrate ground which does not respond to these. For instance, the tool will not go through rock, and although shingle and coarse gravel can be penetrated it is hard on the tool but harder still on the operator, as with such sorts the pebbles fall in and by exercising a cam-like action on the rod, not only retard penetration but render it hard work to withdraw the outfit. The weight of the equipment, which includes all the tools and rods sufficient to reach a depth of 48 feet is about 90 lb.

Tramways and Buses.

Readers of THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA have always been interested in the traffic problem, and the report recently made by Mr. D. L. Clarke and Mr. G. Bryan at the Ministry of Home Affairs, Northern Ireland, who conducted the inquiry into the application of the county borough of Belfast for confirmation of the traffic by-laws with respect to omnibuses, made by the City Council, adds much to our knowledge. It says that no tramway undertaking of any real importance in Great Britain, has been abandoned in favour of omnibuses.

Tramway undertakings, it is said, have some very important advantages over omnibuses for city traffic. In the first place, they have a greater seating capacity and can deal rapidly with a very much larger volume of traffic.

Secondly, the evidence, which was not contradicted at the inquiry, shows that the cost of running a tram is one-third less per cent. than that of running an omnibus. In the third place, there is the very important factor of safety, and, fourthly, the fact that the carrying capacity of tramcars can be extended, at what are known as the peak hours of traffic, without danger in a way that cannot be done with motor buses without undue risk. It is made clear by the inspectors that they are not countenancing overcrowding on any type of public service vehicle, but they add that it is universal experience that at the rush hours a certain latitude must be allowed in so far as it is consistent with public safety. They have no hesitation in saying that it is quite legitimate and safe that a certain number of standing passengers should be allowed in tramcars, but they added, according to the *Belfast News Letter*, such expansion could only be allowed in motor omnibuses to so small an extent as would not materially affect the matter without incurring the risk of a serious accident.

On the other hand, said the inspectors, omnibuses have certain advantages from the point of view of convenience and, in certain circumstances, of efficiency over tramcars. Under favourable conditions they are capable of higher speeds without undue risk; for short distance traffic there is no great difference, but for the longer distances towards a city boundary, the speed of omnibus traffic is greater than that of trams. This is due to the fact that invariably, as the boundaries are approached, the area becomes more thinly populated and there is less frequent picking up and setting down. Instancing the evidence given that the omnibus allowed people to go home for lunch in outlying districts, the inspectors say that they are of opinion that supplemental express omnibus services at the rush hours are of great public convenience. In fact, it is difficult to conceive any other practical method of dealing with the lunch hour and rush hour problems than that of putting on extra omnibuses to assist the tramcars and the existing bus services.

OLD GREEK GOLD LOANS.

The Council of Foreign Bondholders announce that in view of the recent arbitral decision in the dispute between the Greek Government and the International Financial Commission the next coupons will be paid at the following rates per £100 bond.

	Fixed Minimum Interest.	Additional for arrears of 1925 and 1927.	Total.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
4 per cent. Monopoly Loan	... 0 17 3	... 2 9 7	... 3 6 10
5 per cent. Funding Loan	... 0 8 0	... 3 2 0	... 3 10 0
5 per cent. 1881 Loan	... 0 16 0	... 3 0 0	... 3 16 0
5 per cent. 1884 Loan	... 0 16 0	... 3 0 0	... 3 16 0
5 per cent. Piræus Larissa Loan	0 16 0	3 0 0	3 16 0

The Council understand that the payment in respect of the Rentes cannot be fixed until the plus values of 1928 have been ascertained.

Turkey is an important market for foreign hosiery of average quality and medium price (says an American Consular report). While there are a number of small establishments in Constantinople specialising in the manufacture of medium grades of hosiery, especially socks, the domestic product still leaves much to be desired from the point of view of quality, style, and construction. Medium and average grade hosiery has been manufactured locally for the past several years, but inferior in quality to the foreign product. As a consequence, the majority of consumers express a decided preference for the foreign article even at higher prices.

BULGARIAN SHIPPING DEVELOPMENTS.

The following review of shipping developments in Bulgaria is given in the recent British Consular Report.

In the port of Varna there has been a slight increase in British tonnage. Tonnage of other nationalities remained substantially the same as in recent years.

The Bulgarian Trading and Steam Navigation Company ordered during the year from the Werft Nobiskrug of Rensburg a cargo and passenger steamer of 300 tons to cost £29,000 for delivery in March, 1928, also the cargo steamer "Carniola," from the Lloyd Triestino Company, of 2,941 tons for the sum of £28,000.

A new Bulgarian Shipping Company has been formed at Varna—the Bulgarian Co-operative Shipping Society. "Bulgaria." The Company has raised at the time of writing a capital of 2,000,000 leva, and it aims at the purchase of several small steamers for coastal trading.

The shipbuilding yard and dry dock begun in 1926 by the Bulgarian Society for the Construction of Ships, Locomotives and Trucks was last reported to be almost complete and to be starting work in March, 1928. The society has secured orders amounting in all to 15 million leva, and increased its capital to the sum of 32,000,000 leva.

The Bulgarian Government has abandoned its scheme for enlarging the port of Varna, which is considered large enough for existing requirements.

In the port of Bourgas there has been an increase in British tonnage. There has been a slight decrease in the total tonnage of all nationalities, due to the disappearance of Turkish and Greek coasting vessels.

The situation with regard to freights is far from satisfactory, and the disparity in rates from United Kingdom and Continental ports still continues, with the result that British lines are still obliged to accept the lower rates ruling from the Continent. In order, therefore, to compete with his Continental rival the British exporter has, in many cases, to adopt the highly inconvenient procedure of shipping goods to Antwerp, for example, for transshipment into bottoms bound for the Black Sea which in all probability also load at a British port.

The South India Railway Company has placed orders for two twin-screw passenger vessels with David and William Henderson and Co., Glasgow, and for 11 boilers for locomotives with the Hunslet Engineering Co., Leeds.

It is reported that the Ivo Rachitch Atlantic Navigation Co., of Split, and the Yugoslav-American Shipping Co., of the same port, have arranged an amalgamation. The united undertaking, which is to be known as the Yugoslav Lloyd Company, will have a capital of 275 million dinars (£1,000,000) and will possess 24 vessels.

The capital of the Banque de Credit Franco-Roumain is being increased from 10,000,000 francs to 11,000,000 francs. It has also been decided to change the bank's name into Banque Commerciale de France, and to establish a branch in Bucharest.

TENDERS INVITED.

Tenders are invited for the following contracts, and must be made by the dates mentioned.

(Particulars of tenders marked D.O.T. are to be obtained from the Department of Overseas Trade, 35, Old Queen Street, S.W.1.)

TURKEY.

Motor Patrol Boats.—A report has been received from the Commercial Secretary at Constantinople (Colonel H. Woods, O.B.E.) as to the possible requirements of the Turkish Customs Administration with regard to motor patrol vessels. Further particulars can be obtained by interested British firms upon application to the Department of Overseas Trade. Reference No. A.X. 7207 should be quoted.

EGYPT.

Pumps, Etc.—The Egyptian Ministry of the Interior invites tenders for the supply of pumps, electric motors, filters, air compressors, also the sinking of an artesian well. December 20. (D.O.T.)

Paper, Etc.—Tenders are invited by the Ministry of Finance for the supply of paper, stationery, chemicals, for Photocopying Office, other miscellaneous articles such as canvas sacks, required for the year 1929-1930. January 31.

Damp Proof Braided Cords, Etc.—The Egyptian State Railways, Telegraphs and Telephones invites tenders for damp proof braided cords and plugs; structural steel, rivets, bolts and nuts; turnover levers complete; chamois leather.

Iron Money Safes.—The Central Stationery Stores, Ministry of Finance, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of iron money safes. January 2.

Machine Tools, Etc.—The Egyptian Ministry of Education invites tenders for the supply of machine tools, steam engine 12/15 B.H.P., boiler and workshop equipment, etc. December 20. (D.O.T.)

Bridge.—The Ministry of Communications, Administration of Bridges and Roads, Egyptian Government, invites tenders for the construction of a bridge over the Canal Ibrahimieh. January 3. (D.O.T.)

Electric System.—The Ministry of the Interior, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply and installation of a proposed electric system for Beba. January 24. (D.O.T.)

FORTHCOMING SAILINGS.

The following are the sailings for the Near East and India, the ports of departure and closing dates for cargo being given in parentheses:—

Anchor Line.—S.s. Britannia for Bombay (Birkenhead, December 24). (For passenger sailings and dates see advertisement.)

Anchor Brocklebank Line.—S.s. Mahanada for Calcutta (Birkenhead, December 11).

Bibby Line.—S.s. Oxfordshire for Port Said, Port Sudan, Colombo, and Rangoon (Birkenhead, December 12).

British India Line.—S.s. Morvada for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, December 15); s.s. Hatimura for Bombay and Karachi (London, December 22).

Cunard Line.—S.s. Bantia for Gibraltar, Malta, Patras, Piræus, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, and Constantza, also at Volo if sufficient inducement (Glasgow and Swansea December 7, Liverpool December 8); s.s. Bactria for Casablanca, Gibraltar, Genoa, Leghorn, Naples, Palermo, Messina, Catania, Bari, Venice, Trieste, and Fiume, also at Corfu, Gruz, and Ancona if inducement (Liverpool December 22, Swansea-December 27).

Johnson Line.—S.s. Kenmore for Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, and Constantza (Liverpool, January 19); s.s. Jessmore for Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, and Constantza (Liverpool, January 19).

P. and O. Line.—S.s. Rajputana for Bombay (London, December 7); s.s. Behar for Calcutta (London, December 8).

Prince Line.—S.s. Cyprian Prince for Tunis, Malta, Alexandria, Jaffa, Haifa, Beyrout, and Cyprus (Manchester, December 13); s.s. Syrian Prince for Tunis, Malta, Alexandria, Jaffa, Haifa, Beyrout, and Cyprus (Manchester, December 22).

Ellerman and Papayanni Lines.—S.s. Fabian for Gibraltar, Malta, Alexandria, Jaffa*, and Haifa* (Liverpool, December 8); s.s. Gerano for Genoa, Leghorn, Naples, Palermo, Messina, Catania, Bari, Gruz*, Ancona*, Venice, Trieste, and Fiume (Liverpool December 8, Swansea December 13); s.s. Andalusian for Malta, Alexandria, Jaffa*, and Haifa* (Liverpool, December 22); s.s. Algerian for Algiers*, Patras, Piræus, Volo*, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, and Varna (Liverpool December 22, Swansea December 22); A steamer for Gibraltar, Malta, Alexandria, Jaffa*, and Haifa* (Glasgow, December 28); s.s. Kyno for Gibraltar, Malta, Alexandria, Jaffa*, and Haifa* (Liverpool, December 29); s.s. Trentino for Algiers*, Malta, Piræus, Syria*, Volo*, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, and Varna (Liverpool, January 5). *Subject to sufficient inducement. Cargo taken on through Bill of Lading to:—Algerian ports via Algiers; Moroccan ports via Gibraltar; Tripoli (Barbary) via Malta; Syria and Cyprus via Alexandria; Greek out-ports via Piræus or other convenient ports.

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THE WEEK'S FINANCE.

(By Our Financial Expert.)

London, December 4.

The stock markets have again spent a fairly quiet week, the approach of the account having helped to slow things down in the latter part. The new issue of British Government $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. Treasury Bonds, into which holders of National War Bonds and Treasury Bonds maturing next February have rights of conversion, has been well received in the Consol market and the new bonds are expected to have a favourable influence upon the prices of other British Government securities. The option of exchange into 4 per cent. Consols in July next at a price very little above the present quotation gives them an attraction for investors who cannot at the moment decide whether they require a long or a short-dated investment. An interesting event of the week was the publication by the Bank of England of its weekly statement in a new form. The new statement shows the effect of the recent amalgamation of the Treasury and Bank of England note issues and also contains innovations in the way of more detailed information regarding deposits and securities which will be generally welcomed in that they render the statement considerably less cryptic than it has hitherto been.

Reading Balance-sheets.

The average investor cannot have an inside knowledge of the business in which he invests. His decisions must be based on his general knowledge of the industry in question and upon published statements of the company. Of these published statements the balance sheet is one of the most important, and before buying shares in any company an investor should carefully study the most recent of these documents. A balance-sheet shows the condition of the company at a certain date, what are its assets and what its liabilities: a comparison between two balance-sheets shows the changes that have occurred between those

two dates. An intending investor should first consider the amount of capital ranking before and after his own in case of winding up, and for a share in profits. Similarly, attention should be given to the size of the reserves the company has accumulated out of profits. These increase the funds available to earn profits and may be utilised in an emergency to tide over bad periods. The present solvency of the company can be gauged from a comparison of its floating assets—cash, marketable investments, stocks and debtors—with its current liabilities—creditors, accrued interest, etc. An equally important question, the company's earning power, is less easy to assess. The Companies Act of 1928 enforces the segregation of fixed assets distinguishing tangible items, such as plant; intangible, such as goodwill; and "fictitious," such as preliminary expenses and floating. But the investor cannot ascertain whether the amounts at which the assets are valued represent their realisable worth.

Patent Companies' Finance.

That many investors do not give the future prospects of companies in which they invest their money a sufficiently critical examination is demonstrated by the recent popularity of new issues in companies formed to exploit untried patents. During this year 51 companies exploiting patent rights have invited public subscriptions for £9,994,025 of capital. In only 15 of these companies has the invention been tried out on a commercial scale. In the case of an appreciable number of the inventions the patent rights had not actually been granted, a public issue being made on the strength of a mere patent application. Even where an invention has been patented the investor should remember that at best a patent, with its maximum term of 16 years, is a wasting asset. Moreover, a patent process is not necessarily a valuable asset; it has to prove its worth in competition with other processes, not only those of the same type but those which have other advantages. The investor should concern himself less with the merits of the invention as an invention than with the prospects of the company apart from its patent rights, depending on the outlook for the industry as a whole, and the capabilities of the men directing the company's activities.

Bank Shares.

The announcement of a bonus offer by the Standard Bank of South Africa will have directed the attention of many investors to the possibilities of bank shares as an investment. Bank shares are popular because they are of unimpeachable security. Banks depend for their success upon public confidence and therefore have all built up strong reserves. In addition to disclosed reserves which often equal the bank's capital, there are large hidden reserves. All these funds are earning profits for the shareholders and are also available for use in time of emergency, thus rendering the capital more secure. It is true that in most cases bank shares are not fully paid-up, so that there is a theoretical possibility of shareholders being called upon to make up a deficiency in assets. As there is practically no chance of this being needed in the case of any well-known bank, at least in Britain, the risk is more theoretical than real, but it does serve to give buyers rather better prices. Banks operating in the colonies or in other new and growing areas, such as Latin America, must take rather greater risks than is usual with banks in older countries. A fairly high yield for the class of security can therefore be obtained on some overseas bank shares, as, for example, the Anglo-South-American Bank (£6 3s. per cent.) or the Bank of British West Africa (£5 5s. per cent.). The ultra-cautious may prefer shares in banks operating in this country, such as Lloyds, which yield £5 1s. per cent., or Martins (£5 3s. per cent.).

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COLOMBO—Skrine & Co.	HONG KONG—The Bank Line, Ltd.
BEIRA—Beira Shipping Agency.	BANGKOK—Siam Forest Co., Ltd.
DELAGOA BAY—John T. Rennie & Sons.	SINGAPORE—Huttenbach Bros. & Co.
DURBAN—Andrew Weir & Co.	MAURITIUS—Adam & Co.
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British Consular Reports

IX.—BULGARIA.

(Continued from page 662.)

Aviation.

The opening of the first commercial air lines in Bulgaria, two in number, took place in 1927.

At the end of January an agreement was signed between the Bulgarian Government and the Bounavad Aviation Company, a Germano-Bulgarian concern created with the assistance of the German firm of Junker. The company have been granted sole exploitation rights during ten years of the lines Vidin-Rustchuk-Varna, Sofia-Rustchuk-Varna and Sofia-Bourgas. Of the three, only the line Sofia-Rustchuk-Varna is in operation as yet, having been inaugurated in October, 1927. It maintains weekly two passenger, postal and goods services in both directions, with all-metal Junker planes, the single passenger fare from Sofia to Varna working out at roughly £3 16s. The Company are to receive from the Bulgarian Government a subsidy of 10 million leva, which will be refunded at the end of the concessionary period. They are entitled to the free use of Government aerodromes.

In March the Bulgarian Government further concluded an agreement with the French "Compagnie Internationale de Navigation Aérienne," granting to the latter during three years the sole right to exploit the aerial line Dragan-Sofia-Plovdiv-Svilengrad, forming the Bulgarian portion of of the company's through line from Paris to Constantinople. The service, which is for passengers, mails and goods, was inaugurated on October 1, and aims at two flights a week in each direction. Under the company's agreement flights may be suspended during three months of the year in winter, a provision which has already been taken advantage of.

Eighty per cent. of the ground personnel must be Bulgarian and one-third of the flying personnel, one year from the opening of the line. The company have permission to build two aerodromes in Bulgaria.

On April 9 the Bulgarian Government conceded to the Czech firm "Aero-Praga" a concession for the erection on Bulgarian soil of an aeroplane factory capable at the end of the fifth year of its existence of an annual output of not less than 100 aeroplanes. The company may, if desired, extend its production to embrace lorries, automobiles, agricultural machinery, etc. It is not yet known what progress has been made towards realising this concession.

British Trade.

In comparison with competitors from other countries, British firms as a general rule quote higher prices and offer less credit. In cases where credit is offered it is too often without sufficient inquiry into the status of customers or without adequate security, and appreciable losses have ensued during recent years for no other reason.

British firms might still further increase their business in counts at present catered for by Italian and Czechoslovak firms. Cotton piece-goods of British manufacture are either too expensive, or are not offered on competitive credit terms, or do not cater for the demands of Bulgaria customers in quality and design.

Woollen piece-goods of British manufacture maintain a good reputation for quality, but manufacturers might aim at providing shorter lengths of any given pattern, and so cater for those of exclusive tastes.

In both light and heavy machinery British prices are too high and credit is insufficient. The majority of orders for machinery at present go to firms in Czechoslovakia. The majority of orders for copper and aluminium sheets go to German firms who offer better credit facilities than the British. For black and galvanised sheets British firms are unable to compete with

the lower prices quoted by Belgian firms, who secure the majority of available orders.

Rails.—British firms must lower their prices in order to compete with French and Belgian manufacturers.

Whatever difficulties British firms have experienced in the past in competition with Germany in the finer chemicals and aniline dyes, they should have no difficulty in increasing their orders for the heavier chemicals such as caustic soda and naphthalene.

Radio Sets and Parts.—A few British loud-speakers have been sold in Sofia. In general British prices are too high, and insufficient credit is forthcoming. German, Dutch, French and American sets and parts secure the majority of orders.

Toilet Articles, Soaps, Perfumery. — Imports of British manufacture total annually some 5 million leva. There is room for increase in the imports of soaps, tooth-brushes, razors, etc., if prices are reduced.

MOTORING FROM CAIRO TO THE CAPE.

Mr. G. S. Bouwer, the South African racing motorist, averaged just on 250 miles a day for 9,000 miles on his return journey across Africa from London, which he left in August to Cape Town, where he has just arrived. He undertook the adventure to demonstrate the practicability of a highway between Cairo and the Cape, and he travelled by a route which he had prepared for himself seven months ago. "Although I averaged 300 miles a day over the iron-stone Nubian deserts," Mr. Bouwer states in a message to the Dunlop Company in London, "and 500 miles a day on bush track in Central Africa, I had a bare 30 hours in which to complete the last and most difficult 1,000 miles, and the slightest delay would have ruined my chance. For the first time in my experience I drove this last lap without one puncture; I had never previously had fewer than four on that route. I had no mechanical trouble at all, and only one crash when I hit a tree stump at speed, smashed two front springs, and bent a front axle." At one time Mr. Bouwer was 90 miles from any water supply, and he carried a 40-gallon petrol tank in the back seat, with a five-gallon auxiliary oil tank.

The gross production of crude oil of the Phoenix Oil and Transport group of companies for November was 29,502 tons.

The output of the Anglo-Egyptian Oilfields for the week ended November 30 amounted to 5,215 tons.

The ordinary general meeting of the Associated Cotton Ginners of Egypt, Ltd., will be held at Alexandria on December 21.

The production of Hamilton's Oil Concessions (Roumania) for November amounted to 4,500 tons (31,500 barrels).

The Malta and Mediterranean Gas Company announces an interim dividend of 4 per cent., free of tax, on the ordinary shares, payable December 13.

An Alexandria message states that the second Government estimate for the cotton crop of 1928 is as follows:—Unginned: Sakellaridis, 2,390,015 kantars; other varieties, 4,494,102 kantars. The average yield of Sakellaridis is 2.99 kantars and other varieties 4.79 kantars. The total average yield is 3.96 kantars. Ginned: Sakellaridis, 2,342,215 kantars; other varieties, 4,863,630 kantars. The average yield of Sakellaridis is 2.93 kantars and other varieties 5.17 kantars. The total average yield is 4.14 kantars.

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THE DRIED FRUIT MARKET.

Messrs. J. C. Houghton and Co., of Liverpool, report as follows under date November 30:—

Currants.

Trading continued of a disappointing character, and unfortunately no improvement in the demand can be reported. Throughout the month there has been an apathy and lack of confidence on the part of all branches, the distributing trade being undoubtedly nervous of falling prices and holders showing great anxiety to liquidate, consequently we have experienced an easing in values the whole time.

The Central Currant Office has reiterated its obligation in the following terms:—"The Central Currant Office undertakes to buy, at any time, any quantity offered of the 1928 crop at 3,500 drachmæ per 1,000 Venetian pounds, corresponding to about 46s. 6d. per cwt., duty paid. This constitutes, therefore, a minimum price, and remains in force until August 1 next, when the Central Currant Office undertakes to purchase any surplus at the following rates, viz.:—3,900 drachmæ for Provincial; 4,000 drachmæ for Pyrgos, Amalias, Zante, and Patras; 4,100 drachmæ for Gulf and Vostizza." This will have a beneficial effect throughout the country, as it must be realised that market risks at present prices are negligible.

Values show a decline on the month of 1s. to 2s. on lower and medium grades, and 2s. to 5s. on the first qualities of Vostizza. Sales were: Pyrgos, 47s. to 47s. 6d.; Amalias and Patras, 48s. to 49s. 6d.; Zante, 48s. 6d. to 49s. 6d.; Gulf, 52s. to 56s.; Vostizza, 53s. to 62s.; Finest, 68s. Closing quotations:—Pyrgos, 47s.; Amalias and Patras, 48s. to 50s.; Zante, 48s. to 49s. 6d.; Gulf, 52s. to 56s.; Vostizza, 53s. to 60s.

Sultanas.

Smyrna.—In the early days of the month the small arrivals per s.s. Roumelian and Polo were quickly disposed of, and the trade had recourse to London to fill its requirements, but later arrivals per s.s. Mardinian, Bosnia, Kantara, Algerian, and Oporto (although these steamers brought very small cargoes in comparison with what we are accustomed to at this season of the year, and a proportion also were against c.i.f. sales), were more than sufficient to meet requirements, and the article has lapsed into a state of extreme quietness, with values on the decline. Business was done in Medium qualities at 40s. to 42s. 6d., Good at 50s. to 52s., Fine 56s. to 62s.

Cretan.—Coloury parcels of this growth were disposed of at 61s. to 70s.

Greek.—Only small quantities are arriving. Sales are: Ordinary qualities, 40s. to 42s. 6d.; better grade, 60s. to 65s.; fine, 70s. to 80s.

Old Fruit.—In very small compass, trade being retail at 39s. to 40s.

Figs.

The demand has fallen off, and little progress has been made with the small stock remaining. Large Boxes, Layers, 50s. to 80s.; Small Boxes, 65s. to 74s.; Locoums, 85s. to 105s.; Pulled, 42s. 6d. Bags Genuines, 31s. to 33s. 6d.; Choice, 35s. to 36s.

Messrs. C. J. Giraud and Co., in a report dated November 24, review the Smyrna market position as follows:—

Sultanas.

The estimated sales to date total 34,100 tons, as against 35,000 tons for the same period of the previous twelve months.

Closing prices Smyrna, per cwt. c.i.f. London, for types 12 to 17 are:—27s.; 29s.; 31s.; 34s.; 38s.; 42s. 6d.

Market Conditions.—Since our last report, issued on November 3, the market has remained fairly steady. A slight improvement in the demand was noticeable during the earlier part of the month, but this semblance of activity has died out this week.

Prices in local currency have hardly fluctuated over this month, but an improvement in exchange rates results in a small reduction in foreign equivalents on parities of the beginning of the month.

It is difficult to assess accurately the extent of stocks remaining in the country. They are variously estimated at between 10,000 tons to 13,000 tons.

Types 13 and 14 constitute the bulk of supplies now available. Type 18 may be regarded as practically exhausted. The visible supply of type 17 on the market is exceedingly small.

Figs.

The estimated arrivals on the Smyrna market since the opening of the season total 23,600 tons, as against 21,547 tons for the same period of the previous twelve months; the estimated sales to date total 24,100 tons, against 21,547 tons.

Market Conditions.—The balance of stocks remaining is low grade fruit and will be consumed locally for distillery purposes. The export season is over.

For the first nine months of the current year Bulgaria had an adverse trade balance of 399 million leva, the exports amounting to 3,888 million leva and the imports to 4,287 millions. For the corresponding period of the previous year there was a favourable balance of 272 millions.

COMPANY NOTES AND REPORTS.

P. AND O.

The report of the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company for the year ended September 30 last states that after providing for depreciation and adding £92,050 to the reserve fund, bringing it up to £1,700,000, and setting aside the premium of £1,000,000 received on the issue of new deferred stock, to be used for new tonnage construction, there is a credit balance on the year's accounts, including £118,326 19s. 7d. brought forward from last year, of £923,029 os. 10d., against £918,001 os. 11d. in the previous year. The directors propose to deal with this amount as follows:—(1) 5 per cent. dividend on the preferred stock (of which 2½ per cent. was paid in May last), £152,000; (2) 12 per cent. dividend on the deferred stock, free of income tax (of which 5 per cent. was paid in May last), £514,435 9s. 10d.; (3) reserve for redemption of debenture stock, bringing it up to £1,360,000, £103,132 7s. 2d.; (4) write off charges on issue of new deferred stock, £11,531 7s. 9d.; (5) transfer to provident good service fund, £20,000; (6) carry forward to next year, £121,929 16s. 1d.—£923,029 os. 10d.

The China, Devanha, and Assaye have been sold at prices considerably above their value in the company's books. The difference between the value at which they stood in the books and the prices realised has helped to depreciate the book value of the rest of the fleet. The Ranchi again made a number of cruises to the Mediterranean and North Sea ports, and as the results obtained were satisfactory, she will be similarly employed next year. The new steamer, Viceroy of India, which will be delivered in the spring, will also make a cruise after a voyage to Bombay.

By re-arrangement of the programme the company is now able to provide as a rule a direct weekly service by mail steamers between this country, Marseilles and Bombay in both directions, avoiding transshipment at Aden, which permits of the withdrawal of Razmak from the Aden-Bombay ferry service and leaves her free for direct runs between Europe and Bombay.

A property has recently been acquired in Warwick House Street, immediately at the back of the company's passenger office in Cockspur Street, and a building of five floors where passengers' baggage can be received and stored is now being erected which should be ready for use by the end of the year.

The directors explained in last year's report that the insurance fund for outside insurance had been closed, but that the account remained open till all outstanding risks had been met. At the end of the financial year the amount at credit of this fund was £3,073,278 10s. 4d., which is treated as a liability. There are still some claims to pay, but it is anticipated when these have been liquidated in the course of the current or year following the fund will stand at about £3,000,000.

There are signs of improvement in trade, but the labour situation in Australia in September and October gave a set-back in that country, as has so often been the case before. With the accession to power again of Mr. Bruce, the Prime Minister, it is hoped that what has been tantamount to a negation of law will now cease.

Trade with China continues to suffer by the unsettled condition of affairs in that country. The company shares with the mercantile community, both British and Chinese, the hope which found expression in the King's speech at the opening of Parliament, that the efforts which China is making to establish a settled government will succeed, and with the cessation of civil war, better trade conditions may be expected to ensue.

The business with India is without special feature, but the export trade of the country shows a general increase in almost all the principal items, and the exports to Europe have doubled. The company's passenger traffic continues to be maintained.

MADRAS AND SOUTHERN MAHRATTA RAILWAY.

The report for the year ended March 31 last states that the net earnings of the State and company's lines, after excluding all earnings and working expenses of branch railways worked under separate contracts, were Rs.3,37,09,065. Adjustments in connexion with unrealised outstandings, and provident fund and gratuity transactions of employees of old Madras Railway, bring the total net earnings to Rs.3,38,14,173. The divisible surplus amounted to Rs.2,64,06,048, of which the company's share is Rs.71,55,868. Excluding the guaranteed interest of 3½ per cent. per annum, the surplus profits payable to the company, after deduction of Indian income tax and super-tax, amounted to Rs.40,59,010. The company's share of the surplus profits from the Mysore State Railways for the year amounted to Rs.60,540. The combined total of the company's surplus profits, remitted partly at 1s. 6d. and partly at 1s. 6 1-32d. per rupee, amounted to £311,307. The balance in stockholders' revenue account on April 1, 1927, was £522,518, of which £335,156 was hypothecated to dividends, in addition to 3½ per cent. guaranteed interest, paid in 1927-28, leaving £187,362 available for a carry forward. In addition to the surplus profits of £311,397 of 1927-28, a sum of £33,151 was realised as interest on the company's investments. On the other side, the income tax demand for the year was £46,620, of which £21,961 was received from India in the form of relief in respect of United Kingdom income tax, reducing the charge to stockholders' revenue account to £24,559. Incidental expenses amounted to £1,551, leaving available for dividends payable in 1928-29 a sum of £505,799. The directors recommend a final additional dividend, exclusive of £1 15s. per cent. guaranteed interest, of £4 5s. per cent., less English income tax, payable on January 1, 1929, leaving £170,643 to be carried forward. The proposed distribution will bring the total distribution for the year up to 11 per cent.

Cotton and Cotton Goods.

THE LIVERPOOL COTTON MARKET.

Messrs. Reynolds and Gibson report as follows for the week ended November 28:—

Egyptian Futures.

Sakel Contract.—For the greater part of the week this contract has been dominated by the strength displayed in Alexandria, where, as mentioned by us last week, some influential interests are trying to manipulate prices to higher levels. So far their efforts might be termed to have been successful, inasmuch as a fairly substantial rise has been engineered; the movement, however, in our opinion, has started too early and lacks the essential backing of trade and general outside support. Nevertheless, it must be borne in mind that Sakel markets this season will be particularly vulnerable to manipulation and it appears probable that Sudan Sakels will again prove a most valuable asset to Lancashire both as a spinning proposition and a price restraining factor. By forcing Egyptian Sakels right over their real economic differences with other growths holders in Alexandria are working directly against their own ultimate interests, and the effect in this country in particular is to induce spinners by every effort to utilise other cottons. Mills this season are particularly well placed to cut down their consumption of fine qualities, as not only in certain counts are yarns being sold at a dead loss, but, generally speaking, the whole section hold very light engagements for this period of the year. Trading in our market continues to be cramped by the impossibility of importing owing to the local discount with Alexandria; we cannot anticipate the position improving until we get more into line with overseas values, as a contract which cannot attract shipments or hedges is bound to suffer from lack of interest. This position is beginning to be more widely recognised here and it is quite probable that in the near future steps will be taken to reconsider the position of certain varieties, white cotton in particular, with a view to broadening the market. Yesterday morning values showed about 100 points advance on the week, but since a limited amount of long liquidation and a set-back in the American market have caused a reactionary tendency. We have little confidence in the recent movement, and are quite prepared to witness the development of an easier undertone, especially should the recent "bullish" enthusiasm displayed in other markets receive a check.

Upper Contract.—This market continues to attract attention from speculative, straddle, and in lesser degree trade interests, and considerable activity has again been displayed in the trading throughout the past week. Values have moved pretty much in accordance with the fluctuations in the American markets; hence, for the greater part of the time since our last report a gradual upward movement has been in progress. At the time of writing, however, a moderate reactionary tendency is in operation, the more cautious portion of the "bull" element liquidating their holding, evidently considering that the recent appreciation in the level discounts possibilities of a further rise in the immediate future.

Straddle interests who are still very heavily long in both the January and March positions show no sign as yet of liquidating or transferring their cotton; in the meantime we notice continued selling here by spot houses, and have little doubt that this means further heavy additions to the already large imports which will augment the local stock during the next few weeks. The trade demand still shows signs of slackening, due probably in part to spinners having booked requirements freely during last month and also to the American staple position. For a long view present prices may be considered reasonable, but for the immediate future some further easing may be witnessed; a fairly large long account has been gradually accumulating latterly and a halt in the upward movement in American cotton would be quickly reflected in the action of this market.

Egyptian Spot.

In sympathy with futures, a further substantial advance has taken place in the quotations for spot Egypts, which now show an advance of 205 points for F.G.F. Sakel, 150 for F.G.F. Uppers, and 65 points for F.G.F. Pilon, since the low levels touched at the beginning of the season (September 19, 1928). This unlooked-for strength has rather taken the trade by surprise, and as the recent rise has been the result very largely of speculative manipulation, it can hardly be wondered at that in many quarters the rise is considered unjustified. This does not necessarily imply that the advance will not be maintained, however, and we advise consumers to review the situation very carefully before committing themselves to a definite policy at the moment.

Although the strongest advance has taken place in Sakel, there has been an entire absence of anything in the nature of panic buying on the part of spinners; in fact, trading in Sakels this week has been little more than normal, which, for these times, means very poor. Most of the buying has been in the "off" qualities, generally between 12d. and 16d., with a much smaller percentage within a range of 50 to 150 on contracts. Fine Sakel has again been neglected. In Uppers, as usual, a fairly steady business has resulted at from 50 off to 25 on January. Pilon has been in better request at from 13½d. to 14½d., and Nahda cotton also has, this week,

attracted some attention from buyers, who have found this particular market somewhat irregular. An improved business has taken place in Sudan Sakel, and it looks as if interest in this growth was slowly reviving.

C.i.f. business has been very quiet on the whole, but forwardings to spinners last week were returned at 11,854 bales Egyptian and 965 bales Sudan. Estimated sales for the week, 1,300 bales Egyptian and 1,100 bales Sudan. Quotations of Sakel show a net advance of 80 points, and those of Upper and Pilon 45 points, on the week. F.G.F. Sakel to-day, 19.10d. F.G.F. Upper to-day, 12.70d. F.G.F. Pilon to-day, 13.30d. nominal.

THE EGYPTIAN MARKET.

The Alexandria Commercial Company, in their report for the week ended November 22, state:—

Since our last report the futures market has been relatively active and the undertone rather firm. The week's summary of price movements is as follows:—Sakellaridis: November, 35.65 dollars, 0.59 dollars up; January, 36.19 dollars, 0.64 dollars up; March, 36.77 dollars, 0.78 dollars up; May, 37.20 dollars, 0.80 dollars up; November, 1929, 37.72 dollars, 0.92 dollars up. Ashmouni: December, 22.48 dollars, 0.33 dollars up; February, 23.05 dollars, 0.40 dollars up; April, 23.55 dollars, 0.45 dollars up; October, 24.52 dollars, 0.38 dollars up.

Sakel.—During the week under review we have to record a succession of slightly, but continually, advancing markets, and this in spite of the fact that the amount of business done has not been of great volume. It is difficult to assign reasons for the continued firmness, but among the contributing factors which may be mentioned are the narrowness of the market, the marked lack of sellers, the not too abundant supply in prospect for the season, and finally, the disinclination of operators generally to take the bear side of the market in Sakel.

The demand from spinners, although moderate, continues to be fairly regular. It is generally accepted that spinners are not well

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covered with supplies of Sakel, but, as they consider the ruling premium over the prices of other growths to be exaggerated, they are only covering immediate needs.

Even giving due consideration to the cautious attitude of spinners, any marked reaction from present prices does not seem probable, at any rate for the time being; it is only logical, however, sooner or later to look for some narrowing of the present premium of Sakel over Uppers.

The Sakel/Uppers straddle (January/February) this week stands at 1,314 points, against 1,290 points last week and 830 points at this time last year.

Against the third November tender, 3,250 kantars dockets were issued, making the total for the month 18,500 kantars.

Uppers.—At the beginning of the week the market for Uppers looked somewhat heavy; this, however, quickly cleared with the appreciable advance in New York of the last day or two, helped by a fair amount of new business from spinners, chiefly for prompt shipment. The effect was immediately apparent on the Minet el Bassal spot market, where quite exceptional activity has been the feature of the week. We maintain our opinion that Uppers at present levels are very reasonable, and we look for a material advance in prices in the not distant future. The Ashmouni-American straddle (December/January) this week stands at 250 points, against 261 points last week and 754 points at this time last year.

The week's receipts amount to 391,731 kantars, against exports 252,393 kantars; the stock in Alexandria stands at 3,111,637 kantars.

Spot.—We have had another busy week at Minet el Bassal and

sales amount to about 34,500 bales, of which we estimate about 10,300 bales Sakellaridis, 21,100 bales Ashmouni and Zagora, 2,100 bales Pilion, 600 bales Nahda, 250 bales White, and 100 bales other varieties.

Sakellaridis: A good business has been done covering all grades. Spot differences are without much change except that Fully Fair and below show some slight tendency to ease.

Ashmouni and Zagora: Continue in very good favour with buyers, and an excellent turnover has resulted covering all grades, but with medium qualities preponderating. Spot differences are generally without quotable change, but the grades round Fully Good Fair are inclined to stiffen.

Pilion: A good business has been done in all qualities. Spot differences are slightly dearer than last week.

Other Varieties: Nahda, as for some time past, is quickly absorbed as and when offered, and a good business has been done at about last week's differences. White has been in good demand and a good business has been done; spot differences are rather dearer. A small business has taken place in Maarad and Fouadi.

Up-country: There is nothing very special to report. The crop movement is generally lighter and the advance in the futures market has encouraged holders to be more exacting, particularly so in Upper Egypt. The Government has not yet issued any official announcement as to the law restricting the acreage. It is generally expected that no special announcement will be made, the law, strictly speaking, remaining in force until the end of the next cotton season.

Stock and Share Markets.

LONDON EXCHANGE		Prices on Dec. 3	INDIAN EXCHANGES.		Prices on Nov. 14
Government Stocks.			Government Loans.		
Egyptian 4 p.c. Unified Debt ...	85½		3½% Government Paper ...	...	73 7/16
Do. Pref. 3½ p.c. 1890 ...	74½		Banks		
Do. Turk 4 p.c. 1891 ...	90½		Imperial Bank of India ...	1467	
Do. 3½ p.c. Eg. Trib. Bonds '94 ...	81½		Bank of India ...	97	
Bulgaria 4½ p.c. Gold, 1917 ...	29		Central Bank of India ...	25	
Do. 7 p.c. ...	90		Coal.		
Greek 5 p.c., 1881 ...	73½		Baraboni ...	1	
Do. 5 p.c., 1884 ...	74½		Bengal ...	395	
Do. 4 p.c. Rentes, 1889 ...	60		Burrakur ...	107	
Do. 5 p.c. 1890 ...	72		East Indian ...	17½	
Do. 5 p.c. Funding Loan, 1893 ...	72		Equitable ...	18½	
Do. 4 p.c. Rails, Loan, 1902 ...	62½		Fench Valley ...	17	
Do. 4 p.c. Loan, 1910 ...	62½		Ranegunge ...	54	
Do. 5 p.c. Loan, 1914 (Lon. issue) ...	77½		Standard ...	...	
Do. 7 p.c., 1924 ...	101½		Cotton.		
Do. 6 p.c. St. Bds. ...	92		Bengal Nagpur ...	128½	
Palestine 5 p.c. ...	104½		Bombay Dyeing, etc. ...	857½	
Persia 5 p.c., 1911 ...	89½		Bowreah ...	339	
Roumania 4 p.c. Ext. ...	70½		Buckingham and Carnatic ...	185	
Do. 4 p.c. Consolidation ...	48½		Cawnpore Textiles ...	392½	
Do. 4½ p.c. 1913 ...	57		Century ...	502½	
Sudan 5½ p.c. Guar. Bds. ...	108 3/16		Central India ...	91	
Sudan 3½ p.c. ...	70½		Elgin ...	80	
Do. 3 p.c. ...	61 1/16		Khatu Makaanji ...	325	
Do. 5½ p.c. ...	103½		Muir ...	289	
Do. 4½ p.c. ...	93 1/16		New Ring ...	355	
Turkish 4 p.c. Unified ...	24		Phoenix ...	461½	
Banks.			Svadeshi ...	...	
Agri. Bank of Egypt ...	81 1/16		Jute.		
Bank of British West Africa ...	411/16x0		Alliance ...	600	
Bank of Roumania ...	86 3/4		Barnagore ...	310	
Barclays Dom. Col. Pf. ...	29½		Budge Budge ...	636	
Chartered Bank of India ...	22		Clive ...	41½	
Eastern ...	613/16		Dalhousie ...	308½	
Hambros ...	10½		Delta ...	620	
Ionian Bank ...	7½		Fort Gloster ...	970	
Imperial Bank of Persia ...	11 5/16		Gourepore ...	516	
Land Bank of Egypt Ord. ...	19½		Howrah ...	57½	
Lloyds ...	64½		Kamarhaty ...	741	
Mercantile Bank of India A ...	34½		Kankannarah ...	611½	
Do. B ...	34½		Khardah ...	100	
National Bank of Egypt ...	36		Kinnison ...	1,050	
National Bank of India ...	52½		National ...	35½	
Ottoman Bank ...	14		Standard ...	515	
P. and O. Bank Corporation ...	9		Union ...	756	
Westminster ...	20 3/16		Miscellaneous		
Land.			British India Corporation ...	41	
Kassala Cotton ...	6.9		Bengal Paper Mills ...	215 1/16	
Latifiyah (Iraq) Estates ...	4.6		Bengal Timber Trading ...	40	
Sudan Plantations ...	327/32		Burn and Co. ...	245	
Mines.			Cawnpore Sugar ...	2½	
Balaghat Gold Mining ...	6.3		Champaran Sugar ...	10	
Burma Corp. ...	14.6		Howrah Oil Mills ...	84	
Champion Reef Gold ...	9.9		ALEXANDRIA		
Mysore ...	15.3		Prices on Nov. 23, supplied by G. L.		
Nundydroog ...	17.4½		Modern, Alexandria & Cotro.		
Ooregum Gold Mining Ord. ...	13½		Agricultural Bank of Egypt ...	£81 1/16	
Oil.			Do. "Fond." ...	£815	
Angle-Egyptian B ...	24		Alexandria Water Co. ...	£17 7/16	
Angle-Persian Ord. ...	4½		Assoc. Cotton Ginners ...	£22½	
Do. 8 p.c. Cum. 1st Pf. ...	27.3		Behra Ord. ...	£28	
Do. 9 p.c. Cum. 2nd Pf. ...	29 1/16		Ciments d'Egypte ...	£50½	
Do. 5 p.c. Debs. ...	97½		Do. Div. ...	£50½	
Do. 6½ p.c. Notes ...	101		Comptoir Fin. & Com. d'Egypte ...	£280	
Brit. Burmah ...	7.3		Credit Foncier Egyptien ...	£280	
Burmah Oil Co. Ord. ...	49 1/16		Do. "Fondateur" ...	£280	
Do. 8% Cum. Pref. ...	26.3		Crown Brewery Priv. ...	£280	
Hamilton's Oil Concessions ...	10½		Filature Nationale d'Egypte ...	£280	
Phoenix Oil and Transport (f.p.) ...	15.9		Frigorifique d'Egypte ...	£280	
Do. (1/-) ...	7.9		Immeubles d'Egypte Soc. An. des. ...	£280	
Shell Transport ...	527/32		Land Bank of Egypt Actions ...	£280	
Steaua Romana ...	11/10½		Do. "Parts de Fond" ...	£280	
			Menzaleh Canal Navigation ...	£280	
Railways.		Prices on Dec. 3	Shipping.		Prices on Dec. 3
Assam-Bengal ...	...	95½	Anchor 5½ p.c. Prf. ...	...	8½
Bengal Doonars ...	...	180½	Cunard ...	...	30.9
Bengal Nagpur ...	...	102½	Furness Withy ...	...	38.6
Egypt Delta Light Rly. ...	...	415/16	Khedivial Mail Ord. ...	...	3
Nizams Gtd. ...	...	240	P. and O. Deferred ...	...	56
Ottoman (Smy. t. Aid) ...	...	42½	Tea.		
Do. 5 p.c. 1st Deb. ...	...	70	Assam Co. ...	...	44½
Do. 6 p.c. 2nd Deb. ...	...	61	Bengal United Tea Ord ...	...	2 11/32
Piraeus Athens and P. 1st Bds. ...	...	56½	Bramapootra ...	...	36½
Southern Punjab ...	...	188½	British Indian Tea Ord. ...	...	41/16
South Indian ...	...	123½	Cachar and Doonars Tea Ord. ...	...	2½
Rubber.			Carolina ...	...	3½
Ceylon Para Rubber Ord. ...	...	18½	Ceylon Tea Plantations Ord. ...	...	53/16
Doolkalla (Ceylon) Rub. Est. ...	...	19½	Consolidated Estates ...	...	35/16
Grand Cent. (Ceylon) Rubber ...	...	23.6	Darjeeling Co. ...	...	2 15/16
Hewagum Rubber Co. ...	...	10.9	Dimbula Valley (Ceylon) Ord. ...	...	3½
Keptigalla Rubber Estates ...	...	1.3	Doonars Tea Ord. ...	...	3 3/16
Malayalam Rub. and Produce ...	...	29/10½	Dooloogram Tea ...	...	17/32
Insurance.			Doom Dooma ...	...	4½
General Accident Fire and Life (£25, £1½ paid) ...	...	13½	East Assam ...	...	4½
London & Lancs (£25, £1 paid) ...	...	30½	Empire of Ind. ...	...	27/16
Royal Exchange (£1) ...	...	6 11/16	Halem Tea ...	...	25/16
Sun Fire £10 (£2 paid) ...	...	39½	Imperial Ind. ...	...	35½
Trade Indemnity (£10) ...	...	15½	Jhanzie Tea Association ...	...	5½
Miscellaneous.			Jokai (Assam) Tea Ord. ...	...	4 3/16
Alexandria Water Co. ...	...	17½	Jorehaut ...	...	4½
Associated Cotton Ginners ...	...	11/16	Lanka Plantations Ord. ...	...	2
Dunlop Rubber ...	...	23.3	Lungla (Sylhet) Tea Ord. ...	...	1½
Egyptian Hotels ...	...	7	New Dimbula ...	...	6½
Do. Markets Ord. ...	...	26½	Nuwara Eliya Tea Estates Ord. ...	...	6½
Do. Salt and Soda ...	...	35½	Nedem ...	...	213/16
Mortgage Co. of Egypt 5 p.c. Pref. ...	...	8½	Ouvah ...	...	34
Oriental Telephone ...	...	3	Pabhojan ...	...	623/32
Waring & Gillow ...	...	15½	Standard ...	...	64

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KASHGAR	9,000	Dec. 13	Dec. 13	Straits, China, Japan
MOOLTAN	21,000	Dec. 14	Dec. 21	Australia via Hombay
RANCHI	16,600	Dec. 21	Dec. 28	Bombay and Karachi
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MALDA	8,900	Dec. 12	Dec. 21	East African Ports
HATIMURA	6,666	Dec. 12	Dec. 22	Bombay and Karachi
MANORA	7,888	Dec. 22	Dec. 29	Madras and Calcutta
WARFIELD	6,060	Jan. 2	Jan. 12	Bombay and Karachi
MULBERA	9,110	Jan. 5	Jan. 12	Madras and Calcutta
MODASA	9,070	Jan. 9	Jan. 18	East African Ports
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City of York	7,844	Dec. 22	Colombo & Calcutta
City of Cairo	7,882	Jan. 4	Bombay & Karachi
City of Manchester	5,564	Jan. 4	Colombo & Calcutta
City of Harvard	7,071	Jan. 16	Colombo & Calcutta
City of Simla	9,468	Jan. 24	Bombay & Karachi
City of London	8,956	Feb. 2	Bombay & Karachi
City of Exeter	9,447	Feb. 5	Colombo & Calcutta
City of Canterbury	8,421	Feb. 18	Colombo & Calcutta

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City of Pekin	6,960	Dec. 13	Singapore, Manila
City of Baroda	9,670	Dec. 22	Hongkong, Shanghai

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City of Valencia	7,329	Dec. 22	Cape Town, Algoa
City of Palermo	4,699	Jan. 7	Bay, East London
			and Natal

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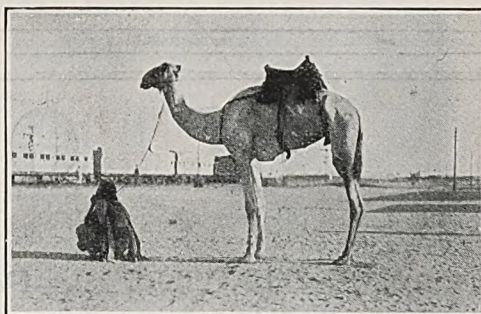


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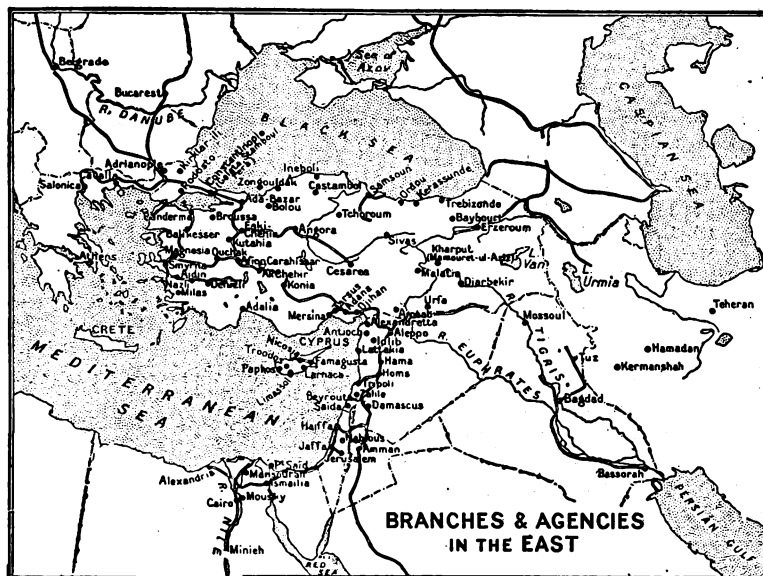
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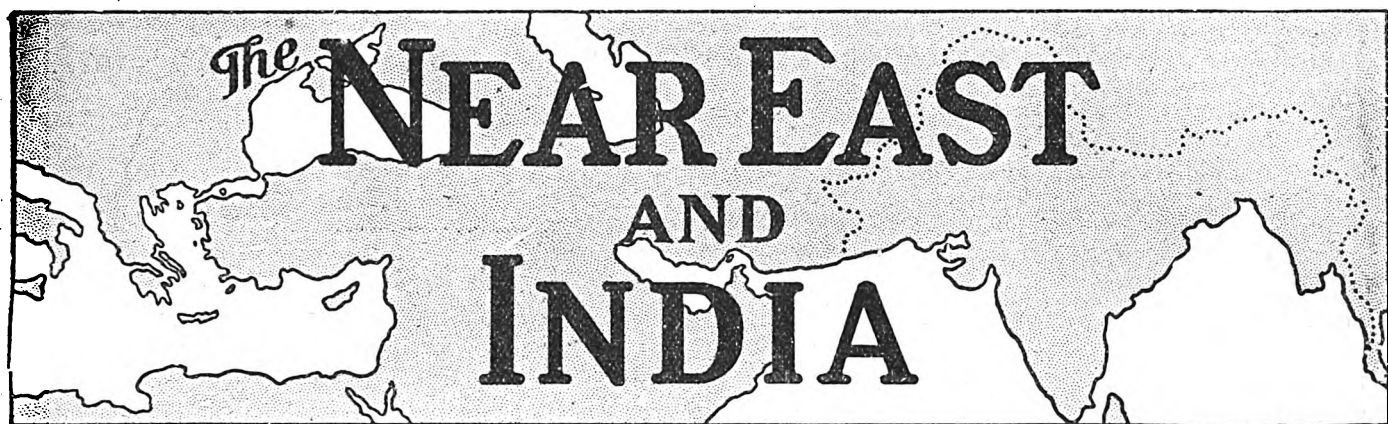
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Notes of the Week.

Critical Days in Yugoslavia.

The appointment of Colonel Bozho Maximovitch as Governor of Zagreb District must be regarded, unless all indications are at fault, as a definite attempt on the part of the Belgrade Government to introduce scorpions where hitherto it has been content with whips in its dealings with the Croats. After the incidents in Zagreb on December 1, when collisions between troops and police on the one hand and the townsfolk on the other had fatal results, the former Governor, who was a civilian, at once offered his resignation by telephone to the Government on the ground that he did not approve of the action of the military authorities. He was summoned to Belgrade, and the Prime Minister, after receiving his report, refused to accept his resignation. Dr. Koroshetz would now seem to have been overruled in this matter, and it is hardly a matter for surprise that the acceptance of the Governor's resignation and the nomination, to fill his post, of a military officer with the reputation of an uncompromising disciplinarian should be attributed to the military clique which for so many years has been all-powerful in the counsels of successive Radical Governments. Colonel Maximovitch might in normal circumstances be a model Governor; but the times for Yugoslavia are out of joint. Two ways of dealing with the internal problem of the country offer themselves to the Belgrade Government—stern repression of the Croats or to bring about harmony by discussion and compromise. The argument of the Serbs is, no doubt, that they have tried the latter, but without success; they consider themselves, therefore, obliged to have recourse to the former.

Serbo-Croat Incompatibility.

It has become impossible to disguise the fact that the situation in Yugoslavia is serious. The trouble, however, is essentially a domestic one, and should not have any reactions abroad. Briefly put, the Croat cup of bitterness has been filled to overflowing. Ten years of

association with the Serbs have convinced the Croats that the pretence of co-operation cannot be maintained any longer. To the Croat mind the Serbs cannot and will not co-operate. Yugoslavia for them is Greater Serbia, and the only people to administer a Greater Serbia are the Serbs. Serbian administration, moreover, is something with which the Croats have no desire to be identified. It is no mere coincidence, they point out, that corruption has been brought home to the families of two Serbian Prime Ministers; if the offenders have gained pre-eminence in a practice indulged in by all, it is not that they are more corrupt than their fellows, but that their opportunities have been greater. Again, the handling of the Macedonian question by the Serbs, has been, according to the Croat indictment, such that, when the facts are fully known abroad, the Croats will not wish to be held, in foreign opinion, jointly responsible for it. Points of incompatibility can be multiplied indefinitely. The Croat, it is urged, is of the West, modern; the Serbs have not yet thrown off their five centuries of subjugation by Turkey, and, in spite of individual exceptions, official Serbia remains Oriental and mediæval. The breach, it is to be feared, is none the less complete because the Croats have so far kept themselves in hand. They have made known their point of view and have broken off relations with Belgrade, but they have taken no violent action against the *status quo*. The weakness in their position is that they have made no provision for the next stage; in adopting the attitude that all that remains to be done is for Serbia to yield them what they want, they are acting in opposition to what their instinct tells them that the Serbs are likely to do, and they appear content to wait to see what will happen. The danger in the situation is that the Serbs may judge the Croats by themselves, and argue that, because Zagreb has not proceeded to extremes, it is, therefore, half-hearted in its protestations and can be dragged on to submission. If the appointment of Colonel Maximovitch represents an attempt to give effect to this line of reasoning, then the final cleavage may well be near.

A Federal Solution.

In no country will the breach between Serbs and Croats be more regretted than in Great Britain. It was hoped by those who had knowledge of the Southern Slav peoples that the great testing-time of the War and the political necessity for unity would engender in the two main branches a spirit of co-operation which would make Yugoslavia a strong factor in South-East Europe. How weak the differences between Serbs and Croats have made the Triune Kingdom has recently been shown by the ease with which M. Venizelos could bring the Belgrade Government to his own way of thinking in regard to the various questions outstanding between the two countries. It has reluctantly to be admitted that no adequate answer can be given to the Croat indictment against the Serbs. Now that things have gone so far, it is unlikely that the present differences between the two peoples can be patched up. The experiment of a highly centralised State has proved a failure, and if the Yugoslav kingdom is to remain a single political entity, it will have to be on a federal basis. The attempt to prevent this solution may well lead to a worse state of affairs than now exists. Both parties desire that the kingdom should be kept intact, and both must have this end in view in any future negotiations. The lighter the ties that bind them, the easier will it be for both to continue to live side by side, while with the passage of time the quarrel of to-day recedes farther and farther into the background. That great sacrifices will be required of the Serbs to this end cannot be denied; their rehabilitation in the eyes of Europe will depend upon the readiness with which they show themselves prepared to make them.

Turkey and Europe.

Those who have wished to see Turkey benefit to the full by the reform movement that was introduced with the Republic will welcome the more accommodating spirit that the Angora Government has shown recently in regard to its financial obligations. Hitherto in the matter of reform accomplishment has lagged behind intention in many important directions owing to financial stringency. Making a virtue of necessity, the Government proclaimed its intention of relying solely on Turkey's own resources, and for a time it deceived itself and the people into believing that such a course was possible. When experience brought its disappointment in this respect, it was found that the Turkish attitude towards the country's foreign indebtedness effectually closed all the principal financial markets to Turkey. A new policy, therefore, was necessary, and it says much for the genuineness of the reform movement that there has been comparatively little delay in inaugurating it when once it was recognised as inevitable. Following the conclusion of the agreement with the foreign Bondholders, negotiations have now been begun for a settlement of the question connected with the Constantinople Municipality's loan of 1909. In spite of the strict provisions governing the service of this loan the Turkish Government defaulted, seizing the revenues that were pledged for the payment of interest. Further, the long-drawn negotiations for the purchase by the Turkish Government of the Anatolian Railway have been concluded. This railway runs from Haidar Pasha, opposite Constantinople, to Konia, with a branch from Eskishehir to Angora; it was in German hands, but was taken over by the Republic, and the shareholders have had to wait until now for a settlement of their claims. The line from Konia to Aleppo and Nisibin, it may be mentioned, belongs to the Baghdad Railway; the German shares in this company were handed over to the Reparations Commission under the Treaty of Versailles, but a settlement of the problem connected with this Railway, which is also administered by the Turkish Government, has not yet been reached. Together with the Anatolian Railway, the Turkish Government purchases the Adana-Mersina line, the shares of which were held by the Swiss bank which had also the shares of the Anatolian Railway Company.

Afghanistan's Path of Progress.

King Amanullah is finding it as hard to hold his country to the path of progress as it was for Rome to build a nation. The rebellion that has taken place appears to be confined to a single district; but from the spasmodic protests that have been raised in various quarters it may be inferred that there will be widespread sympathy in Afghanistan with those who dare to give practical expression to their opposition to the King's reforms. It is not easy to form an accurate idea of the gravity of the revolt of the Shinwaris; but from the fact that various Afghan representatives abroad are issuing contradictory statements, it may be inferred that the situation is bad enough to call for unreliable official versions. In a country of inadequate communications the advantage is with the rebels at the spot where they have chosen to launch their offensive, and initial successes may be expected. The strength of the Government's position turns on its ability to deal with the rebels before others in different parts of the country have had opportunity to be encouraged by their successes to follow their example. To this test King Amanullah has responded well; for in spite of the uncomfortable days through which Jalalabad has had to pass, he seems to have used to good effect and with despatch the advantages in the way of arms and aircraft with which his visit to Europe provided him. It will be of interest to see whether the revolt will raise in the King's mind the question of the advisability of proceeding more slowly in the path of reform. Mustapha Kemal Pasha has had more favourable ground to work upon in Turkey than King Amanullah has in Afghanistan. The temptation to subject the reform movement in the two countries to a time race is, no doubt, great, but the Afghan monarch can quite honourably refuse any such competition on the ground that he has a far more backward and fanatical people to hasten along the path-way of progress.

Armenia and Great Britain.

Once more, in the House of Commons last week, the British official suspicion of the Armenian National Home which is now being built up within the Soviet Union of Republics was made plain. For in answering Mr. Noel Buxton's question why the British delegate on the Fifth Commission of the Assembly of the League of Nations had voted against further advances of money being made to the Armenian refugees in Erivan—despite the fact that the German Government had agreed to grant £50,000, provided that four other Governments subscribed and the League of Nations was responsible for administering the expenses of the scheme—Sir Austen Chamberlain said that the British taxpayer had already subscribed heavily enough to Armenian relief, and also that the Erivan scheme had not received sufficient support to justify further British sacrifice. The Foreign Secretary also added that he had great doubts upon the possibility or the success of the scheme. We may take it, therefore, that any British official support of the Erivan Republic will be looked for in vain—at any rate while the present Administration is in office. Whether changes either in Russia or in Great Britain will involve closer British-Armenian relations it is impossible to say. But it appears to be unquestionable that it is to the Russian scheme that Armenians themselves, scattered about in different parts of the world, are looking for the regeneration of their race. Other solutions, however admirable from the point of view of expediency (and this is to see them in their most favourable light), do not seem to be regarded with much enthusiasm by the Armenian people as a whole. If Great Britain refuses officially to help a land within Bolshevik territory, there is all the more reason why unofficial admirers of the Armenian people should interest themselves in the Caucasian scheme. Without question in the next few decades very far-reaching material changes will be made on Russian territory, not the least of which changes may well take place in Armenia. It

is to be hoped, therefore, that in this great development the Armenian people will not lose their love of the West, which, even from a selfish point of view, would do well to keep in the closest touch with so gifted a race.

Palestine's High Commissioner.

Sir John Chancellor's first speech on Palestinian soil was admirably phrased. As we have already suggested, his interest in the development of the Holy Land has manifested itself at once. For in this speech he spoke of his intention to concentrate upon the development of the country's resources. He foreshadowed Government assistance for private enterprise, to increase the wealth of the inhabitants, and expressed the hope that common interests would lead to a common patriotism. In the summary of his speech the words "Arab" and "Jew" are not so much as mentioned; it is the future of the Palestinian people upon whom the High Commissioner lays so much stress. That, of course, is the resolute policy of His Majesty's Government. Of late the manifestations of the spirit of a common Palestinian citizenship have been rather distressfully lacking, and if such a spirit can be created—we will not here dogmatise on that score—certainly the economic method is the only way. Now even this economic method is full of pitfalls, for unless there be preserved the most scrupulous impartiality, the emphasising of Arab and Jewish characteristics, at the expense of the Palestinian conception, may result. There is no need to emphasise the point, which has illustrations too obvious to mention. But without question Sir John has struck the right note, and so long as the actions of the Administration are maintained at this true pitch, all may be well.

INDIAN NOTES.

The Commission at Work.

Apart from a few isolated demonstrations carried out mainly by students, of which the most is being made by the Indian Press, the Simon Commission's tour has, so far, provided little evidence of the boasted strength—either moral or numerical—of the boycott movement. The unfortunate incident at Lahore is discussed by a Parliamentary correspondent on another page of this issue. At Lucknow the police twice found it necessary to disperse crowds, and it is understood that in the course of the proceedings certain organisers of the demonstration—including Jahwarlal Nehru, the founder of the new Independence League—and some of the police were injured. Full details are not to hand but the facts in this case are perfectly plain. The processions were prohibited as is done in certain circumstances in this country and in every other civilised country, in order to prevent a breach of the peace. Notwithstanding the prohibition an attempt was made in defiance of the magistrate's order, to proceed with the procession. The ringleaders were prevented from carrying out their plans, but there is no evidence to show that more force was used than was necessary to see that the orders that had been given by the police authorities, in the same way as they are frequently given in this country, were carried out. Though the streets of many other Indian cities may yet be made to resound to the cry "Simon go back" before Sir John and his colleagues return in April, few any longer trouble even to maintain the pretence that the boycott attitude represents the natural reaction of "a spurned and humiliated people." The past few months have cleared the air. Time has brought about a reconsideration of first impulses with many of the Commission's critics. Only the Legislative Assembly, less representative than the local legislatures, and the Central Provinces Council still remain aloof; although the profusion of memoranda with which the Commission has been assailed suggests that the attitude of many of the members of both bodies towards the Commission's responsibilities is by no means as

negative as they would have us believe. It would serve no useful purpose to attempt to summarize the evidence submitted day by day by officials and non-officials. In due course the Commission will have to get down to the gargantuan task of appraising it, reconciling inconsistencies as best they may, and drawing from the masses of claims and counter-claims whatever guiding principles may be safely evolved.

The Indian Coastal Reservation Bill.

It is satisfactory to see that the Association of British Chambers of Commerce has entered a protest against the Indian Coastal Reservation Bill. This unwise and impracticable measure provides that at the end of a period of five years the coastal trade of India shall be reserved exclusively for ships a controlling interest in which is vested in British Indian subjects. It proposes, that is to say, to eliminate the existing European-controlled shipping companies in five years; and to make it impossible for any but Indian-owned vessels to engage in the coasting trade after that time. The existing companies are, of course, exclusively private enterprise. They are not aided, or subsidised, by the State in any way. They are simply well-managed British shipping companies who, by dint of many years of perseverance and hard work, have built up a great traffic. Indian shipowners, coming late into the field, naturally find the competition difficult. They see many years of striving in front of them, unless their European competitors can be driven out of the trade. They accordingly propose that the State should abolish this disagreeable competition, and leave the field clear for them. As the writer of a recently issued pamphlet on the subject puts it, what they really say, in effect, is: "The victory will be ours immediately the enemy are ordered to quit the field of battle." The Bill is a good example of the kind of legislation that the Associated Chambers of Commerce of India have asked may be made impossible under the new Indian Constitution; and we are glad to see that the Association of British Chambers has definitely endorsed this request. The sponsors of the Bill contend, of course, that it is not a discriminatory measure. But this contention cannot be sustained, seeing that the whole object in view is to drive out the European concerns and to confer upon Indian-owned vessels a legal, and commercially unassailable, monopoly. Not only is such a proceeding unfair to the existing companies, who would receive no compensation, but it would not be to the advantage of any Indian trade, and it would not foster any Indian industry. Indian investors would almost certainly

(Continued on page 710)

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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 13, 1928.

THE PROBLEMS OF SYRIA.

Of all the mandated territories of the Middle East which in their turn, or at the same time, have suffered or are suffering from the non-solution of political and economic problems, Syria, probably, is the most unfortunate. To take the question of frontiers first. Iraq's borders are (with the unimportant exception of the Syrian frontier) settled, Trans-Jordan's borders are settled (even though the question of Aqaba and Maan be only a provisional settlement, not recognised by the Wahhabi King of Hijaz and Najd), and Palestine's borders, of course, are settled. Alone of these Arab countries Syria remains in suspense over her frontier with Turkey. From the internal political point of view, again, there is in Iraq, Trans-Jordan, and Palestine, if not acquiescence in, at least an unperplexed attitude towards, the arrangements that have been made for the governance of the three countries. Opposition to the existing régime exists, of course, in varying degrees of intensity in these States, but the problem raised by whatever political hostility there is does not appear to present a problem of immediate capital importance. In Syria, on the other hand, the question of the Constitution and of the Mandatory's relations with the peoples in tutelage remains in a state of acute suspension. And thirdly, while of Iraq and Palestine, at any rate, it may be said that the economic prospects are not bad, from Syria come the gloomiest reports of the development of the country and of the prospects of prosperity. Now to the problem of the Syrian-Turkish frontier we have devoted some attention in recent issues of THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA, and our readers will not need to be reminded of the stubbornness which the Turks are showing in the matter. In spite of the good will manifested in France towards the Turks—and a study of the French Press reveals a very evident willingness to come to a good understanding with Turkey—the negotiations between French and Turkish representatives have proved abortive. Presumably, therefore, the raids, the brigandage, and the smuggling over this frontier between Nisibin and Jazirat ibn Omar will continue. The danger of such a continuation, however, is self-evident. Tempers are rising both in Turkey and in Syria, and relations between the two States grow daily more delicate. It is to be hoped, however, that the statesmen of Angora, who, by the way, did not let the indignation of certain Turkish deputies over this matter of the Turco-Syrian frontier stand in the way of the ratification of the agreement in regard to the Ottoman Debt, will eventually see, as in the case of Mosul, that they cannot indefinitely run their heads against a brick wall.

The internal political problem of Syria, although more publicity has been given to it, is perhaps a less hard nut to crack than the problem of Turco-Syrian relations. The more one studies this problem, the more one sees how

the delicacy of the situation arose through the Nationalists' overstepping—many of them, no doubt, unconsciously overstepping—the bounds which the Mandatory Power had previously and inevitably set up. For it should be remembered that two months before the Syrian elections, which, to judge by their results alone, were conducted in an atmosphere of unprecedented freedom, M. Ponsot, High Commissioner, publicly declared that the purpose of the Constituent Assembly was to draw up a Constitution within the limits imposed by France's responsibility as a Mandatory Power answerable to the League of Nations. That the elected Syrians exceeded these limits was not unnatural, but it was unfortunate for the immediate prospects of Franco-Syrian political co-operation. There would seem, however, no need to despair of an ultimate working agreement, if not solution, for in the weeks intervening between the present time and next February, when the prorogation of the Parliament is due to come to an end, realisation of the hard facts of the situation will surely have sunk more comprehensively into the expectant minds of the Syrians, and a way out will be found.

But it is at the economic aspect that one takes a certain alarm. If the gloomy accounts which have been published from the Lebanon concerning the commercial plight of the French mandated territory are correct, something must soon be officially done to relieve an intolerable situation. In part, of course, what is Syria's loss is the gain of her neighbours, this fact being due largely to the artificial barriers and the consequent Customs barriers between the various Mandated States carved out of the Ottoman Empire. Beyrout, for instance, which in Ottoman times used to be the chief medium by which the interior of Syria (including Palestine and Trans-Jordan), Mesopotamia, and a part of Anatolia obtained European goods, has suffered a severe loss of this trade, part of which finds its way *via* Haifa or Mersina. Nor is the agricultural outlook any rosier. Like the farmers of Trans-Jordan, the farmers of Syria have been very badly hit by the quantities of cheap wheat imported from places like Australia, India, or America. What is being done to help the native grain-growers thus driven out of a living? Little enough, in all conscience. The French authorities suffer sadly, admittedly, from a lack of funds, and there has yet been no loan issued on behalf of Syria. Presumably such a loan will be delayed until the Syrians set up a staple Government. But the position is a peculiarly trying one. That Syria, a wheat-producing land *par excellence*, should have to import foreign grain for its daily bread, is, indeed, something of a tragedy. It has been calculated that, because Syria has now so little to export, of the forty million gold pounds which existed therein at the close of the War, but four millions are left. Nor is it only gold which is leaving the country. In 1926 about 12,000 Syrians and Lebanese emigrated from the land; in 1927, some 15,000; and this year it is anticipated, the number of emigrants will have increased to 20,000. We do not choose to allocate blame for this unhappy situation; certainly the French are not wholly to blame for the economic pass to which their charge has come. The Allied Powers cut up the Arab territories from the Ottoman Empire, and theirs, primarily, is the responsibility for the economic hardships which the inhabitants of those territories have now to endure. It may be that a time will come when all Customs barriers within Arabia are swept away; but in the meantime concentration will have increasingly to be made on schemes of irrigation, improved methods of agriculture, and other means of developing the land, which must always be the basis of whatever prosperity Arabia may boast. If the attention of the civilised world is called to Syria, it is not likely to stop short at the boundaries which for the most part statesmen in Paris laid down for that land, but will surely comprehend the responsibility which lies at the doors of the West for doing its utmost to provide means of livelihood for those Arabs whose mode of life was so rudely, even fundamentally, disturbed by the processes of the War and of the subsequent peace.

*The Near and Middle East

From Our Own Correspondents.



Sofia, November 29.

Belgrade and Bulgaria.

The avalanche of false information which has been spread from Belgrade during the last few days upon affairs in Bulgaria has drawn the attention of Europe to the situation here, which is represented as being precarious.

In fact, the position has never been so well established, and so remote from the wishes of the dreamers of trouble. Absolute calm prevails here. Even the different sections of the Democratic Entente are making up their differences, partly as a result of the encouragement afforded by the results of the municipal elections. It is true that, in addition to the organs of this group, of which one, the *Démocratitcheski Sgovor*, is regarded as the Government's mouth-piece, but of which others, the *Slovo*, the *Mir*, and the *Préporetz* express rather the diverse views of fractions of the Group, a new journal, the *Latch*, which will express the particular views of the Tsankoff group, will shortly appear; but it is an error to think that the appearance of the journal involves the dislocation of the Democratic Entente. On the contrary, even the friends of M. Tsankoff state that the journal will advocate union and concord in Parliament and country.

Inter-Party Relations.

Relations between the parties in Parliament and in the country are still more reassuring; for they not only reveal a remarkable détente between the Government and the Opposition but also display a wise attitude of patience—the attitude of M. Malinoff, the head of the Government of to-morrow, who exercises prudence towards his Agrarian friends. This repugnance of M. Malinoff formally to bind himself to allies who might be hurtful when he is in power, only reinforces the position of the Cabinet, wherein M. Bouroff, Foreign Minister, and M. Tsankoff, President of the Sobranye, have abandoned their intention of September to provoke a new crisis, having obtained full satisfaction on the subject of the attitude to be adopted towards the revolutionary Macedonians. There again, the Government is stronger than ever, having the support of the whole Parliament in its decision to respect the laws and the authority of the Bulgarian State throughout the territory of the Kingdom. Parliament has indirectly approved the energetic measures in question, which were taken in perfect accord with General Volkoff, Minister for War, who was generally represented as the friend and protector of the revolutionary Macedonians.

The I.M.R.O.

Moreover, the détente already mentioned between the parties extends to the revolutionaries themselves. Since the assassination of General Protogueroff, ordered by his young rival, Ivan Mihailoff, the Macedonian Organisation has been divided into two opposing and approximately equal camps. But in the struggles which have followed, the partisans of Mihailoff have gradually gained the upper

hand. From this very fact the inter-Macedonian struggles have begun to diminish, in spite of the efforts of interested parties to envenom relations. But the process of appeasement was checked by certain acts of aggression such as that which occurred recently in the centre of the capital, before the "Phoenix" confectionery, and certain murders such as that of the former Chief of General Security, Narum Béleff, a Macedonian of Ochrida, who suffered death at unknown hands. And as, between times, a German agency published an old interview with Mihailoff who explained the conditions in which the Department of Petritch existed—the portion of Macedonian territory annexed to Bulgaria—and threatened to make even Sofia a base of operations against the Government if it were to indulge in oppression of the revolutionaries, there has resulted a recrudescence of hostility over the Macedonian question. At this moment it was that the defamatory campaign of Belgrade began, talking of a mobilisation of revolutionary troops of Mihailoff for an attack on the capital, imaginary fights between partisans of Mihailoff and partisans of Protogueroff, and a population alarmed at the prospect of civil war, opening up the possibility of a foreign invasion under the fallacious pretext of suppressing a centre of troubles and of preserving the Balkans from an extension of Macedonian hostilities. What was the real object of this campaign?

It is difficult to give a precise answer. Here it is said that it was an attempt of Belgrade to influence, and if possible to prevent, the issuing of the Bulgarian loan for stabilisation, for which public subscriptions were at this time being asked. In any case, if it did wrong to the credit of Bulgaria in the eyes of foreign subscribers, it has on the other hand opened the eyes of the Macedonian revolutionaries to the fatal effects of their struggles, which have benefited only the adversaries of the cause of Macedonia and weakened the power of the redoubtable Revolutionary Organisation. Confronted with the persistent animosity of Belgrade, Macedonian patriots have understood that the best method was to silence their internal quarrels, and the rival partisans are now coming together.

Thus the only appreciable result of the anti-Bulgarian campaign of Belgrade has been to embroil the relations between Bulgaria and Yugoslavia at a moment when, as I have previously noted, relations with Turkey, Greece, and Roumania were distinctly improving.

CYPRUS.

Nicosia, November 28.

The Greek Archbishop's Meeting.

On November 17 the "ecclesiastical and political leaders" of the Greek community met to consider the question of a rejoinder to the reply of the Secretary of State, in June last, to their last memorial on the subject of union with Greece. It was decided by a majority that it is not advisable to submit a fresh communication, in the

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first place because too long a time had elapsed since receipt of the dispatch, and also because replies had already been received on various occasions to similar memorials. This decision is more consistent with reason, and with a perception of political realities, than might have been expected. The futility of fresh memorials is clear, and would, moreover, indicate a disregard of the late pronouncement of M. Venizelos that he could not take up the matter, and also, it might be added, the advice of the best friends of Cyprus. It was intimated, however, that a more general assembly would shortly be held, at which the policy to be adopted by the Greek community would be discussed. Supporters of the movement for "union," including members of the Greek Press, regard the resolution arrived at as weak and unsatisfactory. They argue that an entirely new campaign is needed, in which the "just claims" of a Greek majority—five-sixths of the inhabitants—would appeal more forcibly than hitherto to the British Government, House of Commons, Press, and people; and, if possible, to bring their case before the League of Nations. Their deputations have, they say, hitherto lacked courage and vigour in urging a reconsideration of their appeals. This is certainly not the case, for the claims and aspirations of the Greek leaders have been fully and ably stated on various occasions, notably in 1923, when the Duke of Devonshire was Secretary for the Colonies, and informed a mission emphatically that the "question" was closed.

A Link with Hellas.

Regret is expressed at the ports that a small steamship, the Alcmena, which has been plying between Greece and Cyprus, chiefly through the generosity of a Greek, M. Kyriakides, may have to cease running, owing to want of support by merchants and shippers. The vessel was not inaptly named; for, like her namesake of Greek mythology, she has had a chequered career. Alcmena, however, had many lovers human and divine, including Zeus

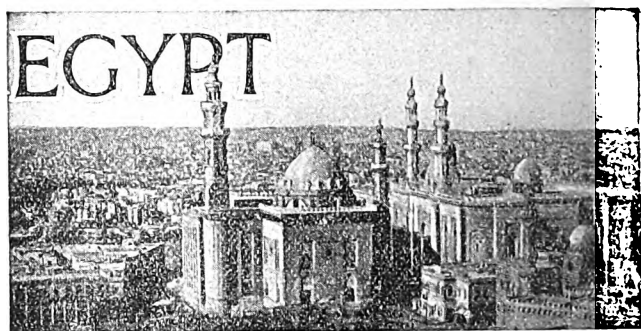
himself—by whom she became the mother of Hercules—one of whose seats was the Cypriot Olympus (Mt. Troodos). Finally she was brought, under his protection, to an "island of the blest." Hope is expressed that the modern Alcmena may still be spared to connect Hellas with this favoured island.

General News.

There have been abundant rains, and the agricultural outlook is favourable. Ploughing and sowing of cereals proceed throughout the island.

The Budget for 1929, contemplates the expenditure of £614,682. The Police vote is for £97,285.

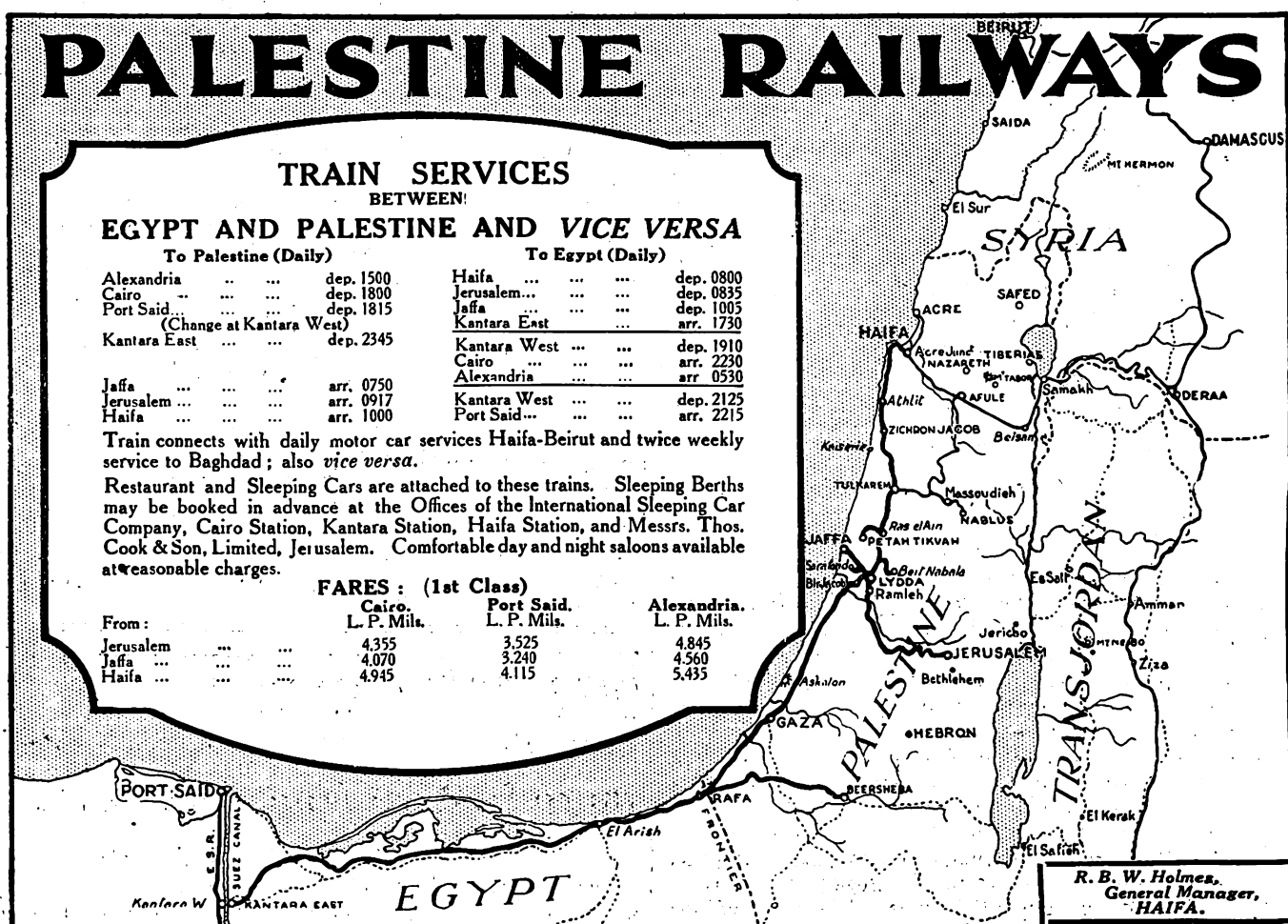
A campaign is to be undertaken to fight a serious disease attacking olive trees. To meet part of the cost a tax of one piastre—rather over 1d.—is to be imposed on owners for every tree, whether grafted or not.



Cairo, December 1.

The Sinai Peninsula.

The High Commissioner and Lady Lloyd leave on Monday next for a visit to the Peninsula of Sinai. They travel by car to Suez, thence by steamer to Abu Zenana, whence they motor overland to the celebrated convent of St.



Catherine at the foot of Gebel Musa on the summit of which local tradition has it Moses received the Ten Commandments. The convent itself is full of interest. Built about the fifth century by Justinian for the protection of the monks who lived in the area, it originally had no ground entrance. Everyone had to be hoisted up by means of a basket, so as to make it difficult for marauders to attack the place. To-day it has a really good modern entrance, and its walls enclose many priceless relics, among them the descendant of the Flaming Bush, the famous Codex Sinaiticus, and innumerable unique manuscripts. Lord and Lady Lloyd will approach the monastery from a different angle from that which presented itself to Lord Allenby, who, when he paid his visit in 1922, landed at Tor and made his way across country by camel as the patrols do. But their Excellencies will none the less receive an excellent impression as they see the mediæval fortress which the convent resembles from afar. Indeed, situated in a hollow at the foot of granite mountains, this unique building with its garden replete with every tree, vegetable and fruit from tropical and colder climes, makes a most attractive picture against the barrenness of the surrounding landscape.

The High Commissioner, after inspecting the place, will return by car to Abu Zenana, and thence go by steamer as far as Kosseir, whence he will travel overland to Kena and Luxor, being back in Cairo on December 11. King Fuad intends himself to visit the same region later in the year, and already preparations, such as improving the roads, are in progress. Most of the King's visit will be to the country above Tih, the huge barrier, which separates the northern sandstone area from the southern or granite region. Nevertheless, as King Fuad will eventually visit the convent, the Residency party will no doubt benefit from these preparations part of the way.

[It has to be inferred that, owing to the sudden return to England of the Prince of Wales, this trip to the Sinai Peninsula has had to be postponed.—ED.]

New Hospital at Abbassia.

On Saturday last the Premier, Mohamed Mahmoud Pasha, laid the foundation stone for a new Government hospital out in the suburb of Abassia. The latter has of late years grown enormously in size. Twenty years ago it was very sparsely provided with homes. There were large gaps of desert in its midst, and it was separated from Heliopolis, when the latter was created, by a huge desert area. To-day it has been entirely overbuilt and has completely joined up with Masr El Guedida, as Baron Empain's venture is called. Indeed, next to Bulac it must be the most densely populated suburb of Cairo, and as the capital now has a population of over one million compared with 650,000 two decades ago, it can be understood that it has become increasingly difficult to serve this suburb from Kasr El Aini, which is at the southern extreme of the city. The Government has for some time been thinking of erecting a new hospital near Abbassia, but the initiative has been taken out of its hands by one of the best known Egyptians, Shaikh Abdel Rehim El Demerdashi, who, on behalf of himself, his wife and his daughter, laid before the authorities a proposal by which they gave the land for a hospital to be built at Abbassia together with the sum of £E100,000 for cost of erection and maintenance, the only condition they made being that all three should be buried in the grounds of the new hospital. The Government readily accepted this generous offer, and the ceremony of laying the foundation stone took place as mentioned on Saturday last. In token of British recognition of the Shaikh's life-long friendship for Great Britain the High Commissioner accepted an invitation to be present.

A munificent gift for a public object like that of Shaikh El Demerdashi is quite without precedent in this country, where public spirit of this nature is as yet an unknown virtue. It is to be hoped that this noble lead will be followed by the many other rich Egyptian notables.

The Vicomte D'Aumale.

The news that the Vicomte D'Aumale will vacate at the end of the year the position of First Secretary to the French Legation here, which he has held for the past eight years, will cause deep regret not only among his own countrymen, but also in the other communities, particularly the British community. During the whole time that he has been in Cairo, M. D'Aumale has been a tower of strength to his chief, M. Gaillard, himself a worthy successor to the many illustrious Frenchmen who have represented the Quai D'Orsay at the Court of Abdin, and he has particularly seconded him in his efforts loyally to carry out the spirit as well as the letter of the Entente Cordiale in regard to Egypt, while at the same time fully defending the interests of their own country. Our regret at losing M. D'Aumale and his charming wife is tempered by the knowledge that he is receiving well-merited preferment, and we draw some slight consolation from the fact that, as they are to be posted to Jerusalem, where M. D'Aumale will act as Consul-General, we shall have some hope of periodically seeing them amongst us on their way to and from the Holy Land.

The Wafd and the London Press.

The Wafd is much upset at the accounts sent home by the representatives of the London Press of the excellent reception received by the Premier during his tour of the various provinces, an account which has differed very much from that served up by its Press for the delectation of its followers. The latter have been variously told that there were no crowds such as had been reported, that the crowds to which the Liberal Press referred were entirely made up of ghaffirs brought in from all parts and dressed up to fill the part of fellahin, that in Samannud (the constituency of Nahas Pasha) where much was made of the reception given to Mohamed Mahmoud Pasha, there were only half a dozen ghaffirs present, and that the speech of welcome was stopped by prolonged ovations in favour of Nahas Pasha, and so on.

Not content with that, the principal Wafd organ now proceeds to accuse the representatives of the Press of having received definite sums of money from the responsible authorities—which, it says, would explain the favourable nature of their accounts of these receptions. That the Wafdist Press should endeavour to prove that these accounts were entirely erroneous, one can perhaps understand, even that they should accuse representatives of the rest of the Egyptian Press of taking bribes in this matter. But that they should go the length of placing the London Press on the same level by accusing their representatives of also taking bribes shows a complete misconception of the difference between the Press of London, which is notoriously independent of Government influence and that of Cairo, which, on the contrary, is generally subsidized. No one in this country believes for one moment that Englishmen can as a body be bribed, and it is to be feared for its own case that the enormity of the latest accusation made by the Wafdist Press is not likely to further, in fact is likely to discredit, its attempt to mislead its readers in regard to the success which has attended the Prime Minister's tours of the country. This latest manoeuvre of the Wafd is a demonstration of the foolish and incapable manner in which its propaganda is now conducted.

EGYPTIAN GOVERNMENT.

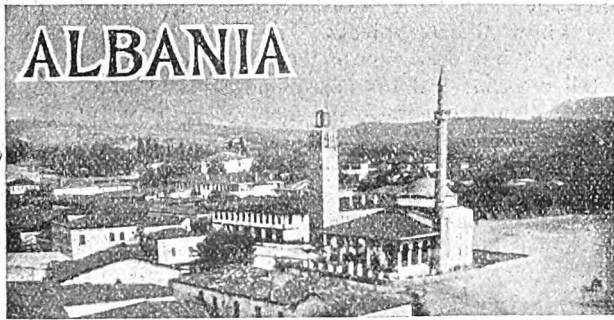
EGYPTIAN GOVERNMENT. FACULTY OF SCIENCE.

APPLICATIONS are invited for the Post of LECTURER IN ZOOLOGY.

The salary offered is from £E700 to £E800 per annum according to qualifications. The appointment will be in the first instance on contract for three years, subject to cancellation on three months' notice being given on either side.

Travelling allowance, equivalent to one month's salary, will be paid to the successful applicant if resident in Europe.

Applications should be addressed to The Dean of the Faculty of Science, Egyptian University, Cairo, and should be received before January 1, 1929.



Tirana, December 2.

The Constituent Assembly.

Yesterday the astonished population of Tirana learned, from the firing of twenty-one guns, that the Constituent Assembly has ended its labours. The new constitutional statute of Albania has just been finished. It contains 230 Articles, and gives unrestricted rights to the Sovereign.

But what gave more joy to the members of the Assembly was that, by a decision taken by them, the Assembly is transformed into a Chamber of Deputies, and everyone, therefore, remains *en place*. Before taking this decision the Assembly was careful to increase by two hundred francs a month their payment—their *meash*, as it is called here. And so, with neither new elections nor even the shadow of an electoral campaign, still less political parties, the elected of the people of last August (that is to say, the persons nominated by the Government) keep their mandate—in other words, they remain in power.

The New Regime.

Monarchical Albania has just regularised her relations with all the Powers, except Turkey, who refuses to recognise the change. For this reason, the Turkish Minister at Tirana, Tahir Lufti Bey, has left for Angora, and Albania is represented in Turkey only by a Secretary-Chargé d'Affaires.

The other foreign representatives have in turn presented their new Letters of Credence. Yugoslavia was the last, but she also has resumed official relations.

The Press.

There are at this moment two daily journals in Albania: *Shekulli i Ri* ("The New Century"), and the *Gazeta e Re* ("The New Journal"), which appeared in Tirana a month ago. The second of these journals is printed at the expense of the Government, and is edited by the Press Bureau of the Minister of Foreign Affairs; while the first is the organ of the cigarette Company, "Stamles."

The *Telegraph* (thrice weekly), which was considered to be the most independent political sheet, was suspended last October, and its Editor, Chekrezi, was brought before the political tribunal for having said that after the Constituent Assembly there would be elections for the Chamber of Deputies and that, as for the formation of political parties, Ahmed Zogu was no longer President of the Republic and head of the Government, but King, and therefore Sovereign of the country, without distinction of party.

NEWS IN BRIEF.

Spain has formally recognised the new régime in Albania.

King Fuad returned to Cairo on December 5 from Alexandria.

Heavy floods at Smyrna have resulted in damage to many houses, and the total destruction of others.

The members of the Commission on the Aswan Dam Project were received in audience by the King of Egypt in Cairo on December 6.

M. le Vicomte d'Aumale, Counsellor of the French Legation in Cairo, has been appointed French Consul-General in Palestine. M. Jean Lescuyer will succeed Vicomte d'Aumale at the Cairo Legation.

Colonel Maximovitch, Professor at the Yugoslav Military Academy, has been appointed to be Governor of Zagreb. M. Zreletz, the Governor, whom he succeeds, is being placed on the retired list.

Bulgarian Agrarians, displeased at the postponement of the official answer to a question about the alleged ill-treatment of one of their number by the police, made a demonstrative exit from the Sobranje on December 5.

In the presence of Queen Marie and Princess Helena, the young King's grandmother and mother respectively, the premises of the Feminist headquarters in Roumania were opened in Bucharest on December 3.

M. Bouroff, Bulgarian Minister of Foreign Affairs, and M. Moloff, Minister of Finance, arrived last week at Geneva to express their thanks to the Financial Committee of the League for its aid in arranging the Bulgarian Loan. They are representing Bulgaria at the coming session of the Council of the League of Nations.

Major-General Sir Frederick Maurice, Professor of Military Studies, at King's College, Strand, W.C.2, lectured on December 10 on "The Relations of the Campaigns in Palestine to the General Strategy of the Great War." On December 17 his subject will be "The Battle of Gaza-Beersheba." The chair at the first lecture was taken by Field-Marshal Lord Allenby. Admission to the lecture next Monday is free, without ticket.

At the Annual Dinner in London recently of the British Serbian Units Branch of the British Legion, the suggestion was made by the President, Dr. Hutchison, that at the next dinner children of members who were old enough should be allowed to attend, seated at a centre table, that afterwards they should all gather round a charcoal brazier in the dark, while a Serbian *guslar* (a bard) told stories of the Great Retreat and other incidents in the War. Thus could the children learn the true importance of international friendship.

Vice-Admiral B. S. Thesiger, C.B., C.M.G., Commander-in-Chief in the East Indies, has been making a cruise in the Persian Gulf on board the *Triad*, the ship of the Senior Officer in the Gulf, Captain Hector Boyes, C.M.G. The places he has visited have included Basidu, Bahrain, and Bushire. The *Triad* returned to Basrah on December 2, where the Vice-Admiral returned to his flagship, the *Effingham*, which is due to leave to-day (December 13) to continue her cruise.

Lieutenant-Colonel Frederick Grey, Inspector of Messing in India, returns to England in January on eight months' leave, after which he will vacate his appointment. Lieutenant-Colonel Grey served 20 years before being commissioned as Quartermaster of the 2nd Battalion The Royal West Kent Regiment in 1912. After the War he was transferred to The King's Shropshire Light Infantry, and posted to India to organise the messing arrangements of the troops there.

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CALCUTTA LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Calcutta, November 22.

The Viceroy.

The Viceroy has been to Patna to open the new Science College, and there, nominally addressing the Vice-Chancellor, the Principal and staff, and the students, he used words directed to a wider audience. "The truth is," he said, "that public opinion, or indeed any individual mind, can never have before it more than a fraction of the relevant data in the light of which complete judgment can be formed. We all, I suppose, have only a limited number of categories into which we tend to thrust the impressions produced upon us by everyday experience. These categories form a picture to which we are constantly tempted forcibly to accommodate facts. Yet facts are stubborn things and are apt to rebel against such treatment, but none the less we continue the attempt, and public opinion, therefore, is frequently not so much a judgment of facts as a particular version of them. Many persons, too, are prone to want to have their thinking done for them and to trust too readily to the printed word and to current catchwords and phrases."

There is Oxford speaking, as I believe Oxford has not been heard to speak in India since Lord Curzon left her shores. There is, of course, a greater evil than the evil of men who, though they had but a fraction of the data before them, formed judgments, and spent the rest of their public lives in acting upon them as with the assurance that they were complete judgments—the evil of an unbridled spirit of intrigue. It would need, it must be admitted, a voice still braver than that of Oxford to speak in India of this rage of intrigue. It should be the subject of a page or a chapter of the Simon Commission's Report; but will it be? Until there is a public opinion that will not tolerate unbridled intrigue, a public opinion that remembers that "the King's Government must be carried on," which means also that the Opposition should be self-governed, self-restrained, what hope can there be for the democratic institutions that the Viceroy had in mind when he said: "There is no necessity to emphasise the importance of public opinion in any country, especially a country in which democratic institutions are in the process of formation." You cannot work democratic institutions—so the Simon Commission should report—until there is a sufficiently sound and strong public opinion, and among Indians there is no sufficiently sound and strong public opinion because of their deep-seated vice of intrigue.

Lala Lajpat Rai.

Lala Lajpat Rai, whose death India is now mourning, was a man who stood above intrigue; one of the few of his generation who did. He had his limitations certainly; he cannot be said to have searched for the truth as Oxford bids her sons search for it; they say that, in the Legislative Assembly, he never spoke but one speech, and that the speech of a partisan. The truth is, he had not a powerful intellect. He was not self-seeking, but public-spirited, and what he had convinced himself were the evil consequences of the British-India alliance were all that his passionate eyes could see in politics. He did sounder work outside politics. Mr. Gandhi writes thus of him in *Young India*: "His love of service was insatiable. He founded educational institutions. He befriended the depressed classes. Poverty, wherever found, claimed his attention. He surrounded young men with extraordinary affection. No young man appealed to him in vain for help."

To secure an enlightened and strong public opinion, that indispensable basis of democratic institutions, it is not enough, however, to found schools and colleges. Men must be found to teach in them. I had it in this room the other day from a young Bengali that the Indians among the professors at whose feet he had sat had none of them possessed the capacity to teach. "Why is it, sir," he

asked me, "that they none of them can teach?" "They may know their subjects," he went on, as I did not answer, "but they cannot teach." I did not need anyone to tell me that Indians conspicuously lack the capacity to teach. The same lack of sheer weight of intellect that made it possible that a man of no more weighted a mind than Lala Lajpat Rai possessed, should be a great political leader—that same lack, or a still greater degree of it, makes it impossible for a man to excel as a teacher. One has never heard of an Indian of our time so excelling. The country has had great religious teachers—in the past.

The European Association.

The annual meeting of the Calcutta branch of the European Association was held on Monday, when the President of the Association, Mr. Chartres, who has visited all the thirty branches scattered up and down India, drew an interesting contrast between the average Calcutta man's concern for politics and the much keener interest of the European up-country. Politics are never brought very close to the Calcutta merchant and his assistants, while they are a very lively concern to the man up-country, and every year become a livelier one. This is shown by the figures of membership of the different branches. Mr. Chartres knows of one up-country branch, where the actual membership is ninety-five per cent. of the possible membership, while all that the Calcutta branch can boast is that this year the new members enrolled outnumber the old members lost. However, when money is the need, it would appear that Calcutta can be relied on to attend; for the whip round for money to defray the expenses of representing the European case before the Simon Commission has drawn Rs.43,000 from Calcutta, exclusive of Rs.4,200 from the jute mills, and Rs.11,550 from the tea agencies.

Mr. Chartres is President of the Association. Mr. W. H. Thompson, who presided over the meeting as President of the Calcutta branch, also spoke. The *Statesman* has a leader this morning on the subject of a portion of Mr. Thompson's speech, beginning as follows: "In a somewhat pessimistic speech at the European Association meeting Mr. W. H. Thompson seemed to give a measure of adhesion to the suggestion that at some future date the British may hand over India with the exception of Bombay and Calcutta, retaining these under their own administration. The proposal is not altogether new. It was explored in our columns about four years ago, and since then it has found support with a few Europeans. We believe it to be wholly and absolutely impracticable."

Indian Road Development Committee.

The Indian Road Development Committee has presented its Report in a document of over a hundred and fifty pages. The main recommendations are that there should be additional taxation on motor transport, including two more annas on motor spirit, vehicle taxation, and licence fees for vehicles plying for hire. The additional two annas on motor spirit, it is estimated, would yield sixty-two lakhs. A Central Road Board is not recommended, the Committee preferring a Standing Committee on Roads of the Central Legislature, and a periodical Road Conference at which interested parties would be represented. Strong emphasis is laid on the need for road development in India, in particular: for the better marketing of agricultural produce; for the social and political progress of the rural population; and as a complement to railway development.

Lieutenant-Colonel Thomas S. Whitworth has succeeded to the command of the 3rd Battalion 2nd Punjab Regiment, in place of Lieutenant-Colonel T. Luck, who has vacated. The new commandant was formerly in The East Yorkshire Regiment, and on transferring to the Indian Army was posted to the 72nd Punjab, the old title of the present battalion. He served in Egypt, France, Afghanistan, and on the North-West Frontier, and was a brigade major and a G.S.O.2 in India. Major E. G. Howlett, M.C., will be his second-in-command.

INDIA IN PARLIAMENT.

Interest in Indian affairs in Parliament last week centred mainly in the Upper House, when practically a whole day's business was devoted to their consideration. It began with a request from Lord Clwyd for information regarding the appointment of the usual Standing Joint Committee on Indian affairs. Although it was true, he admitted, that no questions had been submitted to the Committee last year, the House would, he thought, agree that it was none the less desirable that the machinery of the Committee should be put in motion and the Committee appointed. There was, moreover, the intention implicit in the procedure laid down for the consideration of the Simon's Commission's report to refer the considered proposals to such a body.

In reply, the new Secretary of State explained that the Government were entirely of the same opinion, and that the only reason why a Motion had not been put down before was that some delays had occurred in connection with the personnel of the Committee. Lord Peel's promise to proceed with the question without further delay was implemented the following day, when the necessary Motion was moved and agreed to, and it was ordered "That a Message be sent to the Commons to acquaint them therewith and to desire their concurrence."

Many keen students of present-day Indian political and constitutional problems have been wondering how the findings of the Butler Committee, which will shortly be available, are to be co-ordinated with, or dovetailed into, the framework of the Statutory Commission's wider inquiry. The problems under examination in each instance are so intimately related each to the other as to make it not only desirable but essential that they should be considered together. But they are in point of fact actually under inquiry by two separate and distinct bodies. As *THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA* pointed out in May last, "it may be possible so to widen the terms of reference to the Simon Commission as to enable it to deal, in consultation with the Indian States Committee, with questions affecting the States. Or if this is impracticable the appointment of still another Commission may be a possible way out of the difficulty. But some means of co-ordinating the work of the two investigating authorities must undoubtedly be sought and found." To elicit some indication of opinion on the point from the responsible authorities was, no doubt, the object of Lord Olivier's subsequent Motion.

Although the ex-Secretary of State for India, replying on the debate, congratulated himself on having been the means of eliciting from his successor "such an interesting, important and considered statement," we cannot altogether share his satisfaction at Lord Peel's reply. That on the receipt of the Butler Committee's report the Government "would have to proceed to whatever consideration might be necessary either of the question as to the relations between the paramount Power and the States or the question as to the relations between the States and British India" was patent. Lord Olivier's question was whether the Government had in view any scheme for dealing with matters arising with regard to the Indian States concurrently and consistently with future amendments of the Constitution of British India. While we agree that to formulate anything in the nature of a cut-and-dried scheme at the present juncture would be premature, we think that Lord Peel might have indicated more precisely the lines on which "endeavours are being made to look ahead and examine into these difficult and complex questions."

Although the obviously exaggerated accounts of the clashes between the police and the boycotters on the occasion of the Simon Commission's arrival at Lahore and other centres carried their own refutation, the India Office was well advised to make the actual facts as widely known as possible. The charge, for example, has been freely made in the Indian Press and at public meetings that the

death of Lala Lajpat Rai was directly attributable to the rough handling he received from the police.

In reply to several questions on the subject in the House of Commons recently, Lord Winterton said that he was aware that Lala Lajpat Rai had made a statement to the Press to the effect that he had received two blows from a police officer on the occasion of the demonstration at Lahore on October 30. Two enquiries had been conducted into the conduct of the police on that occasion—the first held departmentally immediately after the occurrence, and the second, a public inquiry, held in the Town Hall, Lahore, by the Commissioner of the Rawalpindi Division.

Although in view of the forthcoming debate in the Punjab Legislative Council, the Under Secretary of State preferred to make no detailed statement as to the facts elicited by the inquiries, he made it plain that no evidence had been produced to support the allegations. The general of the investigations, he added, was to establish the fact that while pressure from the large crowd behind did necessitate the use of some force by the police to prevent their line being broken, and consequently some slight injury resulted to the persons in the front ranks (a position occupied by the late Lala Lajpat Rai) there was no deliberate or unprovoked attack by the police, and no individual was singled out for assault.

Replying to supplementary questions, Lord Winterton explained that the incident arose out of an illegal procession which was forbidden by the police, and repeated that no more force was used than was necessary to restrain the crowd from breaking through the barricades and possibly assaulting members of the Commission.

In a written reply to a question Sir Samuel Hoare made the welcome announcement that an agreement had been reached between the Persian Government and Imperial Airways about the establishment of bases in Persia for the Air Service between Great Britain and India, and that the relevant documents would probably be signed last week.

THE INDIAN CIVIL SERVICE (Retired) ASSOCIATION.

Memorandum to Simon Commission.

The Indian Civil Service (Retired) Association, a body comprising some 350 ex-officials of that Service, has addressed to the Simon Commission, through its President, Sir Reginald Craddock, a representation on the subject of possible or contemplated changes in the political constitution of India. The representation is warranted, in fact even demanded, by the Association's accumulation of Indian experience and knowledge and the Commission has, it is understood, acknowledged its obligation in the matter.

The memorandum disclaims any wish to traverse the whole ground of political reform in India or to attempt to devise any constitutional scheme. The gist of the representation is that, whatever political changes be contemplated to gratify the legitimate aspirations among the educated classes in India for an increasing share of power, the maintenance of the British element in the administration is absolutely essential for the welfare of the vast masses of the population.

Many Indians in this and other British Services have assimilated their traditions and adopted their high standards of duty, as the Association recognises with pride, but the maintenance of these high standards depends and must for long depend upon the continuance of the impartial British element. It is in part the inherence of such standards in the British governing class, partly their detachment from racial rivalries, conflicts of creed and caste, and the struggle of hostile sections for place and power, that creates the general belief in their impartiality and popular confidence in their integrity, quite apart from any question of efficiency. Reduction of the

British element, either in numbers or authority, weakens the administration both directly by cutting down its more efficient part, and indirectly by diminution of the strength that element supplies to its Indian colleagues. And a serious weakening of the administration would be disastrous to the great masses of the people of India. It would not really benefit the classes who are looked to as the inheritors of British rule.

The essential importance of maintaining the high standard of Indian Administration, is, in the Association's view, the crux, in fact, of the present situation. The memorandum goes on to describe in outline the limits within which the Civil Service must continue to be constituted. The Security Services, the Indian Civil and the Police, should not be Indianised beyond the standard accepted by the Lee Commission; even that, it is contended, is perilously low. The Civil branch of the Indian Medical Service should be definitely included among the Security Services, for which requirement the authority of Mr. Montagu is quoted.

In other Services, as the Lee Commission recognised, recruitment of British experts must be regarded as essential. This applies to the Public Works, the Forests, the Education Department and perhaps some others. In these the Association suggests the British proportion should be substantial and should continue to enjoy "All India" status, that is, should not be locally controlled. Finally, in the matter of Service and Family Pensions the present statutory control of the Secretary of State, it is submitted, should not be relaxed without adequate security for the liability being fully met. This, indeed, is a responsibility which no British Government could with honour disregard.

INDIA AND THE JUDICIAL COMMITTEE OF THE PRIVY COUNCIL.

Referring to our note, in last week's issue, on the question of the establishment of a Supreme Court of Appeal in India, a Parliamentary correspondent writes:—

"The proposal for the establishment of a Supreme Court to which you referred in a recent issue has an important bearing on the question—which is now before the House of Commons—of the appointment of two additional members of the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council. For a long time past it has been the practice for the Committee to include one member, or sometimes two members, with practical experience of the administration of justice in India. But these members—who are not Law Lords—have always been, and still are, most inadequately remunerated.

"The present proposal is that two more members, with, of course, Indian experience, should be appointed on a yearly salary of £4,000 each. Half of this amount is to be paid by the Treasury, and the other half by India. There is also to be a pension of £1,000 yearly, which is presumably to be paid by the Treasury.

"By a majority of one vote the Legislative Assembly resolved some time ago to sanction an annual expenditure of £4,000 for the purpose in question. This resolution reversed a previous decision to refuse the grant. Those members of the Assembly who favoured rejection contended that, although the Judicial Committee has rendered signal service to India, its cost should be borne by the Imperial Government, seeing that it is an Empire Court. Other members opposed the grant, on the ground that a Supreme Court of Appeal ought to be established in India to do the work which is now undertaken by the Judicial Committee.

"As you state in your note, the request for the establishment of a Supreme Court is much more generally and strongly supported now than it was in the first instance. For if India is to be federalised such a Court will be pre-

sumably a necessity. This point is stressed by the Associated Chambers of Commerce who, in their memorandum for the Simon Commission, ask that the new constitution may include a provision prohibiting the enactment of legislation discriminating against British commerce. And the memorandum continues: 'The Chambers conceive that the next step towards making India a federation of autonomous provinces will necessarily include a Supreme Court to interpret that constitution, and to adjudicate upon the reciprocal rights and obligations of the Central and Provincial Governments and of the Provincial Governments *inter se*. In this case the ultimate tribunal in India for interpreting this clause (the anti-discriminatory clause) would obviously be the Supreme Court subject to an appeal lying as of right to the King in Council.

"All the available information suggests that this proposal is meeting with general support in India. If so, and if the Statutory Commission reports in favour of it, the position of India in respect of the Judicial Committee may approximate, at no very distant date, to the position of Canada or Australia. At present the Judicial Committee is required to deal with more appeals from India than from any other part of the Empire. But with the establishment of a Supreme Court a reduction in the number of Indian appeals must surely be expected. And it will then be difficult to see why India should contribute towards the cost of the Judicial Committee while nothing is paid by any of the other Dominions.

"This consideration lends force to the objection which Sir Hamar Greenwood raised, in the course of last month's debate, to the proposed changes. He pointed out that the Judicial Committee is the only Imperial Tribunal; and that the case could have been met if the Government had simply added, say, three Lords of Appeal in ordinary, keeping the appointments in their own hands and the payment on the Consolidated Fund. He thought that by taking half of the salaries of the additional members from India the Government would be weakening the prestige of the Judicial Committee merely for the sake of saving £8,000 a year to the taxpayers."

THE HYDERABAD BUDGET.

Commenting last year on the gratifying picture presented by the Hyderabad State finances, mention was made of the contract form of budgetting introduced by Sir Akbar Hydari, the present Finance Member of H.E.H. the Nizam's Government, which is undoubtedly largely responsible for the further notable progress made during the past seven years. The Budget Note for the Muslim year 1338 Fasli (beginning October 6 last) deals with the receipts and expenditure for another triennium, the third since the scheme of decentralization was inaugurated in 1332 F. as an experimental measure.

A summary of the working of the scheme, originally introduced for a term of three years only, shows that for the first contract ending with 1334 Fasli there was a surplus of 223.18 lakhs, which, together with the moiety of the departmental savings (37.84 lakhs) amounted to 261 lakhs. The surpluses during the second triennium are expected to amount to 297 lakhs and the moiety of the balances to about 47½ lakhs.

For the ensuing 1338 Fasli Budget receipts have been estimated at Rs.790 lakhs, and expenditure at Rs.737½. The surplus will be added to this allotment to the departments of 102½ lakhs from past surpluses.

In his Budget Note Sir A. Hydari refers to the extensive agricultural programme, the provision of a network of rural co-operative societies, the reorganisation of the medical departments, and the extension of all branches of education. He anticipates that the next contract will provide for a revenue of nearly Rs.9 crores to be spent on the further realisation of these and other social services.

THE SOUTH-EASTERN BORDERLANDS OF RUBA AL KHALI.

Mr. Bertram Thomas lectured to the Royal Geographical Society on December 3 upon "The South-Eastern Borderlands of *Ruba al Khali*." In introducing the lecturer, the President, Sir Charles Close, said that while in the interests of geography they wished some Europeans to cross *Ruba al Khali*, perhaps in their capacity as human beings they ought not to wish it.

Mr. Thomas, who illustrated his lecture with many lantern slides illustrating the various stages of his recent journey from Suwaih to Dhufar (an account of which appeared in *THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA* of November 1), as well as the map of unknown territory which he had constructed, referred to the *Ruba al Khali* as a vast, unknown region of 300,000 square miles of probably uninhabited scorching sand and arid steppe, bounded by habitable Najd on the north-west, and by coastal strips of Oman, Hadhramaut, and Yaman on the north, south, and west respectively. The two obstacles that barred the way to scientific investigation of the Empty Quarter were: (1) its sterility was of a peculiarly prohibitive kind; and (2) its every avenue of entry and exit was closed by a people fiercely jealous of the secrets of their poor marshes and waterholes, and predisposed to intolerance of foreign penetration in whatever sense.

Oman was scarcely mentioned by the classical geographers; and the only European exploration of south-eastern Arabia consisted of Wellsted's visit, nearly a hundred years ago, to the eastern province of Jaalan, and in the 'nineties, the Bents' visit to the mounties of Dhufar. It was the 500 mile stretch between these two points, hitherto untrodden by European, which Mr. Thomas successfully traversed early this year.

He described the difficulties which he had in getting reluctant consent to proceed from the Amir of Bani Bu Ali (who, as Sir Percy Cox subsequently remarked, was now under a cloud with H.M.G.), whose town of Balad Bani bu Ali no European had been permitted to enter for 93 years. From Suwaih his party went to Ghina and thence to the three Janabi villages of Juwaibi, Aiyun, and Al Qatara. At this point the lecturer devoted some attention to the province of Jaalan, mentioning, among other things, its Wahhabism, and the fact that the Bani bu Ali were the Bliulaie of Ptolemy.

They proceeded from this country in a course east of south, crossing the Wadi Bahta. Then they moved along the southern edge of Wadi Ubaidha for two days, and afterwards struck towards the coast through scrub country which was called Khuwaiyim. A vivid descrip-

tion was given of how the coastal people, absolutely fearless of sharks, made their living by fishing. Proceeding westwards, the lecturer and his party crossed the Wadi Halfain, which was the most important Badawin corridor between Northern Oman and the Indian Ocean. It appeared to divide the sands of *Ruba al Khali*, isolating the island of sand which ran up into Jaalan. His suggestion of the course of the Wadi Halfain, by the way, differed from that on the maps of Wellsted and of Miles.

Arrival at Khaluf, Mr. Thomas found that the Shaikh of Masirah had much the same views about his journey as those entertained earlier by the Amir of Bani bu Ali. However, he finally succeeded in getting a Harsusi *rafiq*, and they left the Bay of Bintauf, making for the Wadi Sarab. Here he was struck by the almost southern European faces of the youthful inhabitants. They continued their journey to Wadi Ainain, whence onwards to Dhufar water was practically non-existent.

This final section of the journey has, however, already been described in general terms in *THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA*, and although the lecturer added much fresh material, we must refer readers to the next *Journal* of the Royal Geographical Society.

In conclusion, Mr. Thomas referred to the non-Arab tribes known as the Harasis, Bautahara, Mahra, Qara, and Shahara. He said that at the dawn of history South Arabia had settlements of Sabaeans dotted about it. The Sabaeans were overthrown by the Himyarites, and these in turn were absorbed by the Arabs. Now the Queen of Sheba (Sabaeans) was claimed both as an African and an Arab queen, and the tribes whom he had discovered had, with the exception of the Harasis—a tradition of African origin. On the evidence of physical characteristics, tribal tradition, customs and head measurements, he suggested that these tribes were of Hamitic and not Semitic origin. Dr. Rathjens, a German adviser to the Imam Yahya of the Yaman, supported him on the score of types which he had seen farther west; and Dr. Neilson, of Copenhagen, had told the lecturer that Glaser was of the opinion that Hamitic tribes should be expected in the Central South.

After the lecture Sir Denison Ross spoke of the immense research work yet to be done in connexion between Africa (Punt) and the southern coast of Arabia. The lecturer had suggested an African origin for certain tribes in southern Arabia, and that was very probably correct. In ancient days people had set out from Africa in sailing ships for the East, and undoubtedly they had much more influence upon Arabia than was generally admitted. He mentioned, in particular, the probable influence of Abyssinia upon the Shahari, Mahri, and so on alluded to by Mr. Thomas. Another suggestion which Sir Denison threw out was that the Royal Geographical Society should organise an expedition to conquer *Ruba al Khali*, in the heart of which there might be all sorts of interesting things. So far, not even an aeroplane had flown across it.

Sir Percy Cox, in congratulating the lecturer upon his excellent work of exploration, described his own experiences in Oman some thirty years ago. He, too, had dreamed of crossing *Ruba al Khali*, from Muscat to Aden, but although the Shaikhs on the Oman side asserted that it was perfectly possible to cross the great desert, they thought it might go hardly with the traveller in the hands of shaikhs on the other side. On the Aden side, similar arguments were used! For his part he did not believe there was anything in the Empty Quarter, because nothing had ever come out of it. He was, however, in favour of its being crossed by aeroplane. With Mr. Thomas's explanation of the word Dhufar (Dhu-Afar) he was inclined to agree; certainly it was absurd to suggest that it had anything to do with the Biblical place, Ophir.

Speaking at the recent annual meeting of the Indian Historical Records Commission at Nagpur, Sir Montagu Butler, Governor of the Central Provinces, referred to a recent discovery of autograph letters from Arthur Wellesley, which would probably have remained buried in the Nagpur record room but for the local enthusiasm aroused by the Commission's visit.

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Book Reviews

ALEXIUS COMNENUS.

"THE ALEXIAD OF THE PRINCESS ANNA COMNENA." Translated by Dr. Elizabeth Dawes. (London: Kegan Paul, Trench, Trubner and Co., Ltd. 15s. net.)

A reviewer of this delightful book finds it difficult not to "let himself go" in order to enable his readers to share liberally in the enjoyment which he has experienced in reading it. The temptation must, however, be resisted. It is, therefore, to be hoped that enough can be said to induce others to buy the book for themselves. They will not regret it. The matter is good and the translation excellent, as the following extract will show:—

The arrow from the cross-bow struck the top of Marianus' helmet and pierced it in its flight without touching a hair of his head, for Providence warded it off. Then the man speedily discharged another arrow at the Count, and hit him in the side. . . . A certain Latin priest who happened to be standing in the stern with twelve other fighting men, saw this, and let fly several arrows against Marianus. Not even then did Marianus surrender, but fought fiercely himself and encouraged his men to do the same, so that three times over the men with the priest had to be replaced, as they were wounded and sore-pressed. The priest himself, however, although he had received many blows, and was streaming with his own blood, remained quite fearless. . . . After the battle had raged fiercely from the evening till next midday, the Latins surrendered to Marianus, much against their will, asking and obtaining a promise of immunity. But that most bellicose priest did not stop fighting, even while the truce was being concluded, but as he had emptied his quiver of darts, he picked up a sling-stone and hurled it at Marianus. The latter protected his head with his shield, but the stone struck the shield and broke it in four pieces and shattered his helmet. And Marianus was overwhelmed by the blow from the stone, and at once fell unconscious, and lay speechless a long time, just as the hero Hector almost gave up the ghost when hit with a stone by Ajax. He recovered with difficulty, and then pulled himself together and by shooting arrows at him, thrice hit the man who had struck him. Yet that polemarch, rather than priest, was not even then sated with fighting, and as he had hurled all the stones he had, he was now utterly unarmed and bereft both of stones and darts; so not knowing what to do or how to defend himself against his adversary, he grew impatient, and stormed and raged and twisted himself about like a wild beast; and directly he saw anything handy he used it. Then he discovered a sack of barley-cakes and began throwing out the barley-cakes from the sack as though they were stones, as if he were officiating at a service and turning war into a sacred celebration. And one barley-cake he picked up, drove it with all his might, aiming at Marianus' face, and hit him on the cheek. So much for that priest and the ship and its crew. The Count of Prebentza, after surrendering himself and his ship and his soldiers to Marianus, immediately followed him. And when they had reached land and were embarking, that same priest often and repeatedly asked for Marianus and, because he did not know his name, he called him by the colour of his clothes. When he found him, he threw his arms round him and embraced him, whilst he said boastfully, "If you had met me on dry land, many of you would have been killed by my hands." Then he pulled out and gave him a large silver cup worth one hundred and thirty staters. And with these words and gift he breathed his last.

After reading this, we shall not be surprised to read of the authoress' method of collecting the facts for her narrative, which she, if the reader will forgive another quotation, describes as follows:—

What I have added to my history, let God and his Mother my Mistress be my witnesses, I have collected from absolutely unpretentious simple commentaries, and from a few old men who were soldiers when my father seized the Roman sceptre but have fallen on evil times and retired from the turmoil of the world to the calm life of monasteries. For the commentaries which fell into my hands were simple in diction and strictly truthful and displayed no style and were free from all rhetorical pretensions. And the narratives of the old men were like the commentaries both in phrase and scope, and I judged the truth of my history from them by comparing and examining what I had written with what they told me, and what they told me with what I remembered from having often heard the accounts both from my father himself and from my paternal and maternal uncles. From all these sources I wove the whole fabric of my truthful history.

Indeed, not only in the tale of the fighting Padre but in many another we can almost hear the old soldier telling the royal lady of what his eyes had seen. Not that her own narrative is "free from all rhetorical pretensions." She had been brought up as a Princess and had received an education which astounds us when we think of the accomplishments of even our most learned men at the

time, i.e., soon after the Norman Conquest. She loves to air her classical knowledge and to touch on philosophical and theoretical matters, but, on such occasions, quickly recalls herself to her task as historian. Little human touches are very common, such as:—"I had got as far as this and was toiling with my pen about the time of lamp-lighting, when I noticed that I was dozing a bit over my writing."

What she sets out to tell is the story of her father, the great Alexius I Comnenus. It is indeed a stirring story. "There was a time when the limits of Roman rule were the two pillars which bound east and west respectively, those on the west being called the 'pillars of Heracles,' those on the east the 'pillars of Dionysus,' somewhere near the frontier of India." But, when her father came to the throne "the boundary of the Roman rule was the neighbouring Bosphorus on the east and the city of Adrianople on the west." His task in gradually enlarging these narrow boundaries was rendered doubly hard by the constant necessity of fighting against powerful neighbours on all sides, especially the Turks and "Scythians," and resisting numerous rebellions and plots among his own subjects. He was a great soldier but, as his daughter proudly claims, he was a greater man of wiles.

I hold that a general ought not always to try to gain victory for himself by drawing his sword, but that, when opportunity and circumstances permit, he should occasionally have recourse to wiliness and thus ensure complete victory for himself. For, as far as we know, it is a prerogative of generals not only to deal with swords and fighting, but also with treaties. And, besides when opportunity offers, it is as well to rout the enemy by playing the rogue with him, and this is what the Emperor seems to have been busy with at that time.

The chief interest of the story lies in the tale of his wars with Robert Guiscard and his son Bohemond and in its account of the First Crusade which we read of as seen by Byzantine eyes, vivid and intimate, as readers of Gibbon know. Truly the Emperor needed all his wiliness to deal with these gentry.

But we must come to an end, though not without thanking Dr. Dawes for a translation which is not only a work of thorough scholarship but also a piece of genuine English literature. Nor should the publishers be forgotten for producing so desirable a book in comely dress and at a very reasonable price.

C. S-W.

THE WORLD'S OLDEST EPIC POEM.

"THE EPIC OF GILGAMISH." Translated by Dr. R. Campbell Thompson (London: Luzac & Co. 10s. 6d. net)

The tablets from which this translation has been made belong to the seventh century B.C., and are now in the British Museum. Fragments of older tablets, dating from about 2000 B.C., onward are in existence, and these have been made use of in the task of collating and completing the former. The result is a nearly complete

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version of the poem; done into English hexameters which, if perhaps a little too much savouring of Wardour Street; gives the meaning of the original clearly and well, avoiding "improvements" on the text and carefully guarding with brackets the smallest verbal departures from literalness.

How old this poem is, no one can tell. But there are indications that it is at least some 2000 years older than the earliest fragments extant, and doubtless the materials from which it was gradually built up are much older still. It is a wonderful composition, and it is, to say the least of it, remarkable that so much poetical beauty and philosophical thought can have been given expression in language by people whose civilization perished centuries before ours began. The main burden is the "Vanity of Vanities" theme, and not even the Preacher or Jeremiah was able to produce so hopeless an atmosphere of titanic gloom as we have here presented. Death comes to all human beings, even to the demi-god Gilgamesh. Existence after death is drab and miserable. Yet none can escape. Most readers will turn to the account of the Deluge as told by Uta-Napishtim (Noah). It is curiously like the Old Testament story, but also curiously unlike, the most evident unlikeness being the want of any moral justification for the infliction by the Gods of this terrible disaster.

We note that Dr. Thompson is working at a critical edition of the text of the Epic as revealed by his fresh collation of the British Museum tablets, including a translation. In the meantime the ordinary cultured reader has much to thank him for in giving in this paragon an opportunity of reading the wonderful ancient story without too much technical material and presented in a very pleasant form.

C. S-W.

INDIAN NOTES.

(Continued from page 667.)

not be prepared to find the capital—estimated at Rs. 12 crores—which would be required to replace, within five years, the large fleets that are now engaged in the trade. And shippers would suffer, because the management would be inexperienced, and for the reason that companies relying solely on the coastal trade would not be able to guarantee such regular and adequate services as now exist. In short, the Bill is, as we have said, an impracticable measure; and it is based solely on racial discrimination. At the present time nationalism makes a strong appeal to the educated Indian who is apt to be only too easily convinced that external capital and enterprise must always mean the exploitation and ruin of his country. How mistaken this view often is may be seen from the match manufacturing industry in India. It is clear from the evidence taken in the recent inquiry before the Tariff Board that the Swedish Match Company has directly

stimulated the Indian manufacturers by forcing improvements in technical processes. In the same way it will be to the advantage of India to retain British shipping on the coast, as the European competition and leadership, which will thus be ensured, will tend to raise Indian standards of efficiency. Unfortunately, however, racial feeling is so strong that the nationalist is often willing to sacrifice solid material advantages such as these if he can only restrict or, better still, terminate any particular form of European industrial and commercial activity.

Indian Railways in 1927-28.

Like the general Budget itself, the annual account of the results of railway working in India has to be prepared at least six weeks before the close of the year to which the statement relates. And the remaining period, moreover, is that in which traffic is usually most brisk and both earnings and expenditure at their peak. At the same time, with the monthly traffic returns consistently higher than in 1926-27, and all descriptions of goods contributing to the improvement, it was obvious long before the last Budget was compiled that the twelve months ended March 31 last would be a most prosperous year for Indian railways. In this confident expectation the Railway Member was able to announce reductions in rates and fares involving a sacrifice in traffic receipts exceeding three crores of rupees in a complete accounting period. The White Paper embodying the Railway Board's latest statistics, published last week, shows that these anticipations have proved correct. The gross revenue receipts of State-owned railways, which now comprise 72 per cent. of the total mileage, amounted to Rs. 104 crores, or Rs. 5 crores more than in 1926-27, and the net figure of Rs. 39 crores as compared with Rs. 34½ crores in the previous year. Goods traffic, as was anticipated, was responsible for most of the increase in gross receipts. On the other hand, earnings from passenger traffic on all railways increased by Rs. 1 crore to Rs. 39 crores, nearly ten million more passengers being carried than in the earlier period on account of the reductions in fares already effected.

OBITUARY.

The death occurred on December 8 of Miss Mary Broadhurst, President of the National League, who was well known to Middle Eastern circles. Her endeavours to combat subversive movements in the British Empire led her to promote a movement for Anglo-Arab friendship; she considered a friendly Arabia an essential British interest. Particularly she championed the cause of the Arabs in Palestine. Of recent months she had been striving hard to secure the Dead Sea Salts under British control.

The death is announced, at the age of 48, of Mr. Paxton Hibben, the American journalist who acted as war correspondent for the Associated Press in Europe from 1915 to 1917. In the intervals of his journalistic work during and after the Great War he was secretary of the Russian Commission of Near East Relief, with the Military Mission to Armenia in 1919, and secretary of the Russian Red Cross Commission in America three years later. Mr. Hibben was the author of "Constantine I. and the Greek People" and "The Famine in Russia."

The funeral service for M. George Marchetti, Chairman of the Greek Community in London, was held at the Greek Cathedral, Moscow Road, Bayswater, on December 3. The Metropolitan of Thyatira officiated, assisted by the Archimandrite Aganthangolos Moscovakis and the Archimandrite Constantinidis. Among those present, in addition to members of the family, were the Greek Minister, M. A. Collas, Captain Demetrius Papalexopoulos, M. J. Gennadius (formerly Greek Minister to the Court of St. James's) and Mme. Gennadius, Mme. Metaxas, Mme. Psychas, Sir John and Miss Stavridi, Sir H. Harris, Lady Ralli (wife of Sir Lucas Ralli), Mrs. P. Ralli, Mr. and Mrs. M. Ralli, Mme. Mavrogordato, Mme. Zarifi, M. and Mme. Scrim, M. and Mme. Constantinidis, M. J. Calvoceressi, Miss Julia Ralli, Miss Ambrose Ralli, M. John Frangopulo, Mme. Fachri, M. and Mme. A. Ionides, M. and Mme. S. Agilesto, Mr. and Mrs. Peter Ralli, Miss Neil Stewart Richardson, M. Paul Schilizzi, M. J. D. Kalergis, Mr. E. C. Demetriadi, M. A. E. Mavrommatis, M. and Mme. Lambrinudi, M. and Mme. Sevastopoulo, M. and Mme. Ziffo, M. and Mme. Leon Argenti, Miss Lambrinudi, Major Melas, Mme. Hourmouzios, M. Ag Aigherino, Mme. Vassiliadi, M. and Mme. Rodocanachi, Mme. Alexandroff, Mme. Vlasto, Mme. Ambrose Scaramanga, Mr. Peter Rodocanachi, Mr. G. M. Chrussachi, and Mr. S. A. Pelecanos.



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PERSONAL AND GENERAL

TO-DAY

December 13, 1928 (New Style).
 November 30, 1928 (Old Style).
 Jumada II, 29, 1347 A.H. of the Muslim Calendar.
 Kislev, 30, 5689, of the Jewish Calendar.

Lady (Arthur) Pearson will leave the May Fair Hotel early in January for Egypt. .

General Sir John and Lady Maxwell will leave London on December 21 for Egypt.

Lady Maffay left Marseilles on December 7 in the P. and O. s.s. Cathay for Port Sudan.

Admiral Sir William and Lady Henderson sailed in the s.s. Llandaff Castle on December 8 for Port Said.

Sir Basil and Lady Blackett arrived in London last week from India, and are staying at Queen Anne's Mansions, S.W. 1.

Sir Ronald Storrs, Governor of Cyprus, is suffering from anæmia, and has been ordered complete rest for several weeks.

Captain Demetrius Papalexopoulos, Naval and Air Attaché at the Greek Legation, arrived at Claridge's Hotel at the end of last week from the Continent.

The headmaster of Eton (the Rev. Dr. C. A. Alington) and Miss Elizabeth Alington have left Eton for Cairo, where they will be the guests of the High Commissioner.

Lady Susan Dawnay embarked on December 8 with the Hon. Charles and the Hon. Francis Wood on the P. and O. liner Morea, at Marseilles, to visit the Viceroy of India and Lady Irwin at Government House, Delhi.

The dinner and dance to be given by Almina Countess of Carnarvon in honour of ex-King George and ex-Queen Elizabeth of the Hellenes, has been postponed from December 10 to next Tuesday, December 18.

Sir Berkeley and Lady Moynihan left England on December 6 for Egypt, to attend the Centenary Celebrations at the School of Medicine, Cairo. They will return on January 11.

Major-General Sir Frederick Sykes, the new Governor of Bombay, arrived in Bombay on December 7, and was received with the customary ceremonial at the Gateway of India.

Sir William de Courcy Wheeler left London on December 6 for Egypt, joining at Marseilles the s.s. Morea, in which Major-General Sir Courtenay and Lady Manifold are passengers to Bombay.

Dr. Trumbitch, one of the leaders of the Croat Coalition, has arrived in London, with Mme. Trumbitch, on a short visit. Dr. and Mme. Trumbitch were the guests of Sir Edward and Lady Boyle at luncheon on December 6.

Sir William Himbury left Manchester on December 11 on a tour of India, Iraq and Egypt on behalf of the British Cotton Growing Association. He expects to return to England in the spring, embarking at Port Said towards the end of March.

The Secretary of State for India has appointed Mr. M. J. Clauson to be his assistant private secretary, in succession to Mr. J. P. Gibson, who has been appointed by the Permanent Under-Secretary for India to be his private secretary, vice Mr. R. E. Field (promoted).

AN ABYSSINIAN APPOINTMENT.

Mr. C. Walker, O.B.E., after many years' service in the Sudan, and, as H.B.M. Consul at Goré, in Western Abyssinia, has retired, and Captain E. N. Erskine, M.C., has succeeded him as Consul for W. Abyssinia. Mr. Walker's linguistic achievements were considerable; in conjunction with Mr. Consul Hodgson (now Governor of the Falkland Islands) he produced a Galla Grammar, and he has an Ethiopic Grammar now in the press.

Captain Erskine left the King's African Rifles to join the Anglo-Italian Jubaland Boundary Commission as Political Officer and Assistant Commissioner. He afterwards spent two years in Somaliland and a year in Italy. Pending the arrival of Mr. Bullard, of Jidda and Athens, Captain Erskine has been Acting Consul at Addis Ababa, holding this office, incidentally, while the political incidents in connexion with the Coronation of Ras Tafari took place.

Brigadier F. W. Hunt, C.B., C.M.G., C.B.E., is vacating the appointment of Director of Veterinary Services at Army Headquarters in India, which he has held since May 24, 1925. His work in the field in the care and treatment of horses and administration of veterinary services has been extensive and of great value, ranging from the Tochi Valley operations, relief of Kimberley, the action of Paardeberg, advance to Pretoria, Somaliland campaign, and as a veterinary chief in France and Mesopotamia. He was on General Sir Alexander Godley's staff at Salisbury before his selection for the veterinary charge of India.

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NON-ARAB TRIBES IN SOUTH ARABIA.

To the Editor of THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA.

Sir,—In his most interesting account of his recent journey in South Arabia, which you publish in your issue of November 1, Mr. Bertram Thomas writes as follows: "This region forms the habitat of a group of five tribes which are racially distinct from the Semitic Arab, and perhaps from one another; and they speak four separate dialects which are not understood by Arabs, and which have closer affinities with Ethiopic than with Arabic, though I think they are early Semitic and more closely associated with Himyaric."

I do not profess to be competent to express an opinion on these conclusions, which may be justified on evidence for which there was naturally no room within the limits of such an article; I would, however, point out that Mr. Thomas appears to have reserved all his evidence for the experts and to have contented himself with supplying just enough material to justify a suspicion that an average Arab would not be altogether nonplussed by the language of the tribes in question. Their names and the place-names of the tract where they live appear to be normal Arabic, but these may have been imposed from outside by the surrounding Arabs. One would, however, expect to find the dialects asserting themselves over any other influence in the common words of everyday life, the names of plants and animals, clothing and natural features. Mr. Thomas gives us a score of such words, but, with the exception of *tishgaut* (a libaniferous shrub), there is not one which would not pass muster among the Arabs of Najd or the Hijaz. For instance, he mentions *rafīq*, *zakat*, *mahfif*, *samn*, *rim*, *dab*, *faiya* (? misprint for *haiya*), *mgħur*, *sik* (this must be familiar to him from Petra), and, to mention but a few of the plants, *ithal*, *rimram*, *haram*, and *thamama*. These words are all perfectly familiar in most parts of Arabia.

It may be admitted without evidence or argument that the language of Southern Arabia, like that of other coastal regions of the peninsula, has not remained unaffected by outside influences during all these thousands of years. But clearly more evidence is necessary before we talk of non-Arab tribes, and it may well prove in the end that the Arabs are not really Arabs at all but another race of the same name.—I am, etc., H. ST. J. B. PHILBY.

Jidda, Arabia. November 22.

[We have referred Mr. St. John Philby's letter to Mr. Bertram Thomas, who writes to us as follows.—ED.]

"I have to thank you for your courtesy in showing me Mr. St. John Philby's letter commenting on my recent journey in South Arabia, which enables me, with only a day or two to spare before I leave for Muscat, to answer it.

"Mr. Philby's suspicion that an average Arab would not be nonplussed by the languages of Hadara group is a mistaken one. None of these languages can be understood by Arabs, other than by a few locals who in rare cases may be bilingual. Four 'average Arabs' accompanied me throughout my journey: a literate Muscati—my

secretary, a Yal Wahiba sub-shaikh from Northern Oman, and two Janabah tribesmen from the Ja'alan province. None of these could make head or tail of any one of the four languages in question.

"The opening sentence of his final paragraph would appear to imply that Mr. Philby is not aware of, or at least is not familiar with, the Mahri and Shahari material already in existence, the fruits of two philological expeditions to South Arabia (Count Landberg, 1898-99, and Dr. Von Müller, 1902). I would refer him, therefore, to the work of Dr. Maximilian Bittner, which embodies this research, and from which he will see that the languages of South Arabia (Shahari and Mahri are two of my four) are not merely Arabic dialects coloured 'by outside influences.' They are, it is true, Semitic, but they are not Arabic. Against the possibility of my vocabularies (some 500 words in the case of three and many fewer of Bauta-hari) not having reached the publishing stage when Mr. Philby is next in this country, I shall be happy to arrange that they may be made available for him to see in manuscript.

"The 'score of words' to which Mr. Philby calls attention are what he truly says they are, Arabic. I do not remember claiming that they were anything else. My practice, indeed, both in my map and papers, has been to use Arabic terms rather than one of four possibly obscure alternatives—this to ensure uniformity and a ready comprehension of my meaning. I could, for instance—to take a few words at random—have called

*Raubat (Ar.)	...	Rizain (Har.), Eriyot (Sh.), Ribot (Mah.).
*Balid (Ar.)	...	Harkam (Sh.).
God	...	Abali (Sh.).
Sun	...	Haiyum (Mah.).
Moon	...	Harit (Har.), Airit (Sh.).
Man	...	Ghaik (Sh.).
Woman	...	Teth (Sh.).
Camel	...	Haibit (Har.), Jun (Sh.) nasal n.
Egg	...	Bettel (Har.), Gaihil(un) (Sh.), aspirated l as in Welsh Gaelic.

* Place names as on maps.

but had I done so, I suspect that Mr. Philby, a distinguished Arabic scholar himself, would have been nonplussed.

"The tribes of the Central South cannot be identified with any Arabs within my experience, Hadhr, or Bada-win, in appearance, dress, cranial index measurement, customs, tradition, or language. The scholar Glaser held that Hamitic racial survivals may be looked for in Southern Arabia. I believe that in these tribes, in all or in part, we have them. But whatever they are not, they are, I am persuaded, survivals of some early peoples quite palpably distinct from the known Semitic types of Arabic-speaking Arabs.

"Finally, the concluding remark of the latter may perhaps show a predisposition on Mr. Philby's part to make up his mind without waiting for that 'evidence for which there was naturally no room within the limits of such an article.' May I ask him please to postpone forming an estimate of the Ahl al Hadara and Qara until my Oxford paper, which I understand is to appear in the next issue of the Royal Anthropological Journal, is in his hands?"

Captain Batchadescu, on his way to take up his duties as Roumanian Military Attaché in Paris, last week crossed the Simplon Pass on horseback through 6 ft. of snow, taking three days to get from Domodossola to Brigue.

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THE WEEK AT HOME

London, Tuesday Morning.

Labour and Protection.

A good deal of play is being made by the political opponents of Labour over the fact that, whereas a majority in the Trade Unions of the textile trade in Yorkshire have recently advocated a measure of protection, or safeguarding, for their industry, the Labour official representatives have declared themselves wholehearted Free Traders. Mr. Philip Snowden, indeed, has openly declared that, if Labour comes into office, it will have none of this pernicious Safeguarding.

Here seems—one cannot as yet say more than that—to be an excellent example of the difference between the man who has actual experience and the doctrinaire. More and more the average Englishman is indisposed to trust the doctrinaire in the matter, on whichever side he be. Practically all of us now feel that things have come to such a pitch that the fullest opportunity should be given to those who deny the infallibility of the fiscal system which has served the country so well in the past to explain their views.

This is by no means the same thing as saying, of course, that the country as a whole would be prepared to see an indefinite extension of Safeguarding. It does appear, however, that things are pointing in that direction. If the position ever does arise when large Trade Unions are opposed to the fiscal policy advocated by the official Labour Party, who can foretell the result?

Capital Punishment.

Last week in the House of Commons, when the Whips were off, Commander Kenworthy introduced a Bill to abolish capital punishment, and obtained a majority of one for it. The fact is a little remarkable, especially if the voting is analysed. It was supported by Labour and Liberals, and, with the exception of nine, opposed by the Conservatives.

Why the voting should have taken these lines it is hard to say. Of course, the Bill will not be heard of again in this Parliament, so that there is no immediate prospect of seeing murderers in this country sentenced to penal servitude for life instead of hanging. But that such a Bill should have been carried, for the first time in the history of the Commons, and in spite of the Conservative vote, is indeed worth noting. Now are Conservatives less tender-minded, less sentimental, less Christian, if you like, than the other parties?

For myself, who do not attach to any particular party, I should be sorry to see the extreme penalty abolished. There is nothing derogatory in its exercise, nor is there anything to be gained by its abolition. But an increasing number of people, if this Commons vote is any criterion, think otherwise. Is the future of England really with the sentimentalists?

The Imperial Telegraphs Bill.

The wireless and cable merger may or may not have been an excellent thing in the interests of the State, but the Government has succeeded in wrapping round the transaction with a mist of suspicion. This Imperial Telegraphs Bill, as it is called, has received a severe buffeting in the Commons: last week it suffered a series of squalls.

Unquestionably, as in the famous Marconi case of yore, there have been people in the know who should not have been in the know, and financial benefits gained which should not have been gained. Were this not so, responsible Members of Parliament could hardly call the transition "daylight robbery," or "a disgraceful ramp," or charge the Government with holding back all the necessary particulars until the consent of Parliament had been given.

As I say, the Bill may be all right; but one cannot examine too closely nowadays the financial transactions between private companies and Governments, and all one's reactionary sympathies must lie with those Labour members who are endeavouring to assert the honoured rights of Parliament to have the fullest details about a public matter in which the State is closely concerned, and not sheepishly content themselves with departmental or even Cabinet recommendations.

Distemper.

There is no lover of dogs who has not devoutly wished that there were some cure for distemper, that most distressing and very general event in the dog's life. Now, however, light is breaking on this mysterious disease, for it is just reported by the Distemper Research Committee, who have been making investigations for two years, that a remedy has been found.

The cause of distemper is now accepted as being a virus or ultra-microscopic organism, and immunity from it is caused by a double inoculation—first with a vaccine which is the sterilised virus of distemper, and then with an attenuated strain of living virus. This treatment has had quite remarkable results, and it may be presumed that, among the wealthy dog-owners, at any rate, it will come in for some popularity.

Whether, however, it can ever become so cheap as to be generally employed, I have no means of knowing. Not yet, anyhow, is the veterinary surgeon likely to lose the fees which he may almost safely reckon upon receiving during the first part of a dog's life.

The Varsity Matches.

By the time that these lines are in print, the results will be known of the Rugger and Soccer matches between Oxford and Cambridge. But as I write it is still hope (or fear) that governs one's opinion of these matches. Every year a bigger crowd seems to gather at Twickenham to see what is certainly one of the games of the year. But at Stamford Bridge, where the Soccer match is now played, there does not seem to me to be the enthusiasm which used to be manifested at Queen's Club.

Cambridge look to me to have the finest fifteen of any playing in England this year, and I shall be surprised as well as shocked at the unfitness of things, if the always plucky and increasingly forlorn Oxford people pull the match off.

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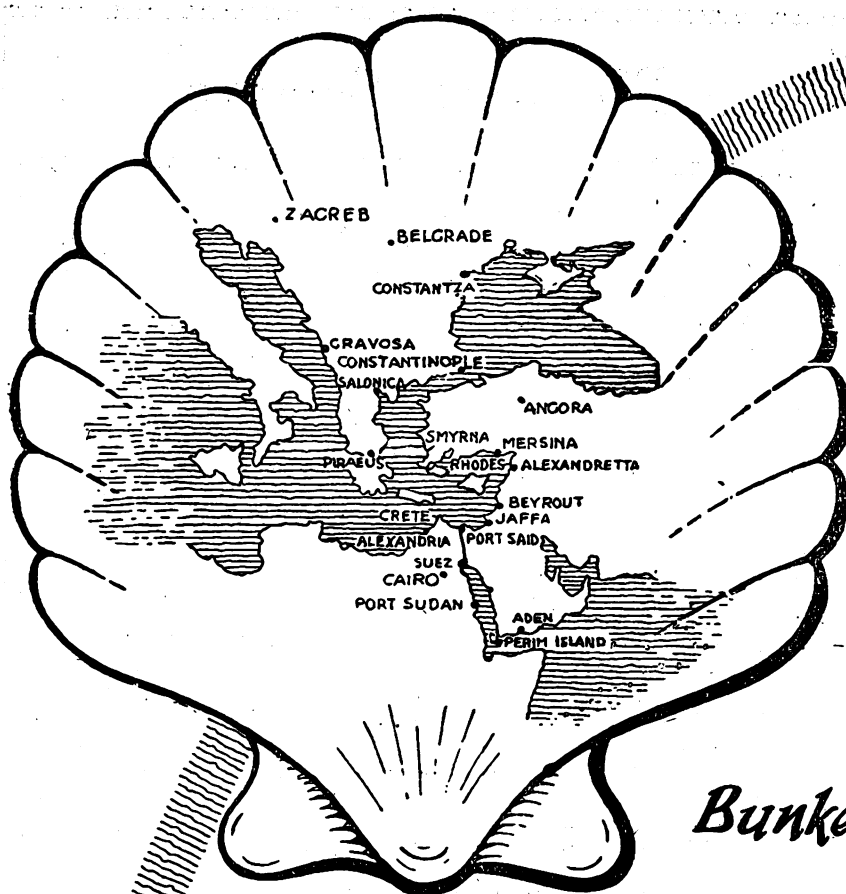
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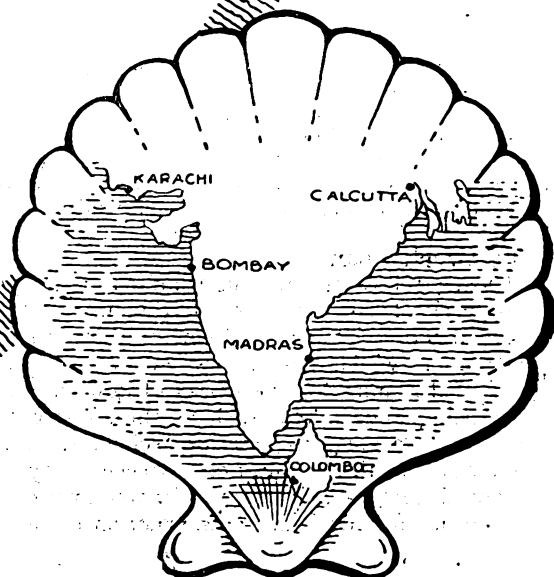
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Commercial and Financial Section.

NOTES AND NEWS

170, Strand, London, W.C.2,
Tuesday Morning.

The Turkish Debt Agreement.

The long and tortuous course of the negotiations over the Turkish Debt question have finally been brought to an end by the ratification by the Grand National Assembly at Angora of the agreement arrived at in Paris last June and its subsequent signature by the President. The ratification was not unanimous, this being the first occasion on which a Government motion has failed to receive general approval, and the agreement as approved has two amendments, a fact which has given rise to some anxiety as to the possibility of the reservations proving a cause of further delay. One of the reserve clauses deals with the question of the funds in the possession of the Debt Council, and stipulates that they are not to be utilised until differences between Turkey and the Succession States over the Turkish Debt have been composed, while the second concerns the liquidation of Turkish paper money issued since 1914 and held in connexion with the public debt. The effect of the insertion of these clauses has certainly been to render the position a little obscure, but there is no real ground for the belief that they will be made the pretext for further negotiations, as it has been made clear in various ways that Turkey is now only too anxious to settle her outstanding obligations. Thus soon after the ratification the news was forthcoming that Mr. A. G. M. Dickson was proceeding to Constantinople at the request of the Turkish authorities to take charge of the negotiations for a settlement of the default on the Constantinople loan. The amount of the loan is £1,000,000, and the arrears of interest from 1914 to December 14 next amount to 60 per cent. This loan, which is guaranteed by the Turkish Government, is secured on the Galata Bridge tolls and other receipts. The Galata Bridge receipts are sufficient to meet the service of the loan, but they have been allocated to other purposes. The long-suffering bondholders will rejoice at this development which promises, it may be hoped, a speedy end to the present unsatisfactory position, and plainly suggests that Turkey is now making efforts to re-establish her credit. In the dim pre-War days Turkish bonds enjoyed a high reputation among foreign issues, and by the restoration of confidence abroad they may again in time come to enjoy their former reputation. It may at any rate be said that Turkey is now taking the right road to prudent finance, a record which, if pursued consistently, will make it easy for the country to obtain the large amounts of capital of which it stands in need for works of development. If the Debt agreement is carried out and the Constantinople loan default is settled it will then be a relatively easy matter for Turkey, in the more favourable atmosphere that will then obtain, to go to the foreign money market with proposals for her financial requirements.

The Greek Loan.

Closely following the Bulgarian loan is to come the issue this week of a Greek loan for the substantial amount of £4,000,000. The new loan only forms one-fifth of the amount which it is understood that the Greek Government will require for the works of development which are now being undertaken, such as the construction of roads and the various reclamation schemes, and it speaks volumes for the reputation Greece enjoys in foreign financial centres and for the improvement of her credit which has followed the reconstruction of her finance that

it should be possible for her to negotiate relatively large loans like the present one on what can only be considered as reasonable terms. The loan, which is being issued at 89 and will carry 6 per cent. interest, making the yield fractionally over 6½ per cent., will be the direct obligation of the Greek Government and will be repayable by half-yearly drawings at par.

The British Industries Fair.

Details available with regard to the White City section of the coming British Industries Fair show that the record figures for the number of exhibits and the floor space utilised at the 1928 Fair have already been broken. There are now 50 more exhibitors than at the last Fair, and an additional area of almost 40,000 square feet has been let, while applications are coming in daily for the space that is still available. As regards the Birmingham section of the Fair, a reference to which will be found elsewhere in these columns, the position is equally satisfactory, and it is now clearly evident that the Fair has definitely established itself as a really valuable medium of trade development. The news as to the number of foreign buyers who are coming to next year's event is most encouraging, and it is not too much to hope that the 1929 Fair will give a distinct fillip to the trade revival.

Oils and Markets.

A most interesting speech on problems confronting the petroleum industry was given by Sir John Cadman, the Chairman of the Anglo-Persian Oil Company, at the annual dinner of the American Petroleum Institute at Chicago, in the course of which he stressed the need for co-operation in the industry. As he most aptly pointed out, the coming of the oil age has been very sudden, so much so indeed that it is not surprising if there should have been, to use his words, "some disturbance of mental poise and muddling of economic thought." The position to-day is briefly that all over the world there are large oil areas, some like the Persian fields developed with the utmost circumspection, others exploited as if supplies and markets were alike inexhaustible. It is beyond the wit of man to say what the world's reserves of oil are, but it is obviously incumbent on those on whom the exploitation of them falls to see to it that they are utilised to the utmost advantage, since oil, like other minerals, once taken from the earth, can never be replaced. Sir John Cadman urged the promotion of a policy of sane and

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honest internationalism in the oil industry, and added: "co-operation between national and international forces there must be, if we are not to squander the world's heritage." As an instance of the kind of co-operation that he has in mind he asked if it could be seriously contended "that, as a matter of permanent procedure, American oil should find its way to India or Persian oil to Iceland." The industry requires for its well being that the facts of geography should be accepted, that, in short, oilfields should serve their most convenient fields, and that instead of over production oil should be preserved, as Sir John Cadman put it: "not in imperfect containers constructed on the surface of the earth, but, so far as is practicable, in that great and perfect reservoir which Nature herself has provided."

The World's Oilfields.

In the course of his speech Sir John Cadman reviewed the position of the world's oilfields, and drew attention to some striking changes in production in recent years. Thus Mexico's production has fallen from 27,000 tons of crude in 1922 to 9,000,000 in 1927, but in six other producing countries the opposite has taken place. Venezuela and Columbia produced less than 400,000 tons in 1922, but their joint production by 1927 was more than 11,000,000 tons. Then Roumania has almost trebled her production during this period, while the production of Russia is recovering its pre-War dimensions. As regards Persia, Sir John Cadman pointed out that the production has risen from 2½ to 5½ millions, "a rise strictly regulated in terms of the internal consumption, which is low, and of the steadily increasing export demand, which is far from low." Dealing with Iraq Sir John Cadman made some interesting comments. Iraq is, of course, an oilfield of the future; its oil is not needed at the moment, if it were available, and it will be possible to develop this field in accordance with the fruits of experience gained elsewhere. "What a relief it is," said Sir John Cadman, "to think for a moment of the sanity and sense to be brought permanently to bear on the oil problems of Iraq." It was feasible, he said, to contemplate a production of some millions of tons in four or five years time. "If and when that comes about," he added, "there is no doubt that the office of trust accepted by all those nations interested in the development of Iraq will require that an outlet, and a permanent outlet, be found for Iraq's production."

Ford Enterprise.

The ubiquitous Ford has been established in this country for some time, but the prospectus of the Ford Motor Company, Ltd. (formed to take over the Ford companies here and in Europe), which makes its appearance this week, marks a new stage in the development of the campaign to bring the Ford models to every door, and is of special interest to our readers as the English company acquires the marketing rights in respect of all Ford products over an area which includes Palestine and Syria, Arabia (except Aden), Iraq, Persia, Afghanistan, Egypt, certain parts of Africa, and the Continent except Russia which means the whole of the Balkans. The fact that these countries are to be the subject of concentration will not be overlooked, I trust, by other motor companies

here. So far our motor car manufacturers have proved singularly slow in appreciating the importance of the Near Eastern markets and in producing models with a high clearance and in other ways suitable for them. It may be hoped that the example of the Ford will prove catching, but the position that the Ford has achieved in the Near East will now make competition very difficult. The latest development in that region, and one which is very significant (brief reference to which has already been made in these columns) is the Ford concession in Turkey. The company has obtained from the Government a concession for a free zone at Constantinople for twenty-five years, and it is intended to establish there an assembly plant for cars for the whole of the Near and Middle East. The attitude hitherto displayed by Turkey towards foreign enterprise has been such that foreign firms have found it difficult in many cases to carry on business, and it is a sign that gives cause for hope that this attitude to foreign enterprise is undergoing a distinct modification that the company will enjoy many privileges in its zone; thus it will not be compelled to use Turkish in its correspondence.

Grapes from Palestine.

The attention devoted to the all-important orange industry of Palestine has possibly tended to obscure to some extent the developments which are taking place in other branches of fruit production in the country. The vine is associated with Palestine from time immemorial, but the revival of the cultivation of the vine in modern times can be said to date only from 1882, when the Jewish colonies were founded. By 1914 the area under vines amounted to 58,740 dunums of which the Jewish colonies were responsible for 15,200 dunums. After the War vine growing continued mainly for the purpose of wine making, but the vicissitudes experienced by the wine industry of Palestine, due to a variety of causes, such, for instance, as the introduction of Prohibition in the United States, has led to attention being paid to the production of table grapes as well as wine grapes, and last year trial consignments were sent to the United Kingdom. With the development of larger markets here and on the Continent for Palestine wines the position of the wine industry has greatly improved, but developments so far have shown that there are prospects also for the utilisation of table grapes provided the difficulties of marketing them are overcome satisfactorily, so that in this direction also it seems probable that Palestine will have an economic asset.

COMMENTATOR.

A cement factory is to be established near Split.

During the first ten months of the present year 2,510 motor cars and 240 motor trucks and omnibuses were registered in the Lebanon.

A new regulation concerning the sale of foreign exchange to Yugoslav subjects and foreign citizens resident in Yugoslavia provides that sums up to 500 dinars may now be purchased once monthly without any form of special permit.

For the half-year ended October 31, 1928, the profit of the Bengal Coal Company was Rs.842,000, including carry-forward. To depreciation is placed Rs.94,000, to dividend Rs.600,000, and to commissions Rs.65,000, the carry-forward being Rs.83,000. The dividend for the half-year is 15 per cent., making 30 per cent. for the year.

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Irrigation in Egypt

DAMS AND RESERVOIRS.

During the last century the main pre-occupation of the Egyptian Government has been the cultivation of cotton and the securing of the necessary additional quantities of water. The first suggestion for solving the problem was that made by the French engineer, Linant de Belfonde, to build a dam and reservoir at Gebel El Silsila, 875 kilometres south of Cairo. The failure of the Delta Barrage, however, discouraged the Government and the question of reservoirs was dropped. In the year 1880 the question was raised again, and in 1882 Mr. Cope Whitehouse suggested the utilising of Wady El Rayan, a depression in the desert of the S.W. of Fayoum, as a counter project for the repairs of the Delta Barrage and the extension of areas planted with cotton which demanded the presence of water all the year round pressed the question of reservoirs again and brought it into life. A special staff was allotted for the study of the various suggestions and for the survey of the trough of the Nile as far as the Second Cataract in search of the most suitable site for building a dam, to store the surplus clear waters in winter for utilisation during the summer months.

The First Cataract of the Nile south of Aswan was chosen as the most suitable site for a dam and reservoir. The preliminary works of construction of the Aswan Dam were begun in the year 1893, and the whole work was completed by the end of the year 1902. The work consisted of an insubmergible masonry weir pierced by 140 under-sluices, each 14 square metres in area, and 40 upper sluices, each seven square metres in area. All the sluices are provided with iron gates for water regulation. The dam has a total length of 1,950 metres on a straight line and was founded everywhere on the soundest granite rock of the Cataract. The maximum head of water on the dam was 20 metres. The height of the Dam from the lowest point of the foundations to the road level was 39 metres. The Dam was provided with a flight of 4 locks on the west side, each having a width of nine metres and a length of 80 metres.

The object of the original Dam was to hold up the clear waters of the Nile to R.L. 106.00 during winter, and thus store 1,000,000,000 tons of water, which were utilised to supplement the natural discharge of the river in summer and enable the diversion of 500,000 acres from basin to perennial irrigation in Middle Egypt. The cost of the Dam, including expropriation, was £3,050,000.

A few years after the Dam was put in work the natural rock was found to have been eroded at various points downstream of the Dam, due evidently to the effect of water escaping from the sluices. To protect the rock from erosion, it was found necessary to place masonry aprons downstream of the Dam. The work was started in 1904 and was finished in 1906. The total cost of the work was £350,000.

To increase the storage capacity of the reservoir it was decided to heighten the Dam, and the work was carried out between May 1907 and December 1912. The road level of the dam was raised by 5 metres, with the result that the water level could be raised by 7 metres, allowing a freeboard of one metre from the highest water level to the road level.

The main items of works involved in the first heightening were about 364,000 cubic metres of rubble masonry and about 214,000 cubic metres of excavation. The process entailed heightening and thickening, a block of masonry 5 metres wide being built on the downstream face of the dam. To permit the new masonry to settle freely, a joint of 15 cms. wide between the old and the new masonry was left open for some time, the new masonry being meanwhile supported during this period on thousands of steel rods inserted into the face of the old dam. The joint has been subsequently grouted.

The total cost of these works was £1,480,000. The heightening has allowed for the storage of about 1,400,000,000 cubic metres of water more than was stored before. Subsequently the water level in the reservoir was raised by another 90 cms. which provided for about 200,000,000 cubic metres extra capacity.

The extra amount of stored water after the dam was heightened was utilised for the improvement of the summer supply and in general for the conversion from basin to perennial irrigation of another 50,000 acres in Middle Egypt.

It is proposed to raise the dam for the second time another 7 metres, with a view to increase its capacity by 2.4 milliards, which means doubling the present capacity.

The matter is now under the consideration of an international commission appointed by the Egyptian Government.

BARRAGES.

Barrages are masonry bridges of several spans, fitted with gates or other means of regulation, to control the discharge of the river across which they are built. Their object is not to store water, but to help to distribute it. They act as weirs in raising the water level, until it is high enough to flow into the canals, which draw their supply from the river upstream of the Barrage.

In Egypt the following Barrages have been built :—

Delta Barrage, built at the bifurcation of the river 25 kilometres north of Cairo, across the heads of the Damietta and Rosetta branches.

Assiut Barrage, built across the Nile to the north of the town of Assiut, 397 kilometres south of Cairo.

Esna Barrage, built across the Nile 787 kilometres south of Cairo.

Zifta Barrage, built across the Nile on the Damietta Branch. 95 kilometres north of Cairo.

Nag Hamadi Barrage now under construction across the river 600 kilometres south of Cairo.

The following is a short description of each Barrage and the main objects for its construction :—

Delta Barrage.

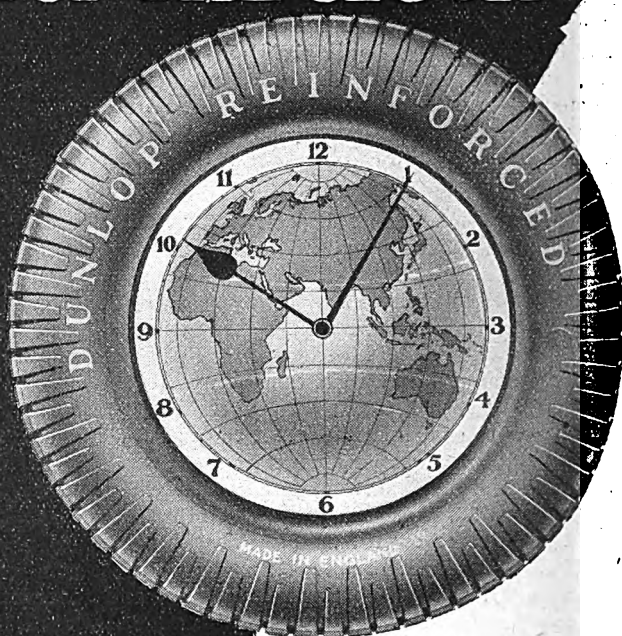
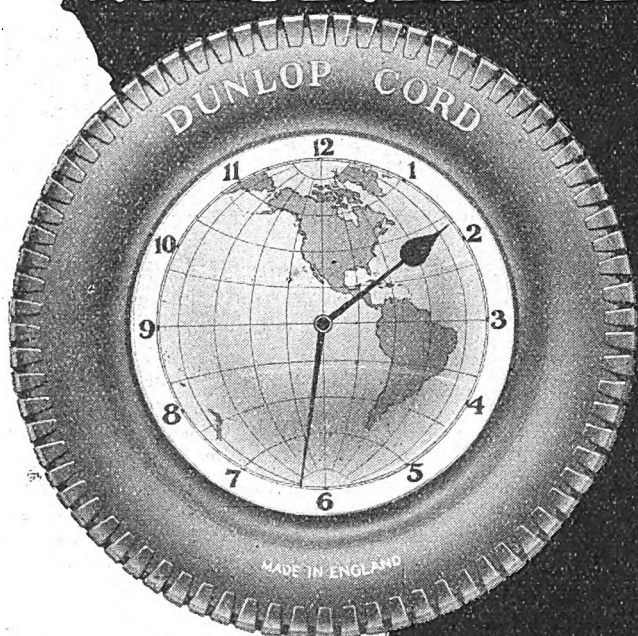
The oldest Barrage on the Nile; it was started in the year 1848 and finished in the year 1861. Its object is to obtain control over the Nile at the head of the Delta, raising the water level in the river and diverting it to the main feeder canals of the Delta. It comprises two barrages, one across the Western or Rosetta branch and the second across the eastern or Damietta branch. The Rosetta Barrage has 61 arches and two locks, and is 465 metres long between the flanks; the Damietta Barrage had originally 71 arches (since reduced to 61) and one lock, and was 535 metres long.

The two Barrages are separated by a revetment wall, about 1,000 metres in length, in the middle of which was situated the old head of Rayah Menufieh. The arches of the Barrages are all of 5 metres span, except the two in the centre which are 5.50 metres. They are fitted with gates which are used to close the openings during summer, but which are lifted clear of the water in flood to allow a free passage for the river. The Barrage is built of brickwork with ashlar copings and quoins.

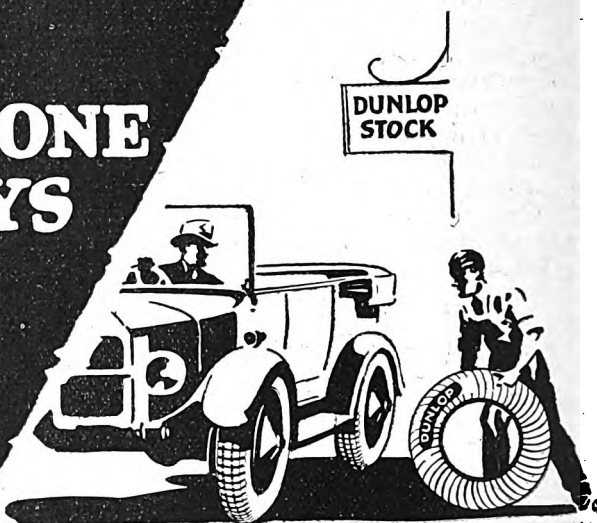
It was originally intended that the Barrage should be capable of raising the water level when the river was at its lowest by $4\frac{1}{2}$ metres, but this result was not obtained until it was afterwards repaired in 1896, when with the help of the two submerged weirs it actually holds now 6.00 metres head of water. Throughout the summer and until the arrival of flood the water level upstream the Barrage is held at a reduced level, 15.50 to 15.70 metres above the mean sea level of the Mediterranean at Alexandria.

(Continued on page 719.)

WITH EVERY TICK OF THE CLOCK-



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Assiut Barrage.

This Barrage was built between 1899—1902 across the Nile north of Assiut Town and a short distance downstream the intake of the Ibrahimia Canal. Its object is to hold up the waters of the Nile to the level necessary for feeding Ibrahimia Canal and supplementing it with the share allotted for basin conversion in Middle Egypt of the water stored at Aswan.

The Barrage is built in rubble masonry of hard limestone; its cost, inclusive of the main feeder head, amounted to one million pounds approximately. It comprises 111 vents, the width of each vent being 5 metres, separated by piers 2 metres thick, which are covered by arches upon which there is a roadway $4\frac{1}{2}$ metres wide, and buttress piers 4 metres thick at every tenth opening. The vents are provided with iron gates for water regulation.

This barrage also comprises on the west side a lock for navigation, whose basin is 80 metres long and 16 metres wide. Regulation on this Barrage varies 3 to 2 metres throughout the year according to the Nile discharge which varies from 50 millions of cubic metres per day during low summer water to 900 million cubic metres per day during flood time.

Esna Barrage.

The work on this Barrage was started in the year 1907 and finished in 1909. It is built of Nubian sandstone finished with dressed ashlar copings.

The Barrage consists of 120 openings, each 5 metres wide, with piers 2 metres thick between the openings and buttress piers 4 metres thick at every tenth opening. There are two steel gates in each opening sliding in vertical grooves which are raised or lowered as required by travelling winches.

There is a lock on the west side large enough for the largest boats plying the river. The basin of the lock is 80 metres long and 16 metres wide, the road being carried over the lock by a swing bridge. The Barrage and its auxiliary works cost the Government about £1,200,000.

The object of the Barrage is to ensure the irrigation of the Basins to the north of it in the Province of Qena. The area of these basins amounts to 171,000 acres. The Barrage will in the future, when water is available, be utilised for the conversion of this Basin area into perennial irrigation, but as it was originally designed to stand a maximum of $2\frac{1}{2}$ metres head it has to be strengthened to stand the proposed pressure of $4\frac{1}{2}$ metres necessary to command the area to be converted.

Zifta Barrage.

This Barrage was built on the eastern branch of the Nile in the years 1901-1903. Its main object is to control the water in that branch of the river and utilise it in supplementing the canals taking off directly up stream of the Barrage when the main Rayah or feeders fail to fulfil the full requirements of water. It consists of 50 openings of 5 metres width, with abutment piers between each group of 10. Its design is the same as that of Assiut and Esna Barrages, but it is built in bricks instead of stone. It has a lock for navigation 65 metres long by 12 metres width. The cost of the Barrage and its subsidiary works amounted to about £420,000.

Nag-Hamadi Barrage.

The construction of the Nag-Hamadi Barrage was considered after the exceptionally low Nile of 1913, when an area of about 286,000 acres was left unwatered, due to the shortage of the flood. The Barrage is now under construction by the firm of Sir John Jackson, Ltd.

It is designed to stand a head of 4 metres in a low flood like 1913 and 4.50 metres when the Barrage will function as a summer means of aiding to increase the area of perennial land in Upper Egypt. To assist in feeding the area that will be protected on both sides of the river, two canals will be excavated: the Foadia Canal on the west and the Faroukia on the east. The length of the first is 45 kilometres and the latter 70 kilometres.

The Barrage consists of 100 vents, each 6 metres in width, and has a floor level stepping from R.L. 60.50 to R.L. 58.50. Ten vents are at R.L. 58.50 (mean sea level) next to the lock to take the summer discharge and help to keep the lock open for navigation in the low stages. Another ten vents are at R.L. 59.50 and the remaining 80 vents are all at R.L. 60.50.

The lock has been designed on the same lines as the Esna and Assiut Barrages, viz., 80 metres between the gates and 16 metres wide, with a floor level at R.L. 58.50. A feature of this lock differing from those at Esna and Assiut Barrages are the long guide walls upstream and downstream for the assistance of boats entering or leaving the lock. A swing bridge 6.40 metres wide spans the lock downstream so as not to interrupt boats when navigating.

Another main feature of the Barrage is the introduction of cement blocks placed upstream and downstream of the solid floor to prevent scour, which has been found in the case of other barrages.

The Barrage has 9 abutment piers 4 metres in width placed every ten vents. The piers in the first ten low vents are 2.25 metres thick and the rest of the piers are 2 metres. The roadway level is at R.L. 71.30, and the distance between the parapets for the clear roadway is 6 metres.

The Barrage, which is being constructed half-way between Esna and Assiut Barrages, is 592 kilometres south of Cairo, and the area that will be protected by it and its auxiliary works on both sides of the river in flood is about 600,000 acres.

The cost of the construction of the Barrage and the two main feeder heads will be a little above two million pounds, and the estimated cost of the auxiliary works in connexion about £1,500,000.

The work on the Barrage was started in November, 1927, and, according to the programme of execution, will be completed by July, 1930.

THE GREEK TOBACCO CROP.

It is reported that this year's tobacco crop in Greece will be much smaller than that of 1927, particularly in Eastern Macedonia and Thrace where the best Greek tobaccos are grown. In the Kavalla region the yield shows a great falling off, but the quality is much better than in the previous year. In the Drama region the crop is 60 to 70 per cent. smaller, though here again the quality has improved though not sufficiently to compensate for the decreased yield. In the Serres region the crop has also shown a decline. As the area under tobacco in these three regions has been increased by 19,000 stremmas (1,900 hectares) since last year, the fall in the yield is particularly significant. At Zanthi the crop yield is estimated at 30 okes per stremma as compared with 45 last year. The cause of the poor crop this year in these regions has been the lack of rain from the beginning of the spring until the autumn.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

Country.	Method of Quoting.	Parity of Exchange.	Latest Quotation.
Alexandria.....	Piastre to £	97½	97½
Amsterdam	Florins to £	12.107	12.07½
Athens	Draehma to £	25.22½	375
Belgrade.....	Dinars to £	25.22½	276
Berlin	Marks to £	20.43	20.35½
Berne	Francs to £	25.22½	25.18½
Bombay	Sterling to Rupee	18d.	18 3/64—5/64
Brussels	Belga to £	35	34.89
Bucharest	Lei to £	25.22½	810
Budapest	Pen to £	27.82	27.82
Calcutta	Sterling to Rupee	18d.	18 3/64—5/64
Constantinople	Piastres to £	110	986
New York	Dollars to £	4.86 2-3	4.85 1/16—½
Paris	Francs to £	25.22½	124.18
Prague	Kronen to £	24.02	163½
Rome	Lire to £	25.22½	92.64
Sofia	Leva to £	25.22½	671
Teheran	Krans to £	48	48½
Vienna	Sch to £	34.58	34.48½
Warsaw	Zloty to £	25.22½	48 3/16—5/16

Shipping Intelligence.

GREECE'S MERCHANT MARINE IN 1928.

The figures for Greece's mercantile marine up to the end of the third quarter of this year show that it now comprises 1,250 vessels of a net tonnage of 30 and over consisting of 522 steamers of 1,212,681 tons and 728 sailing vessels of 58,923 tons, or a total tonnage of 1,271,604. Except as regards tonnage the figures vary little from those for the same period of 1926. The total number of ships was then 1,214 of 993,211 tons of which 477 were steamers (933,516 tons) and 737 sailing vessels (58,705 tons). The steamers acquired between the two periods have considerably increased the average net tonnage of Greek shipping. The following is the present division of Greek steamers: cargo boats 393 (1,111,246 tons), passenger ships (76,328 tons), various 10 (1,381 tons), ocean liners 3 (23,726 tons). For 1926 the corresponding figures were: cargo boats 340 (853,393 tons), 122 passenger ship (72,121 tons), various 14 (2,946 tons), and ocean liners 1 (5,956 tons).

SUEZ CANAL TRAFFIC INCREASE.

The statistics for the traffic of the Suez Canal for the first nine months of this year, which are now available, show a remarkable development compared with the figures for the previous year. The net tonnage of the shipping transiting the Canal during the period was 23,604,000, which constitutes a record, and is 2,147,000 tons more than the total for the first three quarters of last year, which was a record. There was a substantial development in both the outward and the homeward traffic, the greater part of the increase, however, being in respect of the latter. The outward traffic was responsible for 11,031,000 net tons, an increase on the 1927 figures of 914,000 tons, while the total for the homeward traffic was 12,573,000 tons, an increase of 1,233,000 tons. There were increases in commercial and postal operations of 1,082,000 and 702,000 tons respectively, while the movement in ballast showed an increase of 400,000 tons. Military tonnage at 240,000 showed a decrease of 37,000 tons. The tonnage of motor ships transiting the Canal showed a further expansion, the total for 602 transits being 3,435,000 tons as compared with 478 transits and 2,662,000 tons for the corresponding period of 1927.

As regards the nationality of the shipping transiting the Canal the British total was 13,357,000 tons or 56.6 per cent. of the total which compares with 57 per cent. for the previous year. The increase in the British total was 1,134,000 tons, and it may be mentioned that this year's figures, while representing a decrease in the percentage, constitute a record. Holland is second with 2,496,000 tons, an increase of 264,000 tons, which is 10.4

per cent. of the traffic as against 10.6 per cent., but in this case also the total is a record. Germany, who is continuing steadily to increase her share of the traffic, is third with 2,397,000 tons, an increase of 394,000 tons, giving a percentage of 10.2 as against 9.4. The total of the trade in merchandise was 24,201,000 tons, an increase of over two million tons on the 1927 figures. This development was almost entirely due to the expansion of the homeward traffic. The outward traffic totalled 8,673,000 tons, an increase of 331,000 tons, while the homeward traffic amounted to 15,528,000 tons, an increase of 1,798,000 tons. These figures indicate an increase in purchasing power in the East which should be reflected in the outward trade movement next year.

THE EXPANSION OF SPLIT.

In recent years Yugoslavia's chief port, Split, has undergone a marked development. For the period 1925 to 1927 the number of ships entering the port has averaged 7,570, while the gross tonnage of the shipping for the last of these three years amounted to 2,304,223 tons, which is easily a record. As regards the trade figures it is significant to note that the combined imports and exports for 1927 were almost double the total for 1913. The total for the imports was 1,625,824, while that of the exports was 6,595,162, the total being 8,220,986, which compares with 7,356,175 for 1926, 8,066,515 for 1925, and 4,436,551 for 1927. Naturally this development of the use of the port has strained the existing facilities, and a comprehensive improvement scheme is in hand.

FORTHCOMING SAILINGS.

The following are the sailings for the Near East and India, the ports of departure and closing dates for cargo being given in parentheses:—

Anchor Line.—S.s. Britannia for Bombay (Birkenhead, December 24). (For passenger sailings and dates see advertisement.)

Anchor Brocklebank Line.—S.s. Holywell for Calcutta (Birkenhead, December 22).

Bibby Line.—S.s. Lancashire for Port Said, Port Sudan, Colombo, and Rangoon (Birkenhead, December 26).

British India Line.—S.s. Morvada for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, December 15); s.s. Hatimura for Bombay and Karachi (London, December 22).

Cunard Line.—S.s. Bactria for Casablanca, Gibraltar, Genoa, Leghorn, Naples, Palermo, Messina, Catania, Bari, Venice, Trieste, and Fiume, also at Corfu, Gruz, and Ancona if inducement (Liverpool December 22, Swansea December 27).

Johnson Line.—S.s. Kenmore for Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, and Constantza (Liverpool, January 19); s.s. Jessmore for Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, and Constantza (Liverpool, January 19).

P. and O. Line.—S.s. Ranchi for Bombay (London, December 21); s.s. Nagoya for Calcutta (London, December 22).

Prince Line.—S.s. Syrian Prince for Tunis, Malta, Alexandria, Jaffa, Haifa, Beyrout, and Cyprus (Manchester, December 22); s.s. Highland Prince for Tunis, Malta, Alexandria, Jaffa, Haifa, Beyrout, Tripoli, Alexandretta, Mersina, and Cyprus (London, December 29).

Ellerman and Papayanni Lines.—S.s. Andalusian for Malta, Alexandria, Jaffa*, and Haifa* (Liverpool, December 22); s.s. Algerian for Algiers*, Patras, Piræus, Volo*, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, and Varna (Liverpool December 22, Swansea December 22); A steamer for Gibraltar, Malta, Alexandria, Jaffa*, and Haifa* (Glasgow, December 28); s.s. Kyno for Gibraltar, Malta, Alexandria, Jaffa*, and Haifa* (Liverpool, December 29); s.s. Trentino for Algiers*, Malta, Piræus, Syra*, Volo*, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, and Varna (Liverpool, January 5). *Subject to sufficient inducement. Cargo taken on through Bill of Lading to:—Algerian ports via Algiers; Moroccan ports via Gibraltar; Tripoli (Barbary) via Malta; Syria and Cyprus via Alexandria; Greek out-ports via Piræus or other convenient ports.

The production of crude oil by the British Burmah Petroleum Company and the Rangoon Oil Company, Ltd., in November amounted to 38,626 barrels.

ANCHOR LINE

LIVERPOOL TO BOMBAY.

KARACHI via Bombay, calling at Gibraltar and Egypt.

LARGE STEAMSHIPS. UPPER DECK CABINS.

MODERATE FARES.

RECOGNISED BY INDIAN GOVERNMENT.

Indian Government Vouchers accepted.

Passenger sailing dates:—

*BRITANNIA ...	Dec. 31	*ELYSIA ...	Jan. 29
†ASSYRIA ...	Jan. 11	†TUSCANIA ...	Feb. 12

*First class passengers only. Specially low fares. †Calls Port Sudan.

‡First and third class passengers.

T.S.S. TUSCANIA, 17,000 Tons, from LIVERPOOL, Feb. 12, MARSEILLES, Feb. 18. Carrying FIRST and THIRD-CLASS Passengers.

ANCHOR LINE,

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THE WEEK'S FINANCE.

(By Our Financial Expert.)

London, December 11.

The Stock Markets during the past week have on the whole been fairly cheerful, the more reassuring bulletins concerning the King's illness being responsible for a little more firmness in the later part of the week. British Government stocks have, however, not been quite so firm, as a result of the continued outflow of gold. Industrials moved irregularly, uncertainty as to developments in Wall Street checking dealings in some of the American specialities. Home rails were inclined to pick up towards the end of the week on the hope that traffics may now improve and that the worst has now been discounted. Although general activity in the markets is now considerably below the level of a month or two ago there appears to be little slackening in issues of capital in one form or another. A number of new domestic flotations during the coming week are impending, in addition to a large loan—possibly nearly £4,000,000—for the Greek Government. This issue is expected to be in the form of 6 per cents. at about 89.

Home Rails.

Consistently poor traffic returns have led to constant declines in the price of Home Rails until these securities are in many cases standing at prices well below their true worth. In recent years the railways have been badly hit by two factors; the continued industrial depression, particularly in the heavy industries, and the growth of road competition. These difficulties have not passed, but there is reason to hope that they will be of less weight in the future. The rating relief scheme is expected to be of especial benefit to the heavy industries, which are very important customers of the railways. It should also assist the railways in competition with road transport, since rates paid by the former are to be reduced and freight rates lowered, while motor transport concerns are burdened with the petrol tax. Moreover, the powers the railways have obtained to develop their own road transport organisations, and a continuance of the policy exemplified in the agreements between railway companies and municipal road transport authorities at Sheffield and Rochdale, should be of material benefit to shareholders in British railways. At present satisfactory yields, con-

sidering the security of the investment, can be obtained on such prior charges as L.N.E.R., 4 per cent. First Preference (£6 14s. per cent.) or Southern Preferred Ordinary (£6 18s. per cent.). Of the junior stocks Southern Deferred yield £6 10s. per cent., and L.M.S. Ordinary £9 4s. per cent., a reduced dividend for this year being anticipated.

P. and O. Results.

There are some companies whose conservative dividend policy is a byword. Such a policy is in the best interests of the genuine investor, for the accumulation of substantial reserves and the distribution of only a portion of earnings in good years enables steady dividends to be paid, even when results are relatively poor. Moreover, the reserves augment the company's earning power which is reflected in the price the shareholder obtains when he comes to sell, or in higher dividends or bonus distributions at a later date if he continues to hold the shares. Nevertheless, a rise in dividend is naturally pleasing, particularly when it involves no departure from a policy of building up reserves. This is the case with the P. and O. Company, whose directors have just issued the report for the year ending September, 1928. The dividend on the deferred shares has been raised from 10 per cent. tax free to 12 per cent. tax free, in spite of the increase in capital in November, 1927. At the same time £92,050 has been placed to reserve whereas no such allocation was made last year, but the allocation to the debenture redemption fund was greater than this year. The report adds that the Indian export trade has increased in almost all the main items, the exports to Europe having doubled, which gives confidence as to the future. The company is in an exceptionally strong financial position as its reserves amount to £7,616,000, the capital and debentures issued being just over £16,000,000. On the 5 per cent. Debentures a yield of £5 2s. per cent. is obtained and on the deferred shares, which obviously contains possibilities of appreciation, the yield is £5 6s. per cent.

J. and P. Coats and Co.

An old favourite which has not attracted much attention lately is J. and P. Coats. While markets are quiet there is an opportunity for considering many sound industrials which are now available at lower prices than is usual, owing to the general depression of the Stock Market in the last few days. At such periods speculators who have been "bitten" on speculative deals may be forced to realise on good securities they would much prefer to hold, in order to meet their commitments on the speculations. Thus a general marking down of prices is always a likely corollary of the end of a "boom," and good shares can be picked up cheap. Coats have a well established reputation for their threads, and have a virtual monopoly in their particular line, in which great fluctuations in demand are unlikely. At the same time the financial management of the company has been particularly sound. The aim has been stable dividends and for the eight years since 1919, when the capital was increased by £10,250,000, of which £7,300,000 came from reserves the Ordinary dividend and bonus has been maintained at 17½ per cent. At the same time reserves have been increased, and, if the company continues to prosper, Ordinary shareholders can reasonably hope for some further satisfactory bonus distribution. The yield on the Ordinary shares is £5 6s. per cent.

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Regular Passenger and Freight Service from

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To BEIRA, DELAGOA BAY, DURBAN, EAST LONDON
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Excellent Passenger Accommodation.

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ORIENTAL AFRICAN SERVICE

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Information for Freight and Passage may be obtained
from the following:—

RANGOON—J. & F. Graham & Co.

CALCUTTA—Andrew Weir & Co.

COLOMBO—Skrine & Co.

BEIRA—Beira Shipping Agency.

DELAGOA BAY—John T.

Rennie & Sons.

DURBAN—Andrew Weir & Co.

EAST LONDON—Messrs. Dunn

& Co.

PT. ELIZABETH—Mackie, Dunn

& Co.

MOSSEL BAY—Messrs. E.

Searle & Co.

CAPE TOWN—Thomson,

Watson & Co.

HONG KONG—The Bank Line,

Ltd.

BANGKOK—Siam Forest Co.,

Ltd.

SINGAPORE—Huttenbach Bros

& Co.

MAURITIUS—Adam & Co.

LONDON—ANDREW WEIR & CO., 21, Bury Street, E.C.8

The directors of the Burma Corporation have declared out of current profits an interim dividend (No. 12) of 6 annas per share for the six months ending December 31, 1928. They have also declared out of accumulated profits a bonus of 1 anna per share for the twelve months ending June 30, 1929. Both dividend and bonus will be paid on February 15 to shareholders registered January 15, free of Indian and British income taxes. Shareholders on the London register will be paid the dividend and bonus in sterling at an exchange of 1s. 6d. per rupee (equal to 7.875d. per share).

THE BRITISH INDUSTRIES FAIR.

Notable Exhibits at Birmingham.

From the standpoint that a direct index to the conditions of industry is to be found in the activity of "key" trades which serve the factories, the arrangements for the forthcoming Heavy Section of the British Industries Fair in Birmingham marks the most notable advance since the War.

This annual display of the latest British products is equally important to the manufacturer who is alert to improved means and devices for carrying on his business, as to the distributor on the look-out for new lines to sell. Each year, in every section of the Birmingham Fair, there are numerous exhibits of new industrial machinery, accessories, and tools, but on no occasion up to the present has this aspect achieved such prominence.

While the wholesale and retail distributors of hardware, hearth furniture, heating and lighting apparatus in gas, oil, or electricity, and household equipment in general will find many thousands of new products to interest them, the manufacturers who sell them these goods will have a wider field of their own to explore than in any of the nine preceding years.

The majority of exhibitors are still engaged in perfecting their new products for display, but the Birmingham Chamber of Commerce has already received intimations from some two hundred firms who have completed their plans for definite exhibits. In nearly every case they have new goods to show.

Some have three or more advances in machinery or apparatus; several as many as six or eight features entirely new to industry. Here are a few typical examples of products to be formally displayed for the first time:—New 6-spindle drilling machine, which permits six holes to be drilled at once where it has been the custom to drill them singly; dividing apparatus for milling machines with new feature for quicker holding and releasing; electric resistance furnaces of new type; adjustable spindles which drill holes either close together or wide apart; rubber lining capable of resisting corrosive and erosive liquids up to 110 deg. C.—"hitherto unheard of"; new tensile testing machine for rods, capacity 5,000 lb.; motor-car steering-wheel rim made from a single strip of material; improved welding rod; galvanising by electro-deposition (entirely new process); deep drawing device that converts any single-acting press into more than a double-acting press at will; outdoor condenser type bushing to comply with specification of Central Electricity Board; electric pyrometers with new systems of automatic alarms and control; combustor for the heat expansion of tram and wagon tyres; new one-man-worked concrete block-making machine; silent portable petrol-driven and electrically-driven air compressors; hack saw blades of increased durability; section ladders, staves and stiles, reinforced with steel, giving strength and security in excess of building regulation requirements; entirely new design of gas-tight and water-tight ironclad distribution boards, with fuse equipment, etc., giving absolute safety; "built-in" electric motors, suitable for driving machine tools, wood-working machinery, etc.—dispensing with all belts, ropes, and gears; special large size "drum" type separator, for dealing with foundry sand, shipyard refuse, borings, etc.; new portable blower for blowing dust out of electrical wind-

ings; new water-fall separator for extracting iron from pulverised fuel, foodstuffs, etc.; new magnetic rake; new developments of continuous carbonisation in vertical retorts for the manufacture of town gas; new portable machines for inoculating outdoor timber against fungi, rot and insects; high speed crude oil engines saving 75 per cent. of running costs by the use of residual oils; electric motor with reversing gear-box which gives instantaneous stop or reverse with motor running continuously in one direction.

TENDERS INVITED.

Tenders are invited for the following contracts, and must be made by the dates mentioned.

(Particulars of tenders marked D.O.T. are to be obtained from the Department of Overseas Trade, 35, Old Queen Street, S.W.1.)

EGYPT.

Various Equipment.—The Section des Municipalites et Commissions Locales, Ministry of the Interior, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of additional equipment, comprising a Diesel engine driven D.C. generator set, D.C. rotary balancer and accessories for the Kafr El Zayat Electric Station. January 31. (D.O.T.)

Telegraph Cable, Etc.—The Department of Posts, Telegraphs and Telephones invites tenders for the supply and delivery of underground telegraphic cable and accessories. January 16. (D.O.T.)

Asphalt.—The Director-General, Tanzim Department, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of 6,800 tons of asphalt required for the year 1929-1930. January 22.

Steel Book Cases.—The Egyptian Ministry of Public Works invites tenders for the supply and erection of 115 steel book cases for the Royal Library in Cairo. December 31. (D.O.T.)

Paper, Etc.—Tenders are invited by the Ministry of Finance for the supply of paper, stationery, chemicals, for Photocopying Office, other miscellaneous articles such as canvas sacks, required for the year 1929-1930. January 31.

Damp Proof Braided Cords, Etc.—The Egyptian State Railways, Telegraphs and Telephones invites tenders for damp proof braided cords and plugs; structural steel, rivets, bolts and nuts; turnover levers complete; chamois leather.

Iron Money Safes.—The Central Stationery Stores, Ministry of Finance, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of iron money safes. January 2.

Bridge.—The Ministry of Communications, Administration of Bridges and Roads, Egyptian Government, invites tenders for the construction of a bridge over the Canal Ibrahimieh. January 3. (D.O.T.)

Electric System.—The Ministry of the Interior, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply and installation of a proposed electric system for Beba. January 24. (D.O.T.)

TURKEY.

Crushing Machines.—A Turkish firm is desirous of purchasing machines for crushing and drying valonea acorns. (D.O.T.)

Motor Patrol Boats.—A report has been received from the Commercial Secretary at Constantinople (Colonel H. Woods, O.B.E.) as to the possible requirements of the Turkish Customs Administration with regard to motor patrol vessels. Further particulars can be obtained by interested British firms upon application to the Department of Overseas Trade. Reference No. A.X. 7207 should be quoted.

For the first nine months of this year Greece's imports of motor cars totalled 1,606. The United States supplied 1,324 of the cars, France being second with 155 cars, while the figures for the United Kingdom were 36.

The Egyptian Department of Antiquities has made a very interesting discovery at Sakkara, where a red granite head has been unearthed which is believed, on reliable grounds, to represent Userkaf, the first King of the Fifth Dynasty, in view of the fact that the King's cartouches have been found in the vicinity.

The Secretary of State for India proposes shortly to make a certain number of appointments to permanent commissions in His Majesty's Indian Medical Service. Medical men (British subjects of European descent) who desire to be considered for appointment should apply to the Under-Secretary of State, Military Department, India Office, London, S.W.1.

A fusion is reported between the Banque Balkanique and the Banque Franco Belge de Bulgarie. The Banque Balkanique was established in 1906 and has a paid-up capital of 50,000,000 leva. The Banque Franco Belge de Bulgarie was established in 1920. Its paid-up capital amounts to 80,000,000 leva.

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Motors and Motoring.

By G. B. B.

Fault Finding.

Paradoxical though it may sound at first, the man best liked in the motoring world is probably he who is the best fault finder. By which I mean that he who can find, or using another word, locate, a fault, is always popular with that numerous class who, as soon as something goes wrong, have not the slightest idea either as to what it is, or its cause. The percentage of motorists possessed of some measure of mechanical knowledge was at one time as high as about 75 per cent. Now, with the great influx of owner-drivers who have become possessed of their cars on most advantageous terms, the probability is that the newcomers so greatly outnumber the old brigade that it is doubtful whether one in ten would be able to diagnose or cure a fault. The ear, as well as the eye, of a good driver should be always on the alert, and the slightest trace of irregularity in the note of the exhaust or the hum of the engine should be noted and the question instantly asked of the brain: Is that serious? Any unusual engine note, difference in sound of the transmission, or sounds resembling mice nibbling at a gear-box should not only be heard, but the expert driver should know like a flash what it is that is causing them and what is to be the remedy. The difference between the trained and the untrained driver is that one says, mentally, "I wonder what's the matter now—sounded like something wrong," and the other says, "That's the rear-cylinder plug gone west; I shall have to look out a spanner and change it."

Motor Insurance.

As I think most readers of THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA are aware, I do not endorse, by any means, all that is said in favour of compulsory insurance regarding third party risks. In fact, I am opposed to compulsory insurance in any shape or form, for various reasons which I may give in these columns sooner or later. I just mention the subject because the Editor of the *Light Car* says that with regard to the proposals to make third-party insurance compulsory, it is a debatable point whether it is not drivers who need to be so insured. If the owner is the man who is concerned, short-term policies similar to short-term licences surely would have to be introduced or hardships would arise. If, on the other hand, it is the driver who is concerned, similar difficulties, but of an even more elaborate nature, would possibly arise. Take the case of a man whose driving licence expired on, say, September 1, and who proposed to lay up his car during the winter months. He would not mind renewing his driving licence in order to have the benefit of the use of his car until the end of the month, but taking out a twelve-months' insurance policy, only the first three weeks of which would be of use during the first six months of its currency, would be intolerable. There is, as the Editor says, a possibility of the man who covers a small mileage and who lays up his car for a portion of the year, having to carry yet another burden which should rightly be borne by his big-mileage neighbour. These are matters which must receive very careful consideration before any scheme of compulsory insurance is passed into law.

Maintenance.

Whether a man owns a private car, a business car, or a fleet of commercial vehicles, the matter of maintenance is always of interest. Motor vehicles must be kept in good tune or else they become inefficient, and in the words of the old saying, "Eat their heads off." The basis of any plan of preventing trouble may be

summed up, according to a colleague, in just three words: Lubricate, tighten, and adjust. It sounds all right, but in my experience I find it is perfectly easy to over-lubricate, over-tighten, and wrongly adjust, so it is evidently of no more use calling out to motorists at large to lubricate their cams, tighten up their bearings, and adjust their carburettors or magnetos unless one makes quite clear what one means by the advice. But properly carried out, the importance of lubrication, adjustment and tightening to satisfactory and economical operations is self-evident. Because this work, or the lack of it, has such a far-reaching effect on the results obtained, it should be studied carefully by every operator, mechanic or owner-driver in order to make certain that what is being done is the best that can be done, and that it is being done properly.

Valves.

In modern engine work probably valves have been most improved during recent years, and in the engines of to-day they are expected to stand up to much more severe working conditions than did their predecessors of a dozen years ago, and also to stand up to those conditions for an exceptionally long working life. Of course, improved steels have had everything to do with this, and general improvement in engine durability has accompanied improvement in valve manufacture and design, and it may, I think, be said that engines now give about twice as much service before they need overhauling as engines did ten years ago. It seems, as Mr. James Cottrell said a day or two ago, quite logical to remove all carbon and grind in valves when, say, bearings are being adjusted or new rings put in place. But that work is not always necessary, and should there be no need for bearing adjustment or the fitting of new rings, may an owner-driver puts off his valve-grinding and carbon-cleaning business for a length of time that would have made motor owners shudder only a few years ago. Actually, the conditions under which valves operate to-day are much more severe than they were, simply because the demands made upon engines are greater. High speeds, rapid acceleration, greater power and improved flexibility are all embodied in the modern car, whether of the light or heavy type, and as the percentage of trouble on the road does not increase but, rather, steadily diminishes, it is evident that valve design and manufacture is keeping abreast of all requirements.

A branch of the Eastern Bank, Ltd., has been opened at Singapore.

The production of the Anglo-Egyptian Oilfields for the week ended December 7 was 5,183 tons.

A new seismic station of the U.S.S.R. Academy of Science is being organised at Andijan (Transcaucasia) in one of the regions where earthquakes are said to happen oftener than in any other part of the world.

The official report of the damage to the Temple of the Sun at Palmyra, in Syria, shows that the lintel of the inner gate has fallen, while fissures in the side pilasters and on the façade have widened. Measures of consolidation have now been taken, and the available funds will be devoted to this work instead of to excavation.

TO SUBSCRIBERS IN THE MIDDLE EAST.

Readers of "The Near East and India" in Iraq and Persia are reminded that for a subscription of £1 15s. per annum, the Paper is sent by Overland Mail. A subscription of £1 10s. covers postage by ordinary long-sea mail only.

JAFFA ORANGE EXPORTS.

The Empire Marketing Board reports that the total shipments of Jaffa oranges up to December 3 amounted to 170,000 boxes, as compared with 212,000 boxes at the corresponding date last year. Transshipments in the present season amount to approximately 30,000 boxes, while 40,750 boxes had been despatched by rail via Kantara up to November 24. The heaviest arrivals in the United Kingdom from Palestine are after Christmas, but early shipments this season appear fully as heavy as usual, over 110,000 boxes being advised as due to arrive during December, with further shipments yet to be made for arrival during the month.

SUDAN GUM ARABIC.

Messrs. Boxall and Co., of Khartoum, report as follows for the period October 26 to November 20:—

Arrivals of old crop gum in Kordofan stations during the above period amounted to 26 tons, as against 56 tons last year. This brings the total of the Kordofan crop for the season 1927-1928 (i.e., from November last to this day) to 16,472 tons, as against 13,688 tons for the season 1926-1927, i.e., an increase of 2,784 tons, or 22½ per cent.

Arrivals of new crop gum in Kordofan stations (including Tendelti) amounted from October 26 to November 20 to 33 tons, as compared with 5 tons in 1927.

Prices.—Old Crop: Owing to the insignificance of the arrivals the prices paid cannot be taken as a basis for c.i.f. quotations, especially in view of the fact that no old crop stocks, so far as it can be ascertained, exist in the country.

Prices.—New Crop: The prices of El Obeid have remained practically steady around 78-79 piastres, i.e., a much higher level than the equivalent of the c.i.f. prices quoted for new crop.

Demand was generally fair and all markets bought something, the United Kingdom, France, Belgium, and Spain, however, showing little interest.

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Port Sudan: English Agency, P.O. Box 240.

SUDAN.

Port Sudan: The Egyptian Library, Post Office Box No. 44.

PALESTINE.

Haifa: Newspapers Agency Steimatzky, Jaffa Street.

Jerusalem: B. Y. and W. A. Said, 23-24, Jaffa Road.

Newspaper Agency Steimatzky, Jaffa Road.

SYRIA.

Beyrout: Sarrafi Bros.

Librairie Steimatzky, Avenue Francais.

IRAQ AND PERSIAN GULF.

Basrah: Jashanmal, Bridge Street, Ashar.

Bahrein: Kamalieh Bookshop.

BULGARIA.

Sofia: Librairie Francaise et Etrangere, 6, Bvd, Tsar Ostvoboditel.

CYPRUS.

Nicosia: Dick Soutanian, P.O. Box 6.

GREECE.

Athens: Messageries de Journaux et Publications Etrangers, 24, Rue du Stade.

ROUMANIA.

Bucharest: Mrs. L. Hamilton, 21, Strada Regala.

TURKEY.

Constantinople: The Anglo-American Book and Newsagency, 18, Rue des Petits Champs, Pera.

YUGOSLAVIA.

Belgrade: Librairie Française, 19 and 22, Rue Prince Michel.

ALBANIA.

Tirana: Librairie Lumo Skendo.

AMERICA.

New York: Brentano's Fifth Avenue and 27th Street.

Boston (Mass): Smith and McCance, Ashburton Place.

AILS CRAIG MARINE MOTORS.

Co-incident with the marked increase of public interest in motor boating, the past year has proved beyond question the popularity of Ailsa Craig Marine Motors. In the programme for 1928 plans were made for a considerable increase in production, and although the year is not yet completed, the results have proved more than a sufficient justification for an even bigger works programme in 1929—a programme that is the most comprehensive in the history of the company.

Speaking generally, there will be no drastic changes in the well-proved Ailsa Craig designs. The new VA type 40-60 h.p. 4-cylinder engine came into full production at the beginning of this year. It will receive its full share of attention in the coming year, and facilities for a 100 per cent. increase in output have been budgeted for. Judging by the present demand, even this generous provision is likely to be taxed to its limit, more especially as the success of the 40-60 h.p. engine has brought urgent requests for a larger size of the same design. In response, therefore, a six-cylinder model is now available. It is sensibly rated at 60-90 h.p., and is priced at £395 for the engine complete with enclosed flywheel and reverse gear. At this figure it has the standard fitments, including overhead hand starting with chain adjustment and impulse starter, so that the cost, compared with the smaller model at £242, fully maintains the company's reputation for a sound product at an extremely moderate price.

As might be expected, the remainder of the overhead valve series will continue to take a predominant part in the company's activities. This series includes the 10-16 h.p. 4-cylinder Ailsa Craig Kid engine with its 3-bearing crankshaft. New refinements have been incorporated, and it is a sign of the progressive policy of the company that these additions have been made without any increase in prices. For instance, the Kid engine with its new pump-trough system of lubrication and the new special scraper rings on the pistons is priced at the same low figure of £80 for the complete engine and reverse gear, while in the reduction gear outfit the gear is now of the Helical type, making it very silent and smooth-working; it is also even more compact than before. Here again, with such substantial advantages, the price remains the same.

Then there is the little "Silent Seven" 7/12 h.p. engine, which is the smallest British built 4-cylinder marine motor on the market. The standard model with combined engine and reverse gear in one unit is still listed at £72. Since the present year's programme was laid down a new model of this engine has been added which is popularly known as the "Chubby Z4." It is for use with a folding or feathering propeller without a reverse gear, and has been specially designed as a yacht auxiliary to meet the most restricted installation conditions. In fact, it is capable of being accommodated in the amazingly small space of 25 inches—a proof that it fulfils the most stringent requirements of the enthusiastic sailing man.

It is reported that negotiations are in progress between the Turkish Ministry of Finance and the Swedish Ericsson Telephone Company with regard to a contract for the installation of a telephone system to link up the chief towns of Anatolia.

In the quarter ended September 30, 726 motor vehicles were registered in the Bengal Presidency. The total was made up of 537 cars, 109 omnibuses, 14 public conveyances, and 66 lorries. In the Punjab 647 vehicles were registered in the June quarter, as compared with 488 in the March quarter. These totals included 206 and 201 cars and 368 and 260 lorries respectively.

On December 10 the famous rubber firm of Chas. Macintosh celebrated its 104th anniversary. One hundred and four years have seen great changes and developments in this business, not the least of which was the fusion of interests with the Dunlop Rubber Company, Ltd., resulting in the formation of Macintop, Ltd., the already well-known distributors of rubber goods. The union of these two firms creates a record in the rubber industry, giving them a joint age of 144 years.

COMPANY NOTES AND REPORTS.

SERVICE PETROLEUM.

The report of the Service Petroleum Company for the period from April 1, 1927 (the late of incorporation), to September 30, 1928, states that whereas full provision has been made in the accounts for administration, general, and other charges, including depreciation, covering a period of eighteen months, the accounts include the benefit of only thirteen months' operations of service stations and only a proportion of the dividend of £42,500 received from the Roumanian subsidiary for 1927. Nothing has been included in respect of operations in Roumania for the nine months from January 1 to September 30, 1928, as the accounts of the Roumanian company will not be made up until December 31, 1928.

The directors have been legally advised that the whole of the dividend received from the Roumanian company is revenue, but as the profits of that company include earnings prior to the Service company's formal acquisition of its shareholding, the auditors have advised the transfer of £31,500 of this dividend to a capital reserve, and the directors have decided to follow this recommendation. In this connexion the directors point that the Roumanian company, before paying the dividend for 1927, set aside approximately £37,000 for amortisation and reserves.

In view of the transfer of £31,500 to capital reserve and the non-inclusion of the benefit of the Roumanian company's operations for the nine months ended September 30, 1928, the accounts show a loss for the period of £22,873, against which it has been decided to transfer an equivalent amount from the share premium account. There remains to be carried forward a deficit of £21,840, being the amount paid by way of interim dividend on the company's original capital. It is proposed that the accounts of the Service company shall be brought into line with those of the Roumanian subsidiary at the earliest opportunity. In consequence of this it will be necessary to postpone the question of a further dividend until the accounts from Roumania for 1928 are received and the amount of the Roumanian company's profits available for distribution as dividend has been ascertained.

The directors add that the programme of the Romano-Africana S.A.R. is being steadily developed. Production from wells at Gura-Ocnitzei has shown for a few months a decrease, due mainly to technical and accidental reasons, but from the beginning of November this production has been steadily increasing. The company now operates in five fields, whereas at the beginning of 1928 only two were being worked. The first well in the Ceptura field started production on November 11, 1928, with 300 tons per day, and drilling of two other well has now commenced. Drilling in Moreni, Floresti, and Gura-Ocnitzei is progressing favourably; in the latter field one of three new wells is being deepened to the Meotie strata. Gallery works at Bustenari are approaching completion. Several valuable concessions on first-class proven lands have been secured during 1928, and an up-to-date rotary drilling equipment acquired. Sir George Thurston, Mr. C. A. P. Langham, Capt. Albert H. Farley, and Mr. Lincoln G. Valentine have retired from the Board. Mr. Paul Dormann, Prince M. Soumbatoff, Mr. Louis Coatalen, and Mr. Alfred Massenet have been appointed directors.

BARCLAYS (OVERSEAS).

The directors of Barclays Bank (Dominion, Colonial and Overseas) recommend a final dividend for the year ended September 30, 1928, at the rate of 8 per cent. per annum on the cumulative preference shares, less income tax at the rate of 9½d. in the £, and a final dividend on the "A" and "B" shares at the rate of 4½ per cent. per annum, less income tax at the rate of 1s. 7d. in the £, making, with the interim dividend paid in July last, 4 per cent. for the year. The variation from the usual rate of income tax is due to relief in respect of Dominion income tax in respect of years 1926-27 and 1927-28.

SUDAN CONSTRUCTION AND EQUIPMENT.

The report for the year ended October 31, 1928, states that since the publication of last year's report the following progress has been made in the construction of works undertaken by the company in the Sudan:—Harbour Works at Port Sudan: Four new coal transporters were completed on site and taken into service in February of this year; they are now in full working order. Ancillary works in connexion with South Town Coal Quays were also completed, and the quays were opened for public use in February to coincide with the working of the transporters. Further progress has been made with the extension of the main quays at the north end, and it is anticipated that the constructional work, together with crane tracks, etc., will be completed by the end of 1928. Two 70 ft. A.G.A. Beacons and two 20 ft. Post Lights erected in 1927 continue to function satisfactorily.

GEDAREF RAILWAY AND DEVELOPMENT (SUDAN).

The report for the year ended October 31, 1928, states that in last year's report it was stated that the first section of the line from Kassala to Gedaref, i.e., as far as River Athara at Abu Deleiq, a distance of about 40 miles, was completed, and certain preliminary work on the bridge site was carried out before the rains of 1927 caused the operations to be suspended. The second section of the line from Abu Deleiq to Gedaref, a distance of 100 miles, was commenced in December, 1927, and the line reached Gedaref on February 19, 1928. A temporary bridge over the River Athara at Abu Deleiq was used for construction trains up to May 10 this year, when a sudden rise in the river necessitated its demolition. A permanent bridge, 1,050 feet in length, consisting of seven 150 ft. spans, was, however, completed by the contractors, Dorman, Long and Co., in

July, and has since been in regular use for construction traffic. The whole of the railway from Kassala to Gedaref was opened in November for passenger, goods, and animal traffic. Orders for the necessary material for the extension of the line from Gedaref to Makwar were placed in February of this year. Up to October 31, orders to the value of approximately £1,450,000 for railway materials, plant, and rolling stock had been placed in England, Scotland, and Wales. Orders for ginning plants, materials for buildings, well boring, irrigation, etc., required in connexion with cotton and other development schemes in the Sudan, have also been placed in this country to the value of approximately £350,000.

STEAUA ROMANA (BRITISH).

The report of the Steaua Romana (British), Ltd., for the year to June 30 last states that the profit, subject to taxation, comes out at £95,801, of which the approximate liability for income tax is £20,970, leaving a net profit amounting to £74,831. The balance brought forward was £22,191; add proportion of deferred interest, £425, making an available balance of £97,437. The directors recommend paying a dividend on the ordinary shares for the year ended June 30 at the rate of 4 per cent. (less tax), placing to reserve for income tax £8,456, and carrying forward £24,981. The production of the Steaua Romana Company (Bucharest) for the year to June 30 last was 578,964 metric tons, compared with 485,580 metric tons in the previous year. During the five months July to November, the total production amounted to 300,273 metric tons, compared with 243,989 metric tons.

ASSAM-BENGAL RAILWAY.

The report for the year ended March 31, 1918, states that the balance on account of the company's surplus profits available for dividend is £17,627, from which must be deducted £7,500 on account of the ½ per cent. interim dividend, paid on July 1, 1928, and £28 for sundry payments. To this must be added £19,329 on account of the second half of the year ended March 31, 1928, £705 refund of balance of Dominion income tax relief for 1927-28, and £250 interest on deposits, leaving £30,384. The board recommend a final dividend at the rate of £1 10s. per cent., less income tax (after deduction of Dominion income tax relief) at 2s. 0½d. in the £, to be paid on December 31, 1928, in addition to the guaranteed interest, less income tax at 4s. in the £ due at that date, leaving £7,884 to be carried forward.

EGYPTIAN SALT AND SODA.

The gross profit of the Egyptian Salt and Soda Company for the year ended August 21, 1928, was £E74,010, against £E50,770. The net profit was £E68,072, compared with £E43,647. The Board proposes to set aside for the staff provident fund £E3,000, placing to reserve for renewals, etc., £E38,000, placing to a reserve to be devoted to the stabilisation of future dividends £E24,267, and paying a dividend of 2s. per share, equal to 10 per cent. (against 1s. 3d.) £E48,534, carrying forward £E1,737.

NEW COMPANY.

Conto has been registered as a public company, with a nominal capital of £750,000 (450,000 eight per cent. cumulative preference and 300,000 ordinary), to acquire the business of Contomichalos, Darke and Co., produce merchants and warehousemen, to adopt an agreement with the said company and the liquidator thereof, to carry on the said business and that of farmers, bankers, shipbuilders and owners, brokers, carriers, forwarding agents, etc. The directors are:—G. A. Contomichalos (managing director of Sudan Building and Agricultural Company); R. D. K. Curling (chairman of Sudan Building and Agricultural Company); D. Dalzell (director of Sudan Commercial Association); H. C. Drayton (director of Electrical Industrial and Investment Company); G. B. Halsehurst, shipbroker; E. H. Wenham, shipbroker. The registered office is at Bevis Marks House, Bevis Marks, E.C.3.

It is reported that Roumania has arranged for the purchase from Poland of 100 heavy type locomotives.

The annual meeting and dinner of the Chamber of Shipping of the United Kingdom has been provisionally fixed for February 21.

A company is being established in Luibliana for the production of cars of the Austrian Steyr type.

It is understood that an artificial silk factory is to be established at Teslic in Yugoslavia.

The annual general meeting of the Anglo-Belgian Company of Egypt will be held at 18, Moorgate Street, E.C., on December 18.

The Swedish Match Trust is reported to be negotiating for the acquisition of a number of match factories in Roumania.

H.M. Stationery Office has published as a White Paper (Cmd. 3236, price 1d.) an exchange of Notes recording a provisional Commercial Agreement between Egypt and Palestine.

Furness, Withy and Co. announce that warrants for the interim dividend on the ordinary shares of 5 per cent. in respect of the year ending April 30, 1929, being 1s. per share, less tax, will be posted on December 31 to shareholders registered on December 8.

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Cotton and Cotton Goods.

THE LIVERPOOL COTTON MARKET.

Messrs. Reynolds and Gibson report as follows for the week ended December 5:—

Egyptian Futures.

Sakel Contract.—Attracted by the strength of Alexandria and the firmness displayed by the American departments, a succession of small buying orders from speculative sources made their appearance in this market during the sessions immediately following our last report. Owing to the heavy local discount with overseas values and the consequent impossibility of importations, the floating supply of contracts here is restricted, and on this account values were quickly influenced; thus the fulfilment of the above-mentioned orders resulted in an advance of 34 points for near positions. At this level we attracted profit-taking operations; selling by houses acting for Egyptian interests was a feature of the week-end, and this, coinciding with a reactionary tendency in Alexandria, caused all the earlier advance to be neutralised. During the more recent trading renewed firmness has been witnessed, and whilst prices on the week only show signs of 2 to 14 points for near months and a decline of 7 to 22 points for distant positions, a good undertone is in evidence.

On Monday the Egyptian Government issued their second crop estimate; this showed a yield of 2,343,215 kantars, a figure in excess of that anticipated by the more optimistic "Bulls"; however, as exports are already well over the 500,000 kantar mark, the after-effects of the report were of short duration.

Trade reports, as far as this country is concerned, reveal a very moderate business in the finer counts, and the Sakel demand for both spot or forward cotton has latterly been very disappointing. It rather appears, however, as if the falling off in consumption in Lancashire is being counteracted by increased activity in other centres. Near positions have been in demand during the past few days and show a tendency to close up with the later spring and summer months.

Whilst the local position hardly tends to encourage the belief in higher prices, we will have to follow the course of the producing markets, and as sentiments in Egypt appears to be decidedly "bullish," values may easily be manipulated to higher levels.

Upper Contract.—With some easing latterly taking place in the American markets values in this contract show a moderate decline on the week, near positions being 7 to 11 points and distant months 8 to 11 lower since we last wrote. Stocks at this side are increasing rapidly, many firms usually outside the Egyptian market having availed themselves of the opportunity offered earlier in the season to import at a favourable basis. The result of the competition to sell this cotton is seen in the narrow difference ruling between the official F.G.F. quotation and the January position. The spot premium has narrowed to 10 on and may be reduced further. This means that unless holders are able to switch their hedges with very handsome-carrying premiums, heavy tenders will be experienced throughout next month.

Egyptian Spot.

Owing to fluctuations in the future markets values have shown a somewhat erratic tendency. A steady, quiet trade in Spot Egyptian has continued, which shows a distinct improvement on last week's offtake. On the whole, and especially bearing in mind the approach of another U.S. Bureau Report, the situation appears fairly healthy, and, provided no unlooked-for shocks are received on Saturday next, we have renewed hopes that spinners are gradually improving their position. We have little fresh to report in the local inquiry. The bulk of the Sakel business has again been for the "off" cotton, and there has been a recrudescence in the demand for "inferior" and very low Sakel at from 4d. to 10d. Fine qualities have failed to stimulate interest.

Uppers have been in steady request at from 25 off to 25 on January contracts, but the better grades still remain neglected. Pilon has been in improved request and the cotton looks right at current levels. There has been more interest shown this week in Nahda cotton. Summing up, we should say that spinners have definitely shown more interest this week, but when it comes to actual purchases, the later have seldom been anything more than retail in character.

C.i.f. business has been officially described as "quiet," and with this we are in full agreement. Considerable interest has again been shown in Sudan Sakels, and some good lines have been placed this week. Forwardings to spinners last week were returned as 8,643 bales Egyptian and 737 bales Sudan. Estimated spot sales for the week under review, 1,800 bales Egyptian and 3,000 bales Sudan. Quotations of Sakel are up to 20 points on balance. Uppers show a net decline of 15 points, and Pilon 10 to 15 points. F.G.F. Sakel to-day, 19.30d. F.G.F. Upper to-day, 12.45d. F.G.F. Pilon to-day, 13.15d.

THE EGYPTIAN MARKET.

The Alexandria Commercial Company, in their report for the week ended November 29, state:—

Since our last report the futures market has been active, and prices show a considerable advance, more especially for Sakel. The week's summary of price movements is as follows:—Sakellaris: January, 38.43 dollars, 2.24 dollars up; March, 38.79 dollars, 2.02 dollars up;

May, 39.20 dollars, 2.00 dollars up; November, 1929, 39.33 dollars, 1.61 dollars up. Ashmouni: December, 23.24 dollars, 0.76 dollars up; February, 23.75 dollars, 0.70 dollars up; April, 24.28 dollars, 0.73 dollars up; October, 25.07 dollars, 0.55 dollars up.

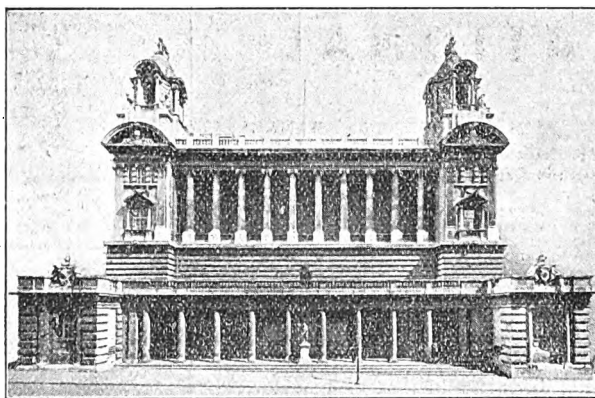
Sakel.—The Sakel market has shown quite exceptional firmness, and all deliveries register material advances. The reasons for the strength of Sakel prices given in our last report can only be repeated this week; we can find no real commercial influence to justify the recent advance, and in our opinion it is simply the outcome of speculative manipulation. Spinners have still further curtailed their purchases, and the demand during the past few days from this source has been negligible, if not altogether non-existent.

Although it is true that the crop of Sakel will not exceed 2,500,000 kantars this season, to this must be added the Sudan crop, which promises to be larger than last year, and the carryovers of both the Egyptian and Sudan Sakel crops at the end of August last. All these make a very respectable total figure of supply and one amply sufficient to cover spinners' requirements, judging by their takings, which have steadily declined, particularly during the last two or three years, as a result of the competition from artificial silk and the reluctance of consumers to pay the high prices asked for fine yarns. This being the case, we do not think the advance can go much further; on the contrary, from a commercial point of view some reaction from present levels seems rather probable. The Sakel/Uppers straddle (January/February) this week stands at 1,468 points, against 1,314 points last week and 385 points at this time last year.

Uppers.—Notwithstanding the strong advance in the price of Sakel, and despite the appreciable rise in American, the Uppers market continues to look very heavy. The distinctly quicker crop movement of this year continues in full force, and hedging operations against daily arrivals are a continual check on prices. This is a condition, however, which cannot last indefinitely, particularly as the trade demand for Uppers continues strong, as is shown by the very satisfactory export figures. We therefore look for a gradual advance in prices as the crop movement quietens down. The Ashmouni-American straddle (December/January) this week stands at 255 points, against 250 points last week and 748 points at this time last year.

The week's receipts amount to 324,056 kantars, against exports 208,377 kantars; the stock in Alexandria stands at 3,227,316 kantars.

Spot.—The past week has given us another series of active markets at Minet el Bassal, but the resulting turnover is appreciably less than last week, and there has not been quite the same eagerness in the demand from abroad. Sales amount to about 30,200 bales, of which we estimate 9,100 bales Sakellaris, 18,400 bales Ashmouni



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and Zagora, 1,750 bales Pilon, 500 bales Nahda, and 450 bales other varieties.

Sakellaridis: A very fair business has been done covering all grades. Spot differences are generally well maintained and slightly dearer than last week.

Ashmouni and Zagora: A good business has been done, but the demand has fallen away somewhat. All grades have been dealt in. Spot differences are generally unchanged from last week.

Pilon: A fairly good business has been done in all grades. Spot differences are unchanged.

Other Varieties: Nahda continues in excellent favour with buyers and a good business has been done at excellent prices. In White a good business has been done. Spot differences are considerably dearer. Some small lots of Maarad and Fouadi have changed hands.

Up-country: This week there is again nothing special to report. In some districts the movement of the crop is still heavy; in others it has rather fallen off. The advance has rendered holders of cotton more difficult to deal with, and little fresh business has been put through. There is no unusual feature in up-country trading in Egypt; holders have a habit of throwing their cotton on a declining market, and are just as eager to hold in case of a rise. Business in new crop cotton has made a beginning, more particularly in Upper Egypt.

The India Office has given a contract to P. and W. MacLellan, Glasgow, for the steelwork required in the construction of a new railway bridge. This firm has also been awarded a contract for the supply of bridge spans for the Bombay, Baroda, and Central India Railway.

NEWS FROM ALL SOURCES.

Czechoslovak factories have obtained the largest share of a contract for the supply of agricultural machinery to Bulgaria.

The Ionian Bank recommends a final dividend of 3s. per share, with a bonus of 2s. per share, both free of tax, subject to audit, making 8 per cent., the same as for the previous year.

The production of the Attock Oil Company, Ltd., for November was 35,851 barrels. The increase is mainly accounted for by the new deep well reported on November 19, production from which is still satisfactory.

The statistics of shipping at the Piræus in November show that Italy was first with the number of ships entering the port, her figures being 54, of a gross tonnage of 108,954. England was second with 23 ships of a gross tonnage of 43,000.

It is announced that Sir Robert Waley Cohen, K.B.E., has accepted the invitation of the board of the African and Eastern Trade Corporation, Ltd., to occupy the position of chairman as from January 1 next, Mr. R. B. Miller having intimated his intention of vacating that position on the 31st inst.

The traffic receipts of the Suez Canal during November amounted to 19,030,000 francs, as compared with 17,910,000 francs in November, 1927, and 15,510,000 francs in 1926. For the period January-November, the total receipts were 200,980,000 francs, as compared with 188,990,000 francs for the same period of 1927.

Stock and Share Markets.

LONDON EXCHANGE		Prices on Dec. 10	INDIAN EXCHANGES.		Prices on Nov. 21
Government Stocks.			Government Loans.		Rs.
Egyptian 4 p.c. Unified Debt ...	85		3½ Government Paper ...	1497	
Do. Pref. 3½ p.c. 1890 ...	74½		Banks		
Do. Turk 4 p.c. 1891 ...	90½		Imperial Bank of India ...	97	
Do. 3½ p.c. Eg. Trib. Bonds '94 ...	84½		Bank of India ...	25	
Bulgaria 4½ p.c. Gold, 1907 ...	29		Central Bank of India ...		
Do. 7 p.c. ...	90		Coal.		
Greek 5 p.c., 1881 ...	74		Baraboni ...	1	
Do. 5 p.c., 1884 ...	74		Bengal ...	385	
Do. 4 p.c. Rentes, 1889 ...	57½		Burrakur ...	10½	
Do. 5 p.c. 1890 ...	73½		East Indian ...	17½	
Do. 5 p.c. Funding Loan, 1893 ...	73		Equitable ...	18½	
Do. 4 p.c. Rents, Loan, 1902 ...	63		Pench Valley ...	25	
Do. 4 p.c. Loan, 1910 ...	63		Ranegunge ...	17	
Do. 5 p.c. Loan, 1914 (Lon. issue) ...	77½		Standard ...	24	
Do. 7 p.c., 1924 ...	102		Cotton.		
Do. 6 p.c. St. Bds. ...	92½		Bengal Nagpur ...	28½	
Palestine 5 p.c. ...	101½		Bombay Dyeing, etc. ...	357½	
Persia 5 p.c., 1911 ...	89½		Bowreah ...	330	
Roumania 4 p.c. Ext. ...	70½		Buckingham and Carnatic ...	185	
Do. 4 p.c. Consolidation ...	48 15/16		Cawnpore Textiles ...	392½	
Do. 4½ p.c. 1913 ...	55½		Century ...	502½	
Sudan 5½ p.c. Guar. Bds. ...	108½		Central India ...	91	
India 3½ p.c. ...	70½ xd		Elgin ...	80	
Do. 3 p.c. ...	60½ xd		Khatu Mankanji ...	325	
Do. 5½ p.c. ...	102½		Muir ...	289	
Do. 4½ p.c. ...	92½		New Ring ...	355	
Turkish 4 p.c. Unified ...	23		Phoenix ...	461½	
Banks.			Svadeshi ...		
Agri. Bank of Egypt ...	8		Jute.		
Bank of British West Africa ...	411/16xd		Alliance ...	600	
Bank of Roumania ...	86 3/4		Barnagore ...	310	
Barclays Dom. Col. Pf. ...	28 9/16		Budge Budge ...	636	
Chartered Bank of India ...	217½		Clive ...	41½	
Eastern ...	7		Dalhousie ...	629	
Hambros ...	10½		Delta ...	570	
Ionian Bank ...	7½		Fort Gloster ...	510	
Imperial Bank of Persia ...	11½		Gourepore ...	57½	
Land Bank of Egypt Ord. ...	19½		Howrah ...	711	
Lloyds ...	64/6		Kamarhatty ...	611½	
Mercantile Bank of India A ...	34		Kankarrah ...	10	
Do. B ...	31½		Khardah ...	1050	
National Bank of Egypt ...	36		Kinnison ...	35½	
National Bank of India ...	52½		National ...	515	
Ottoman Bank ...	14		Standard ...	756	
P. and O. Bank Corporation ...	9		Union ...		
Westminster ...	20½		Miscellaneous		
Land.			British India Corporation ...	41	
Kassala Cotton ...	6 9/16		Bengal Paper Mills ...	215 1/16	
Latifiyah (Iraq) Estates ...	4 6/16		Bengal Timber Trading ...	40	
Sudan Plantations ...	313/16		Burn and Co. ...	245	
Mines.			Burn and Co. ...	385	
Balaghat Gold Mining ...	6½		Cawnpore Sugar ...	24	
Burma Corp. ...	15 6/16		Champaran Sugar ...	10	
Champion Reef Gold ...	9 6/16		Howrah Oil Mills ...	8½	
Mysore ...	15 3/16		ALEXANDRIA		
Nundydroog ...	17½		Prices on Nov. 30, supplied by G. L.		
Ooregum Gold Mining Ord. ...	13½		Mortera, Alexandria & Castro.		
Oil.			Agricultural Bank of Egypt ...	481	
Anglo-Egyptian B ...	225/32		Assoc. Bank of Egypt ...	481½	
Anglo-Persian Ord. ...	47 3/32		Alexandria Water Co. ...	£17 13/32	
Do. 8 p.c. Cum. 1st Pf. ...	27 9/16		Assoc. Cotton Ginners ...	44	
Do. 9 p.c. Cum. 2nd Pf. ...	29 3/16		Behra Ord. ...	£23 11/16	
Do. 5 p.c. Debs. ...	98		Ciments d'Egypte ...	Frs. 155	
Do. 6½ p.c. Notes ...	101		Div. ...	180	
Brit. Burmah ...	7 3/4		Comptoir Fin. & Com. d'Egypte ...	£5 10	
Burmah Oil Co. Ord. ...	415 3/32		Credit Foncier Egyptien ...	Frs. 1243	
Do. 8½ Cum. Pref. ...	26 7/8		Fondateur ...	£298	
Hamilton's Oil Concessions ...	10½		Crown Brewery Priv. ...	Frs. 151	
Phoenix Oil and Transport (f.p.) ...	14 9/16		Filature Nationale d'Egypte ...	£5½	
Do. (l/c) ...	7 9/16		Frigorifique d'Egypte ...	17½	
Shell Transport ...	5½		Immeubles d'Egypte Soc. An. des. ...	£19 17/32	
Steaua Romana ...	11 1/16		Land Bank of Egypt Actions ...	£70	
			Parts de Fond ...	Pt. 187	
			Menzaleh Canal Navigation ...		

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† KASHGAR	9,000	Dec. 13	Dec. 21	Straits, China, Japan
MOOLTAN	21,000	Dec. 14	Dec. 21	Australia via Bombay
† RANCHI	16,600	Dec. 21	Dec. 28	Bombay and Karachi
† NAGOVA	7,000	Dec. 21	...	Colombo and Calcutta
† SCHITRAL	15,000	Dec. 28	Jan. 3	Colombo and Australia
† MACEDONIA	11,000	Dec. 28	Jan. 4	Bombay and Japan
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MALVA	8,920	Dec. 12	Dec. 21	East African Ports
† HATIMURA	6,666	Dec. 12	Dec. 22	Bombay and Karachi
MANORA	7,888	Dec. 22	Dec. 29	Madras and Calcutta
MULBERA	9,100	Jan. 5	Jan. 12	Madras and Calcutta
MODASA	9,070	Jan. 9	Jan. 18	East African Ports
† WARFIELD	9,060	Jan. 5	Jan. 19	Bombay and Karachi
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City of Baroda	7,129	Dec. 22	Bombay & Colombo
City of York	7,844	Dec. 22	Colombo & Calcutta
City of Cairo	7,882	Jan. 4	Bombay & Karachi
City of Manchester	5,564	Jan. 4	Colombo & Calcutta
City of Harward	7,071	Jan. 16	Colombo & Calcutta
City of Simla	9,468	Jan. 24	Bombay & Karachi
City of London	8,956	Feb. 2	Bombay & Karachi
City of Exeter	9,447	Feb. 5	Colombo & Calcutta
City of Canterbury	8,421	Feb. 18	Colombo & Calcutta

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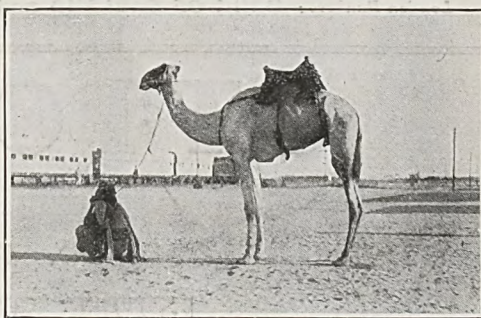
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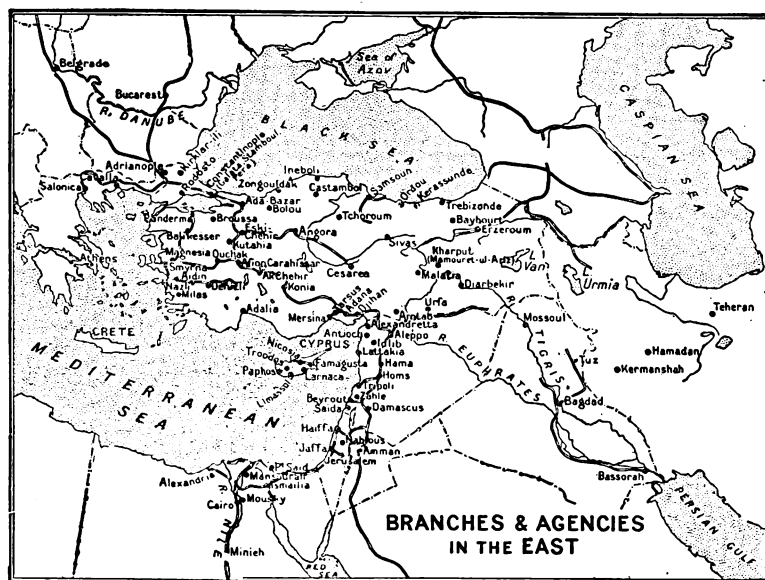
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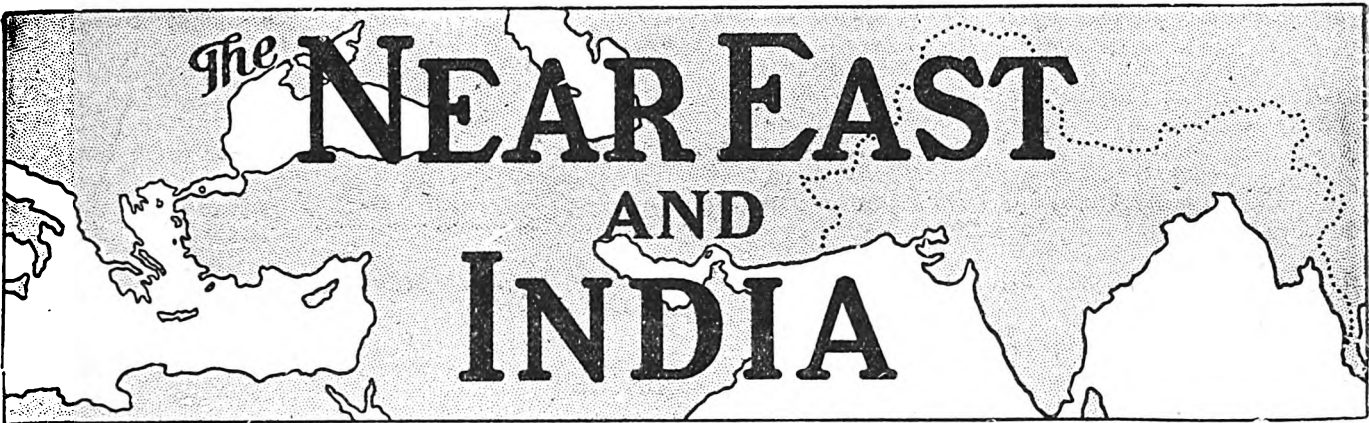
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Notes of the Week.

Serbs and Croats.

The Belgrade Government is still without any policy other than that of force to offer as a solution of the Serbo-Croat question. Accepting the resignation of the civilian Governor of Zagreb, who found himself in conflict with the military authorities over the events of December 1, it appointed in his stead a Colonel Maximovitch. The significance of this step is to be seen in the fact that hitherto military officers have been appointed Governors only in Macedonia, where conditions have been admittedly anomalous. To nominate a soldier at this stage to Zagreb was a provocative act on the part of Dr. Koroshetz or of those who compelled him to do it. Colonel Maximovitch's appearance in Zagreb was followed by a formal decision of the Council to have nothing to do with the new Governor, and this action in turn was countered by the Government with the suspension of the Council for a year. In the sequence of events the Croats are able to find ample confirmation from their point of view of their contention in regard to Serbia. No one, they say, disputes the military prowess of the Serbs or their heroic conduct during the Great War. It was supposed that these qualities carried with them a normal capacity for statecraft, which would justify a dominant position for Serbia in the new Yugoslav State. Croat experience, however, has shown that Serb qualifications, as far as they are reflected by successive Belgrade Governments, are suited only for a military camp; they reckon nothing of constitutionalism or of the modern conception of the liberty of the subject. While picked individual Serbs may make a satisfactory showing in the meetings of European statesmen, the standard of statesmanship displayed in the counsels of the State leave much to be desired. For ten years the situation in the country has been allowed to go from bad to worse, without any attempt on the part of the Serbs to meet the requirements of a kingdom composed of three or more separate peoples, until to-day the disruption of the State is threatened.

The Blindness of Belgrade.

It is fortunate for the Yugoslavs that the crisis in their fortunes has occurred at a moment when all the countries of Europe are committed to peace. The trouble is wholly domestic, but the internal weakness resulting from the quarrel between Serbs and Croats has reduced Yugoslavia to comparative impotence for the time being in Europe. The Belgrade Government may bluster and seek to intimidate Bulgaria or Albania, but it carries no weight in any other direction; it is to-day no match diplomatically for Greece, and even its subservience to French policy has outlived its usefulness from the point of view of Yugoslav interests. No one with any real knowledge of the Serbs will believe that the country is incapable of improving upon this state of affairs. The only explanation seems to be that Serbia has allowed herself to be governed by a body of men wholly impervious to outside influences and ignorant of all modern tendencies either in their own country or elsewhere. Whether responsibility for this unfortunate condition of things attaches to Belgrade politicians or to a clique in the background to which these politicians have subordinated themselves can be known only to the Serbs themselves. The effect is the same for the unfortunate country. Despairing of making any impression on the mediæval mentality of Belgrade, the Croats argue that the whole of Yugoslavia cannot be held back in the march of civilisation to keep pace with the lagging steps of the Serbs. The hope that Belgrade would assimilate the progressiveness that Croatia and Slovenia inherited from the Austro-Hungarian Empire has not been realized, and the desire is now paramount in the non-Serb provinces of the Kingdom that each territorial division should be allowed to advance in the material sphere at its own rate of progress. Economic considerations play an important part in the Serbo-Croat quarrel; there is the incompatibility of temperament, as well as the disparity in the stage of civilization that the two peoples have reached, but the culminating grievance

is unfairness of the policy that taxes Croatia for the sole benefit of Serbia. Not without reason, in view of their past history, the Croats ask whether they can be expected to suffer indefinitely at the hands of Belgrade what they did not tolerate from Budapest. So complete, however is the blindness of Belgrade that it does not realize that a policy which sufficed to disrupt a "ramshackle" Empire may have equally disastrous effects in a smaller kingdom composed of even more discordant elements.

The Need for a Constructive Policy.

The Croats will do well to remember that the more justification they find in their criticisms of the Serbs, the greater the need on their part to provide the constructive policy which they cannot obtain from Belgrade. The relations between the two peoples have become much worse since the declaration in Croatia of a boycott of the Belgrade Government, and it cannot be pretended that such a step was calculated to produce an understanding between the two parties. Moreover, as time passes, the boycott is proving a double-edged weapon; for Croat business is being affected by it, and a certain restlessness on the subject is being displayed in Croatia, which can hardly strengthen the hands of the Peasant-Democrat Group. The Croat leaders need to keep their goal very clearly in view and to see that each step that they take is likely to bring them nearer to it. As they cannot challenge—at least at present—the military strength of the Serbs, their main hope of reaching their goal is by way of agreement. They should, therefore, contrive to emphasize their resolve to have federal autonomy, without closing the door to negotiation. As things are, they have made it almost impossible for any practical step to be taken for securing the realization of their aims. A solution of Yugoslavia's present difficulties can be found only in a round-table conference, and to render such a conference out of the question is to postpone indefinitely the solution for which they are striving. Having recorded their opinion of the Serbs, the Croats should have been careful not to imitate the Serb obstinacy of which they complain. In withdrawing from the Skupshtina they had made their attitude towards the Serbian régime quite plain, and from that point every opportunity ought to have been taken to make the inevitable surrender of the Serbs easier for them. In the place of this policy the Croats have shown an inclination to play into Serb hands, by affording openings for the exercise of those qualities in which the Serbs excel. They are thus no nearer a solution of their difficulties than they were on the day of the Skupshtina murders; and whereas by tactfulness they might have obtained the services of King Alexander as a mediator between themselves and the Serbs, they have allowed the latter to monopolize him as the patron exclusively of the Radical Party. The first thing to be done now is to avoid all further intensification of bitterness between Serbs and Croats, and to set out to discover, either in Yugoslavia or abroad, someone who can act as mediator between two peoples not on speaking terms with one another.

Progress in Egypt.

Under the title *Egypt*, a small broadsheet has been published by the Egyptian Association in London for the purpose of showing how bad things are in Egypt at the present moment. It does not appear at first sight a very worthy or a very exhilarating object, but clearly it affords considerable satisfaction to a group of Egyptians among whom an ex-Cabinet Minister assumes the rôle of High Priest. The British public has little difficulty in recognizing good and bad governments, and its innate fairness prompts it to listen to both sides of any question. At the same time it has a shrewd idea that a party in opposition is inclined to give a one-sided view of the situation in any given country, and it will instinctively try to

check that view with independent evidence from the country itself. In the case of Egypt a score or so of foreign correspondents and a thousand score of annual visitors enable a fairly reliable judgment—at least in general outline—to be formed of the situation in that country. When, therefore, a broadsheet attempts to depict conditions in Egypt in language which has hitherto been reserved for Russia, and then only at the worst period of the Bolshevik régime, the verdict of the ordinary reader will be that, if this is the considered judgment of the Wafd, no wonder that some saner Egyptians found its administration of the country a failure. The saying that a country has the Government that it deserves has varied applications. When Egypt allowed itself to be stampeded by extremists, it was perhaps receiving its deserts, as the Administration got nothing done. Now that the patience and good sense of an industrious population have reasserted themselves, it is in keeping with the adage that the country should have its material needs looked after—irrigation for the immediate present and the future, adequate water supplies for domestic purposes, hospitals and sanitation, and above all the putting into circulation of large sums of money, the withholding of which under a Wafdist régime was responsible in large part for the financial stringency in the country. If there should be Wafd extremists who cannot appreciate the advantage of these achievements, then, may it not be that the Government against which they rail so loudly is precisely the one that they too deserve?

A Medical Congress in Egypt.

This week yet another Congress has been added to the list of international gatherings which have availed themselves of Egyptian hospitality under King Fuad's enlightened initiative. The meeting of the International Congress of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene in Cairo coincides with the centenary celebration of the Cairo Faculty of Medicine. The first association of Kasr El Aini Palace with medicine dates from the time of the French occupation of Egypt; but, after being used as a military hospital during the first three or four years of the nineteenth century, it reverted to other purposes until 1837, when a medical school founded ten years previously was transferred to it, together with the hospital with which the name of Kasr El Aini has ever since been connected. For the last forty-five years the Kasr El Aini Medical School and Hospital have relied largely on British co-operation, and to-day when the School has the status of the Faculty of Medicine of the Egyptian State University that co-operation is successfully maintained. The School and Hospital have both outgrown their present accommodation, and advantage is to be taken of the present Congress for the ceremony of laying the foundation-stone of a new hospital and medical school on Roda Island. Egypt's position at one of the world's cross-roads exposes her in a special way to the dangers of infection, and it is of interest to note that she is making a point of building up a sound Public Health Service, of facilitating medical research work in her midst, and of insisting upon a high standard for her own medical profession.

Tales of Arabia.

Arabia appears to be the country *par excellence* for journalistic "stunts." When it is not Basrah it is Jerusalem that offends. The latest story from the capital of Palestine concerns the Hijaz, although why it should be from Jerusalem that news comes of the Holy Land of Islam is no more clear than, say, why Mecca should know what is going on on the borders of Trans-Jordan and of Iraq. The message states, however, that two powerful tribes in the Hijaz have started against the King of the Wahhabis a revolt which is likely to spread throughout Arabia. Even if the first statement were true—and confirmation so pathetically fails the usual

flights of fancy in Jerusalem—what possible evidence is there for the second? On the contrary, all the available evidence points to King Ibn Saud's having as strong a grip as ever on his tribes, and these stories, now of the revolt of the Mutair, or of the Ataibah, now of the Harb, must be treated with all possible reserve. Manifestly they emanate from enemies of the Wahhabi régime, although what effect they can possibly have except to scare the timid from making the *Haj*, preparations for which have, of course, already begun, it is difficult indeed to see. These wild tales from Arabia are little credit to the journals which publish them.

A Turkish Christmas.

The *ballon d'essai* of a Turkish newspaper which suggests that Turkey should celebrate Christmas does not necessarily imply that Mustapha Kemal Pasha is about to introduce Christianity officially into the Republic. The President is essentially of a practical rather than of a religious turn of mind. He found that certain excrescences, as it were, of Islam were calculated to retard the development of the Turkish people on modern lines and he abolished them. It was also considered as an anomaly that Turkey, which has much leeway to make up in the economic sphere, should be unable to transact business on two days of the week through having to observe the Muslim Friday and the Christian Sunday, apart from the observance of a Saturday Sabbath by the Jewish community. Accordingly, it is proposed to accept Sunday as the single day of rest for the whole country. In the same way the celebration of Christmas, if it should be carried through, would be a practical acknowledgement of Turkey's relationship to the European business world, which keeps holiday at that period of the year. It would create little surprise, if Mustapha Kemal Pasha decided that Christianity was a more progressive religion than Islam, and hoped that its formal adoption by Turkey would, in conjunction with the introduction of Latin characters in the writing of Turkish, facilitate the modernizing of the country. Christianity, it is true, has become synonymous with civilization, but whether that which in it makes for progress can be acquired by edict without any other basis is a matter likely to provide discussion, certainly outside Turkey, if not within it.

INDIAN NOTES.

Burma's "Yes."

By forty-nine votes to twenty-nine the Burma Legislative Council last week decided to co-operate with the Statutory Commission when Sir John Simon and his colleagues visit Burma early in the New Year. The size of the majority is explained by the favourable vote of the People's Party and is somewhat unexpected, as it had previously been understood that the strongest and most popular of all the political parties in Burma would support the boycott movement. In a manifesto published on the eve of the recent elections, the policy and programme of the party were defined as "the attainment of full responsible self-government for Burma as a separate unit within the British Commonwealth." The programme designed to that end consisted of ten major points, the first two being "to boycott the Simon Commission"; and "to work for speedy Burmanisation of public services as defined by leaders in the Legislative Council." The other eight points referred to matters of local interest, such as education, water supply, the Village Act, etc., and, last but not least, the possibility of achieving total prohibition in the near future. From the beginning it was difficult to see what the party hoped to gain by boycotting the Simon Commission, as it numbers among its members many able men who would undoubtedly be in power if they were prepared to co-operate. We are not therefore surprised

to find that U. Pu, one of the leading members, has been elected President of the Council. Moreover, the desire for separation from India—a demand which, as Lord Irwin was reminded so often on his recent visit, is rapidly gaining in strength and influence—is not likely to appeal to Indian politicians anxious to demonstrate the uniting of the country and the essential kinship between Burman and Indian. Meanwhile, as we go to press, we learn that at a Conference convened by the General Council of the Association in Calcutta last week and attended by delegates from all the provincial organisations, the members of the European Association adopted unanimously a resolution according the fullest support to the memorandum recently presented to the Statutory Commission by the General Council. An abridged version of the statement appeared in *THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA* of September 20.

The Assembly Secretariat.

Notwithstanding persistent rumours in the Indian Press to the contrary, the Government of India announced last week that the Secretary of State has sanctioned the financial measures which had to be submitted to him in connexion with the establishment of a separate office for the Legislative Assembly. That is to say, Lord Peel has agreed to the creation of the posts of Secretary, Deputy Secretary and Assistant Secretary to the Chamber, for which Mr. V. J. Patel and a large number of non-official members have been so long pressing. It is also understood that the Secretary of State has approved in principle at the same time the Government of India's proposals for the separation of the Assembly establishment in place of the existing system, whereby the officials of the Chamber's Secretariat have belonged to and been under the administrative control of the Legislative Department. The question, it will be recalled, was raised anew by Mr. V. J. Patel last summer and discussed in the Assembly on September 22, when Pandit Motilal Nehru's motion, embodying the views of a majority of the non-official members of all parties, was adopted, the Government members remaining neutral. If last week's announcement means that the scheme as adopted by the Assembly has been approved in all important essentials, the new office will presumably not be an attached department under the aegis of any member of the Executive Council, as was the original intention of the Government of India. Instead, it will be constituted as a separate department included in the portfolio of the Governor-General in the same way as the Foreign and Political Department is at

(Continued on page 739)

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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 20, 1928.

THE NEW ROUMANIA.

A general election in Roumania has produced yet another political "landslide"; but this time it has not been brought about by the traditional abuse of power. In certain constituencies, no doubt, the adherents of the National-Peasant Party have worked off an accumulation of grievances against local political opponents by interfering with the free exercise of the ballot; but nowhere does it appear that the authorities have mobilised police, gendarmes, or troops to prevent Opposition parties from voting, after the methods associated with former Governments, nor is there any suggestion that voting papers have been deliberately destroyed and urns "lost." The achievement of the National-Peasant Party under the new conditions is, therefore, the more significant. In a Chamber of 387 seats the Government can claim 333 for their own National-Peasants, as well as the support of eight Social Democrats and seven German deputies; of the thirty-nine Opposition seats thirteen belong to the Liberals, sixteen to the Magyars and five each to the Yorga-Averescu Coalition and to Dr. Lupu. Whether such an overwhelming majority is good for any Government is a matter of opinion; in Roumania at least it is understood and is regarded as normal. In the present instance it should simplify the task of Dr. Maniu, who has a big legislative programme before him, if he is to carry out in the lifetime of the new Parliament any considerable portion of the reforms badly needed by the country. The whole political system built up during the last ten years by previous Governments has for the most part been so mercilessly condemned by its fruits that in many cases the opposite policy will at once commend itself without discussion. Dr. Maniu's Ministry, however, may be expected to aim at something more lasting than mere party triumphs. It is called upon to lay foundations on which subsequent Governments can build as the experience and the development of the country require, and not to imitate its predecessors in running up a temporary structure merely for the immediate gratification of a small section of the people. As a first move in the right direction the liberty of the subject has been assured by the abolition of martial law and the suppression of the censorship; at the same time a new spirit is to be infused into the gendarmerie, which will be used for the purpose of maintaining public security and not as a political weapon for the benefit of the party in power.

Roumania looks to Dr. Maniu for something more than policies identified with a particular school of political thought. He has to raise the country in its own conceit, by eliminating practices which have gone by the board in other countries of the level of civilisation to which Roumania aspires. The traditions and habits of generations are not going to be changed overnight, and it is to be hoped that neither abroad nor by Roumanians will Dr. Maniu and his fellow-Ministers be expected to work

miracles. He has the advantage of having publicly denounced for some ten years the practices which he now has it in his power to eradicate. The country knows of and approves the better course, but awaits the stimulus of leadership to enable it to follow that course. As a beginning, it has responded to the correctness of the conditions under which the recent elections were held by according a great victory to the present Government. The complete elimination of corruption may prove a slow process, but when once it has been applied at the top, one incentive to corruption in lower strata will have been removed. An essential step is the payment of adequate salaries to officials. In this matter, as at every turn of the reform movement, Dr. Maniu's Cabinet will be handicapped by the financial situation of the country. It takes over a bad heritage from its predecessors, and in this particular one that cannot be hurriedly improved by a stroke of the pen. The current Budget to which the new Government succeeds must close with a substantial deficit, and this deficit can be met only from extraordinary revenue, by loans or reparation payments from abroad or by a temporary arrangement with the National Bank. For the purposes of a foreign loan, however, it is essential that Roumanian Budgets should show equilibrium; and this is more likely to be attained in the first year by drastic reduction of expenditure than by any marked improvement in revenue returns. Not until radical changes have been made in the fiscal policy of the country can there be much hope of a considerably enhanced revenue.

The economic policy of the new Government, it is announced, is to be based on the fact that Roumania is an agricultural country and that, consequently, the existence of all other branches of production depend on the satisfactory condition of agriculture. It is significant that Greater Roumania should have had to wait ten years for the adequate appreciation of this fact. Four-fifths of Roumania's territory are in the hands of the peasantry, and if the revenue of the country is to expand, it is essential that the peasants' capacity for production should be increased. To this end an attempt will be made to round off agrarian reform and to eliminate certain abuses which have crept into it. There is to be a revision of the Customs tariff and of transport charges; agriculturists are to be afforded cheaper credit and facilities for marketing their produce. The co-operative system is to be encouraged and helped, land is to be reclaimed and export taxes will be reduced, with a view to their abolition as soon as the financial situation permits. One of the problems before the new Government is to teach the peasants to help themselves and to raise their standard of living. Since the introduction of agrarian reform, there has been a tendency among them to accept their new holdings merely as a means for obtaining more easily the same livelihood as before, or if they have produced more, it has been only the amount that they could themselves consume. Until the general standard of living among the peasants has been raised, and they have discovered that, to meet the new wants, they must produce more than they need for their own requirements, there is not likely to be any striking improvement in agricultural production. One of the many mistakes of previous Governments has been to imagine that industrial development could be artificially promoted in the country without any home market for the goods that were to be manufactured. The demand for the goods must come first. If four-fifths of the population are to remain satisfied to produce only what is sufficient to feed them and to provide them with clothing, it is evident that Roumania is liable to suffer from financial stringency for some time to come. Fortunately for the country the new Government brings to bear on the problems before it a wider and healthier outlook than its predecessors did, and the introduction of a general contentment among the people may make for a more rapid material advancement than was possible in the atmosphere of discontent which the harsh measures of the previous régime engendered.

*The Near and Middle East

From Our Own Correspondents.



Belgrade, December 13.

Events in Zagreb.

The tragic events of December 1, which plunged Zagreb once again into mourning for sons killed in the struggle for the achievement of their political ideals brought in their train a whole series of after-effects. Most striking of these was the placing of M. Peter Zreletz, the Veliki Jupan (Governor) of the Zagreb District on the retired list on the grounds that he did not take adequate measures to prevent the disturbances on December 1, which marred the celebrations of the day of Yugoslav union and led to the death of one youth and the wounding of several others. At the same time, General Uzun-Mirkovitch, who is reported to have quarrelled with M. Zreletz in front of the Cathedral immediately after the unfurling of the three great black flags which began the trouble, was moved from Zagreb to Skoplye for having interfered with the civil authorities. It is reported that he has asked to be pensioned and that his request will be granted. In place of M. Zreletz Colonel Vojin Maximovitch, Professor of Military History in the Military Academy, was appointed as acting Veliki Jupan. It is highly unusual for an active military officer to be appointed to a post of civil administrator, and a curious point about this measure is that from his conversation with M. Zreletz on the morning of December 5 it appears that Dr. Koroshetz, Premier and Minister of the Interior, had no idea whatever of the step which was to be taken that very evening without even the leaders of the Four Coalition parties being informed or consulted. M. Pribitchevitch deduces from this sequence of events that Dr. Koroshetz was forced to take this step, perhaps against his will, at the dictation of the Minister of War, General Hajitch, but there is no proof available of the correctness of this surmise. Even in Belgrade this appointment led to considerable discontent. M. Yovan Yovanovitch, leader of the Serbian Peasant Party, declared it to be unwise, and compared it with the unsuccessful attempts of Hungary in 1905-08 to rule Zagreb through special commissioners. M. Davidovitch sent a special letter to Dr. Koroshetz protesting against so important a decision, with which he strongly disagreed in principle, being taken without his being consulted or even informed, and this has increased the friction already evident between the Radicals and the Democrats and threatened to break-up the Four Party Coalition—a danger which has not yet passed.

Zagreb and the New Governor.

In Zagreb the appointment of an active military officer as Veliki Jupan aroused tremendous indignation—especially as he was merely a Colonel, whereas a Veliki Jupan takes precedence over a Lieutenant-General. They com-

plained in Zagreb that they were being treated as though they were a small provincial town like Skoplye or Shtip, and pointed out that since the Civil Service Act lays down that a Veliki Jupan must have a Law Degree and fifteen years of State service the appointment is illegal. To the quibble that Colonel Maximovitch is only Acting Veliki Jupan, they reply by pointing out that the Act says that only the senior Law officer of the District can act for the Jupan in his absence. On these grounds the Zagreb District Parliament refused to accept the appointment, and called upon M. Uzorinatz, the Governor's representative, to leave the meeting they held on December 10. When he refused to do so the whole body of members rose and filed out, leaving him in solitary glory. When M. Uzorinatz had left the building the members crept quietly back and continued their meeting long enough for the President to declare the Parliament adjourned indefinitely. When the Governor's representative returned bearing a decree closing down the Parliament he found the building completely deserted. The District Parliament has complained to the State Council of the alleged illegal appointment of a non-qualified person at District Governor.

It is reported that Dr. Koroshetz, in agreement with the Radical Party led by M. Vukitchevitch, has prepared a whole series of amendments to existing laws, which will make illegal many of the present activities of the Zagreb parties and especially of the Zagreb District Parliament, which appear to him to be against the interests of the State.

Students Imprisoned.

The imprisonment of several students involved in the disturbances of December 1 in Zagreb led to strong protests from the Students' Union of Zagreb University. When their comrades were not set free after several days they declared a strike, and forcibly prevented their fellow-students from attending lectures. The University was closed for several days to prevent damage to property, but when it was re-opened again on December 10, the striking students chartered omnibuses and went from Faculty to Faculty breaking up lectures, with little opposition from either professors or students. The Government is reported to be preparing strong measures for dealing with such cases should they recur, and for the time being the Defence of the Realm Act, the ample clauses of which were designed to procure the suppression of the Communist movement in Yugoslavia in 1922, has been resurrected, and will be applied strictly in Zagreb to check the activities of the Peasant-Democrat Coalition leaders.

New Complications for the Government.

Every day seems to bring new difficulties and new complications to the Belgrade Government. M. Davidovitch has been growing increasingly dissatisfied with the posi-

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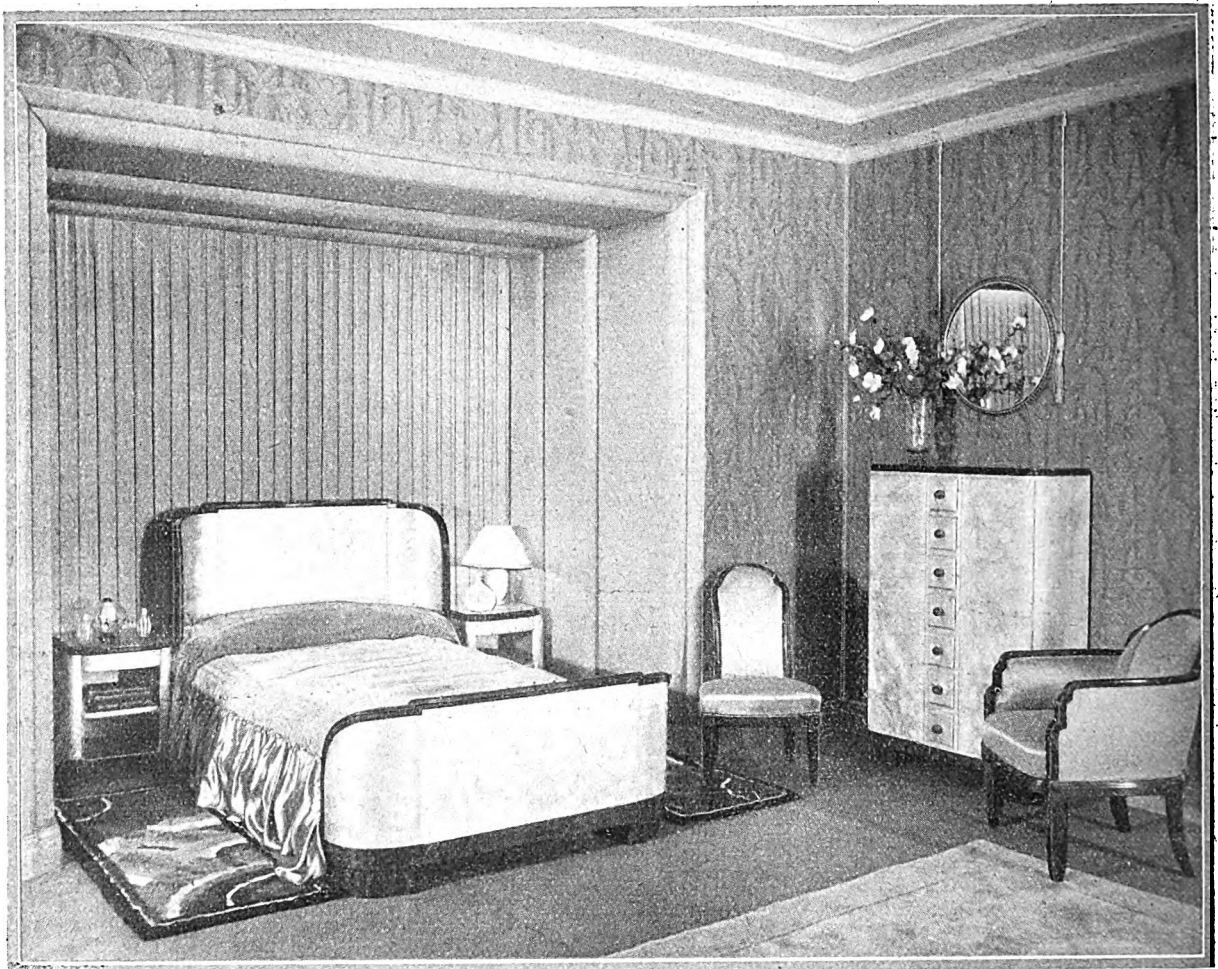
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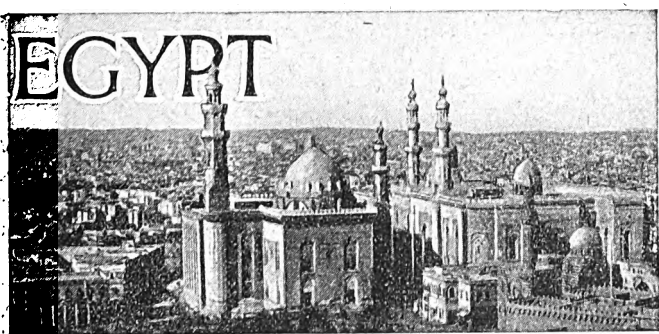
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tion of his party in the Coalition Government and has made several rather ineffectual attempts to secure the revision and the strengthening of his own position therein. His letter to Dr. Koroshetz angered the Radicals, already at loggerheads with him, and led them to declare that they can stand his constant threats no longer, and that they will themselves break up the Coalition, if he persists in attacking them. Some of them even went so far as to refuse to support the Budget proposals brought forward by the Democrat Minister of Forests and Mines, M. Pera Markovitch, and this "disloyalty" incensed the Democrats still further. But a breach has so far been avoided, although no one really knows how.

The Government's situation is further jeopardised by differences in the ranks of the Radical Party itself, where the breach between M. Vukitchevitch's followers and those of M. Atsa Stanoyevitch and the Central Committee of the party is by no means bridged. The Vukitchevitch group is highly indignant at present owing to the filling of vacancies in the Central Committee with members alleged to be personal friends of M. Atsa Stanoyevitch.

Although both sides indignantly deny that any negotiations are going on between them, movements are taking place below the surface of political life which, even if unofficial, represent a certain desire for contact between the Belgrade and the Zagreb leaders. On his return from a very successful conference at Pozarevatz (which marks, by the way, the extension of the Independent Democrat Party's activities into Serbia proper), M. Vilder, an I.D.P. leader, is reported on very good authority to have had a secret conference with M. Davidovitch. Later M. Teslitch, an industrialist from Sisak, known to be a great personal friend of M. Pribitchevitch, came to Belgrade, and after conferring with M. Davidovitch and M. Savchitch, was received in audience by King Alexander. He then went to Zagreb and conferred with M. Pribitchevitch. Long interviews during the last few days between M. Davidovitch and Dr. Spaho are interpreted as meaning that M. Davidovitch is trying to win Dr. Spaho's support for strong action against the Radicals and Dr. Koroshetz. But despite all these signs of uneasiness, it is believed in some circles that the Government will remain in office until the new Budget for 1929-30 has been passed.

Another significant fact is that, besides the success of the I.D.P. conference at Pozarevatz, this party did very well in the election of officers of the Students Union in Belgrade University. They obtained almost as many votes as the Radicals, who until recently completely controlled the affairs of the University. These indications seem to suggest that the Peasant-Democrat Coalition is growing to be, not a merely local, but a national force.



Cairo, December 7.

The Court at Cairo.

This week King Fuad ended his sojourn at Montaza Palace, near Alexandria, where he and the Royal Family had been since the middle of the summer, and the Court is now again in residence at Abdin. King Fuad had a very warm reception all the way from Alexandria, and again on arrival in the capital. In honour of the occasion of his return the city was brilliantly illuminated at night, and a banquet of a hundred and fifty covers was given

by the Governor, Mahmud Sidky Pasha, at the Semiramis Hotel.

The Residency.

Owing to the arrival of the Prince of Wales on his way to England the High Commissioner abandoned his trip to Sinai on which he was to have started this week. Lord Lloyd met the Prince at Suez and brought him by special train to Cairo, where His Royal Highness spent a quiet day at the Residency, the only engagement of any official character he kept being a visit to King Fuad in the afternoon. The Prince left again in the evening for Port Said where he rejoined the *Enterprise*, being accompanied by Lord Lloyd, who on his way back to Cairo put in a few hours' shooting at Ekiad.

Earlier in the week Lady Lloyd paid a visit to Alexandria. She lunched with Mr. and Mrs. R. C. P. Carver at their residence, and afterwards went to Claridge's Hotel, where she opened the annual bazaar in aid of the local Y.M.C.A. There was an excellent attendance, and the bazaar, for which the leading ladies in the various communities held stalls, proved a great success.

The Persian Treaty.

The Minister for Foreign Affairs, Dr. Hafez Bey Affifi, announced this week at an informal tea party, which he gave to the representatives of the Press at the Foreign Office—a pleasing innovation and a courtesy which were greatly appreciated by all concerned—that the Treaty of Friendship and Establishment with Persia had been signed by the Shah. The main lines which this agreement follows were set forth in my letter of October 8, and can be summarised as follows: Persia renounces her privileged position in Egypt and her right to appoint as Consuls Egyptian subjects who would thus be able to escape local jurisdiction. The Mixed Courts will no longer be competent in civil and commercial nor the Persian Consular Courts in criminal matters. In all these Persian subjects in Egypt will be amenable to the local jurisdiction, while in questions of personal status they will come within the jurisdiction of the Mehkema Sharia, which will apply the rules laid down by Persian law. Reciprocal treatment will be accorded to Egyptian subjects in Persia. The success which has attended the negotiations of this treaty is due to the great ability shown by the Egyptian Minister at Teheran, Hassan Nashat Pasha, who is now in Kabul obtaining the signature of King Amanullah to the Treaty of Amity which has been arranged between Egypt and Afghanistan. As soon as he has concluded this task Nashat Pasha will return to Egypt preparatory to taking up his new appointment as Egyptian Minister at Berlin.

British Chamber of Commerce Luncheon.

The monthly luncheons of the Cairo section of the British Chamber of Commerce of Egypt were resumed this week, and the Committee and the Secretary, Mr. Trimen, are to be congratulated on the success which continues to attend this venture. Over seventy members, including some from Alexandria and Port Saïd, assembled at the Continental Hotel, where these luncheons are held, under the chairmanship of Mr. R. S. Martin, Chairman of the Cairo Committee, the guests of honour being Mr. Lomas, H.B.M.'s Consul, and Mr. Turner, the new Commercial Secretary at the Residency. The Chairman gave details of the work which the local committee is doing, including the creation of special sections directed by leading mer-

EGYPTIAN GOVERNMENT.

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chants to deal with the textile and motor trades, and asked the community to suggest any other directions in which the Chamber could be helpful to British trade. He extended a warm welcome to Mr. Turner. The latter in his reply of thanks said that his Chief, Lord Lloyd, and he himself were fully alive to the importance of extending British trade in this country, and that, if the community would only let him know what they wanted, they could always rely on receiving all the assistance that it was within the power of the Residency to give them. Just before Mr. Turner rose to speak a telegram was received from Mr. R. C. P. Carver, President of the Chamber, regretting his inability to come up from Alexandria to attend the luncheon, and extending the welcome of the Chamber to the new Commercial Secretary.

The Royal Opera House.

The winter season at the Royal Opera House has now opened with a short series of French Comedies under Jean Hervé, Sociétaire of the Comédie Française. It will be followed, as usual, by Italian opera, for which several of the leading singers from the Paris Opera have been engaged, and by a series of musical and other novelties. During the past few years the season at the Opera House has proved disappointing both in achievement and programme. This year the Egyptian Government has entrusted the concession to Commendatore Dalbagni, who is well known in Egypt as a successful impresario, and under whose direction the new season, breaking away from the time-worn routine which marked its predecessors, promises to be brilliant.

A Well Deserved Distinction.

The distinction conferred on Dr. Aly Ibrahim Bey by the Royal College of Surgeons has given great pleasure in all circles. Egyptians regard it as an honour to their country and of good auspices for the future of the new Faculty of Medicine of which he is the Sub-Dean, while his colleagues, foreign as well as Egyptian, welcome it as a well deserved recognition of his ability and skill. Indeed, it is no exaggeration to say that even in European countries Doctor Aly Bey would rank with the best of his profession, and it is no doubt because he and his colleagues recognize this that the President of the College of Surgeons, Sir Berkeley Moynihan, will make the unusual departure of personally conferring the honour on Dr. Aly Ibrahim when he comes to Cairo in a week's time to attend the Tropical Medicine Congress which is to mark the centenary of the Kasr El Aini School of Medicine. As a matter of fact the latter has once before received this honour, when Dr. Keatinge, then its Director, had conferred on him the Honorary Fellowship for his work at the school. But this is the first time that an Egyptian has been so honoured.

ABYSSINIA.

Addis Ababa, November 27.

Arrival of the British Minister.

His Britannic Majesty's Minister, Mr. S. P. R. Waterlow, arrived here by special train on November 25. Mr. Waterlow, who comes from Siam, replaces Mr. Bentinck, who has been transferred to Peru.

The new Minister was met at the station by representatives from the Abyssinian Government, and from the Legation and British community. Apart from the Legation staff, the British community here numbers about a dozen Europeans; the Arab and Indian communities are, however, very numerous, with the result that the British community is by far the most important foreign community in Abyssinia.

The arrival of the Minister has been eagerly awaited, as usually in Abyssinia a Chargé d'Affaires, however efficient, carries much less weight with the Abyssinian Government than an efficient Minister.

Since the departure of Mr. Bentinck, there have been no developments with regard to Lake Tana. It is anticipated that developments may be expected in the next few months.

Dual Sovereignty.

Abyssinia is a country of rumours. Since the coronation of H.M. King Tafari, there have been repeated rumours of discontent in the interior. It will be remembered that H.M. Zauditu remains as Empress, or Queen of Kings, whilst His Majesty received simply the title of King. There is an old Abyssinian saying that two sovereigns cannot live in one place, and in consequence there has been an agitation in some quarters for His Majesty to leave the capital, and govern a specific portion of the country. As, however, it was also decided at the time of the coronation that the hands of His Majesty as Regent should be greatly strengthened—in fact, that the government of the country should in effect be in his hands, it is difficult to see how His Majesty could live in any place other than the capital.

The King and His Secretariat.

The result of this strengthening of the hands of the King have yet to be seen, as, as far as one can judge, the position is practically the same as before. It is still difficult to find any one person who can deal with any given matter. The King has, it is true, attempted to reorganise his Secretariat of Foreign Affairs, and now refuses to correspond direct on any matter, as was his former practice. This would at first sight appear to be a step in the right direction, indicating a devolution of authority, which becomes more and more necessary as the affairs of the country become more complicated. Unfortunately, however, the idea of responsibility is not yet understood in Abyssinia, and the practical result of the insistence on every matter passing through the hands of the Secretary of Foreign Affairs is that it is more difficult than ever to arrive at any result. It must be noted that the Secretary is not in the least free to take a decision on any matter, however important. Every decision must still be taken by the King, and by him alone (with reference in some cases to the Empress). The Foreign Secretary naturally finds it difficult to obtain the decision of the King on each and every subject submitted to him by the numerous Legations, with the result that he is forced to the expedient of evasive answers (when he replies at all) in order to gain time.

Then, too, it must be borne in mind that the same rule applies with the Secretariat. The function of the clerks is simply that of copyists or interpreters. No one of them dare deal with the most simple matter, without the express orders of the Foreign Secretary himself. Hence one can conceive that there is considerable delay before a matter comes to the notice of the Secretary of Foreign Affairs, much less to that of the King.

An Armenian Doctor.

Some sensation has been caused by the disclosures of Dr. Garabedian in the Geneva Press. Dr. Garabedian, an Armenian, for some years practised his profession in Abyssinia. In August, 1927, his house was raided by the local police, and Dr. Garabedian was kept under arrest, and finally forced out of the country. The reason, apparently, was an accusation that he was dealing in cocaine, but no legal proceedings of any sort were taken against him, and, as far as is known, no proofs were forthcoming in support of the accusation. Dr. Garabedian has now gone to Geneva, where it is understood that his case will be placed before the League of Nations by the Nansen Bureau for the protection of Armenians, whose protégé he is. In the meanwhile his case has been taken up with vigour by the Geneva Press, and very grave accusations have been made against the King. The outcome of this case is naturally awaited here with the greatest interest.

CALCUTTA LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Calcutta, November 29.

The Statutory Commission.

With the arrival of the Statutory Commission in New Delhi, and the examination of the Secretaries in the various departments of the Government of India as witnesses before the Commission, the daily reports have gained greatly in interest for the general public. The chief business of the Commission may then also be said to have begun; for, as Sir John Simon was careful to express, before the hearing of witnesses was begun at Poona six or seven weeks ago: "the first task thrown upon the Commission is the task of giving to the very best of their power a true description of the working of the constitutional machinery in India. Before we come to proposing a remedy, change, and a new Constitution," Sir John went on to say, "it is extremely necessary that we, the Commissioners, with the special help of my Indian colleagues and the witnesses, should be in a position to give a just, fair, sympathetic and honest account of the working of the Reforms."

The knowledge upon which any such fair and honest account must be based is obviously largely to be gathered from the witnesses at New Delhi, those Secretaries to the Government of India who are the last in a succession of men engaged in working the existing constitutional machinery. That Sir John has not fallen below the ideal held up at Poona is shown by a telegram of yesterday from the *Statesman's* Special Representative at New Delhi, part of which reads as follows: "The Conference is well managed and the atmosphere is easy and good. If sometimes one of the members of the Central Committee is tempted to assert his own political views, and refute some witness' statement, the Chairman gently reminds him that they are there to elicit the witness's opinion, not to convert him or argue the point."

The Central Legislature.

The first witnesses examined presented a picture of the working of the Central Legislature. A point brought out was that, since the inauguration of the Reforms, no elected member of the Legislature has been appointed to the Executive Council of the Governor-General, the practice observed in appointing new members of the Executive Councils in the Provinces being just the opposite. Additional point has been given to this by the appointment, a few days later, of Sir B. L. Mitter, the Advocate-General in Bengal, to the Law Membership of the Governor-General's Council, rendered vacant by the death of Mr. S. R. Das. The Government of India, if it is to be sure of a majority in the Assembly, has to secure the votes of at least fifteen elected members. It must either win over some Party, or some of the members of one or more Parties. It has generally had the support of the European and Muslim groups. Nevertheless it has won only 239 out of 431 divisions and lost 192. The voting, said the Home Secretary, Mr. H. G. Haig, has been on Party rather than Provincial lines, and, in his opinion, indirect election would lead to closer touch with the electors.

Law and Order.

The next day, the Home Secretary being again the witness, the control of Law and Order was the principal subject discussed. There were two courses that the Commission might be advised to recommend: (1) that Law and Order should be transferred to Ministers responsible to the Provincial Legislatures; (2) that Law and Order be centralized with the Government of India. The Home Secretary stated that, while the existing control of the Government of India over Law and Order was very effective, there was no possibility of the Central Government actually taking over the direction and administration of the police all over India, though that Government could

lay down definite standards of pay and efficiency. Even if Law and Order were transferred, the witness added, the Government of India, being the ultimate authority responsible for the intervention of the Army in support of the civil power, must have an effective voice in these matters.

Tariffs and Trade.

Sir Geoffrey Corbett, Secretary to the Government of India in the Department of Commerce, argued that his Department, its functions corresponding with those of the British Board of Trade, must continue to be Central, and not split up between the Provinces. The Fiscal Convention recommended by the Joint Parliamentary Committee, he said, had been carried out in both the letter and the spirit by the Secretary of State. There had been no instance of interference. Not once had the Secretary of State attempted to exert any authority against the Government of India's tariff proposals, when these were submitted to him. Generally he replied that he had no observations to make. Sometimes he had let fall a few observations, and on an occasion he might make a pungent criticism. If the Government of India was impressed by his observations, it would take note of them, but "we frequently don't accept them," concluded the witness. The Secretary of State acquiesces.

Education and the position of the Anglo-Indian community have also been examined at length; but enough space has been devoted to the proceedings of the Statutory Commission. Both those subjects have also been brought before us in the reports of the sittings of the Hartog Committee, which has now reached Calcutta.

Orissa Floods.

The Committee appointed by the Local Government last year to investigate the problem of the Orissa floods, after an inspection tour covering nearly 2,200 miles and an aerial survey of the coast, has come to the conclusion that the problem is not how to prevent floods, but how to pass them to the sea with as little loss of life and damage to property as possible. If this is to be done, the embankments that are the obstacles must be removed. The fact that the delta is inhabited prevents this policy from being pursued in its entirety. The most that can be done is to follow it steadfastly in so far as this is compatible with the maintenance of the population. To let things continue as at present is to pile up a debt, the Committee says, that will have to be paid one day in calamity and distress. Paid not once, either, but over and over again.

Women and Child Labour in Mines.

In a more than usually interesting leader in this morning's *Statesman* the rights and wrongs are considered of India's toleration of woman and child labour in her mines. "The mines are only a sideline for the Sonthals and the Kols, who are perfectly prepared to hand in their resignations the moment any pressure is brought to bear upon them, and to go back to their fields . . . Such being the attitude of the Indian collier, it follows that the conditions under which he works are dictated largely, if not entirely, by himself; and the arrangement by which his womenfolk and children accompany him underground has arisen simply because he himself insists upon it. He feels that they are safe with him, and, besides, he regards it as *infra dig.* that he should load the coal as well as cut it. Hence the women carry the coal; the men will not."

The December issue of the *British Empire Review* contains a special article by Sir Michael O'Dwyer on "The Simon Commission and Indian Self-Government." Special correspondents contribute articles on the trade and industry of India, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, Southern Rhodesia, East Africa, British Guiana and Cyprus. The other contents include a full report of the Luncheon of the British Empire League, in connexion with the bicentenary of Captain Cook, at which tributes were paid to the great navigator and explorer by Mr. Amery, Vice-Admiral Sir Michael Hodges, on behalf of the Navy, and others.

LAND REVENUE ASSESSMENT IN INDIA.

The question of the adjustment of the demand of Government on agricultural land is receiving particular attention in those Provinces of India which have suffered most severely by the retention by the Government of India of the contributions obtained from industry through the Income Tax. Among the Provinces most hardly hit by this result of the Meston Settlement is Bombay, and we have been favoured with an enunciation of the Land Revenue system of that Province, prepared by Mr. D. R. Gadgil. The facts of the situation are very fairly set out in his pamphlet, though it is impossible to believe his conclusions could be accepted until the happy day arrives when the Bombay Government has more money than it knows how to spend.

It is an axiom that the State in India is the ultimate owner of all agricultural land, and the question arises eternally whether the payment which the State levies for the exclusive use of that land by an individual is a tax or is rent. It would not perhaps appear to matter much to the payer of the sum by which name it is called, but the inferences which may be drawn are important, at least to the politician. If the Land Revenue payment is a tax, then it should be graduated to the capacity of the payer; if it is a rent, then it should obviously be the amount which should be fairly obtainable from the land. Without going too deeply into this vexed question, we have no doubt that in a Rayatwadi country like Bombay, where the greater part of the land has been given out since the establishment of the British Administration, either owing to extension of cultivation, or to the falling in to Government of old occupancies, the Land Revenue assessment is, in fact, a rent. The British Administration succeeded to a period of great disorder, and, after a period of experiment, settled down to a system of Land Assessment, based on prices of produce, quality of soil, and facilities for marketing, which was certainly not burdensome to the cultivator. Inevitably it was not always equal in its incidence. Large profits were, for example, made in Guzerat, while the poverty of the soil caused distress in the Deccan. But the occasional hardships were due rather to the existence of uneconomic holdings (an evil constantly increased by the effect of Hindu customary law) and the inevitable reliance by the small cultivator on the moneylender, than to the Government assessment.

The revision of this assessment at intervals of thirty years was carried out without serious difficulty, since prices were rising and the demand for land remained keen. Nowadays, however, the Government finds almost insuperable difficulty in passing and enforcing any revision, however moderate, of the assessment. No one denies that the cultivator gets far higher prices for his produce, and particularly for his cotton, than he did thirty years ago. It would seem at first sight obvious that the Government should get a share of these higher prices. It is, however, pointed out, with perfect truth, that the cost to the cultivator, both of tilling his land and of buying the articles which he cannot produce, has also risen

greatly; and it seems to be generally agreed, both by the officials of the Government and by the anti-Government politicians, that it is impossible to arrive accurately at the net profits of cultivation. In these circumstances, the Government officials have been driven to rely on the evidence of rents received by private occupiers for the letting of their land, and the Settlement Commissioner, in particular, has adopted this line with perhaps excessive enthusiasm.

Doubtless in a country where rentals were general, such a basis would give sound results. It is, however, easy for opponents of Government to point out the weakness of the system in India. Where most of the land is cultivated by small holders, the percentage of rented land is comparatively small, and uneconomic or particular considerations often affect the sum fixed. At the same time the suggestions of politicians seem at least equally vulnerable. There is first the proposal for a permanent settlement of the Land Revenue at present rates. One would have thought that Bengal was a sufficient warning of the evils of such an arrangement. Not only is an enormous increment which ought to accrue to the taxpayers in general left to a small section of them, but the results to cultivation are disastrous, since the holding of so gilt-edged a security is eagerly absorbed by town-dwellers who give no personal attention to the land.

Characteristically enough, one of the Guzerat land-holders suggests that the basis of the Permanent Settlement should be the rates levied by Government in 1912, so that the fortunate holders of land should enjoy the whole increase of world prices that has occurred since then. This appears to be too much for Mr. Gadgil to swallow. He appears to prefer a system of personal taxation, increasingly approximated to the Income Tax, and subject to five-yearly revision. It seems obvious that this could only result in the small holder of an uneconomic holding retaining his land without payment of any Land Revenue whatsoever; and it could fairly be argued that no more should be taken from the solvent holder of exactly similar land. The loss to the Government would be enormous.

The politicians in general are especially anxious that no increase in Land Assessment should take place without the consent of a Statutory Committee of the Legislative Council. This Committee would necessarily consist of the members of the rural constituencies, and the results as regards assessment would be much the same as if the fixation of agricultural rents in England were left to a Committee of Farmers.

Land Revenue is no longer the only resource of the Provincial Governments, but it is still their sheet anchor, and its weakening may bring them perilously near the rocks of financial insolvency.

The Secretary of State for India has appointed Mr. M. J. Clauson to be his Assistant Private Secretary in succession to Mr. J. P. Gibson, who has been appointed by the Permanent Under-Secretary of State for India to be his Private Secretary, *vice* Mr. R. E. Field (promoted).

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THE INDIAN STATES AND THE REFORMED CONSTITUTION.

Sir Leslie Scott gave an address on "Indian Constitutional Reforms" before the Junior Constitutional Club on December 12. Sir Mortague Barlow, Chairman of the Political Council of the club, presided over a large and representative gathering.

After a few introductory remarks by the Chairman, Sir Leslie Scott prefaced his address by the remark that, having finished his task of putting the case of the Indian Princes before the Butler Committee, he was now free to speak without any of the limitations that might have attached to his position as an advocate.

In the course of a brief historical survey of the Nationalist movement, the speaker observed that the movement was first promoted by able Indians who resented their exclusion from place and power. Only very gradually did it concern itself with politics, but by degrees the successors of the pioneers began to talk of themselves as representatives of the people, which they were not. The demand for democratic institutions was largely artificial in character, he contended, and greatly stimulated by the Wilsonian cry of self-determination. In any case, in trying to find a panacea for these and other post-War troubles in British India—two-thirds of the whole—everyone forgot the Indian States, the remaining one-third.

The Indian Princes, he continued, had treaty rights with the British Crown, and had been guaranteed their independence by Queen Victoria and in various pronouncements. But in all the developments in British India, the Indian Princes had risked serious diminution of position, and even economic loss. Take the tariff which the Swarajists had recently been allowed to impose on imported cotton and steel goods coming into India. As these goods were largely not capable of production in India, the tax fell mainly on the Indian consumers by a rise in price—the third in the native States, as well as the two-thirds in British India. Yet the Indian Princes had no share in imposing the tariff or settling the rates; and still worse, the native States did not receive one penny of the proceeds of the high tariff now being imposed. The interests of the native States were largely identical with those of the British manufacturer and importer.

The British Crown and Government were bound to the Indian Princes by a series of treaty contracts, perpetual in character, which could not be repudiated by either side. The essence of the contract was that, in return for her paramountcy, Britain had bound herself to protect the native States, and that entailed a perpetual obligation to retain in India a force sufficient to carry out that obligation. The protection of the native States, like the protection of the 50,000,000 of untouchables, was a trust which Great Britain could not relinquish, even if she would.

The Indian Princes were loyal, but their contractual bargain was with Britain and the British Crown: they would never submit to being ruled by so-called democratic assemblies set up at Delhi. If the British Army were withdrawn, the *intelligentsia* of British India would be at once subdued by the fighting forces of the native States.

The Indian Princes had no desire to be obstructive; they were willing to come into any proper development on federal lines; but that would involve some impartial tribunal to see that justice was done as between the native States and British India; and also a material strengthening of the power of the British Central Government at Delhi, on the lines of the valuable report of the European Associations recently submitted to the Simon Commission.

In conclusion, Sir Leslie Scott made the interesting announcement that the report of the Indian States Committee would probably be presented in the spring, and when made public would give the British electorate full insight into the whole position.

INDIAN NOTES.

(Continued from page 731.)

present included. The principal officers of the new department will be appointed by the Governor-General in consultation with the President, while other members of the establishment will be appointed by the President upon the recommendation of the Secretary. The selection of the remainder of the staff was the subject of considerable discussion in the course of the Assembly debate, the consensus of opinion favouring the delegation of the duty to the Public Service Commission, an independent body already doing similar work for various departments of Government. It is now been decided, we understand, that the actual appointments shall be made by the President from nominations put forward by the Commission, and that the members of the staff shall be under the President for disciplinary purposes, with, of course, a right of appeal to the Governor-General. In other respects the scheme as sanctioned by Lord Peel is, we believe, practically identical with that adopted by the Assembly in September.

OBITUARY.

THE RAJA OF PANAGAL.

Following the appointment of Sir Venkatta Reddi to succeed Mr. Srinavasa Sastri as the Agent-General of the Government of India in South Africa the Non-Brahmin or Justice Party in Madras has suffered another still more severe loss by the death of the Raja of Panagal, Sir Panaganti Ramarayanangar. After taking an active and influential part in the formation and organization of the movement, of which he afterwards became the leader, he was one of the first three Ministers to be appointed under the Government of India Act of 1919. Retaining office at the second election at the close of 1923, the Raja held the portfolio of Local Self-Government in the Madras Government (Transferred Departments) throughout the whole six years of the non-Brahmin supremacy in the local Council. On leaving office in 1926, following the rise of the Swarajist Party, the Raja was created K.C.I.E., having previously received the hereditary title of Raja four years before.

POPLAR HOSPITAL.

There was a distinct link with India provided for the Seventy-third Annual Festival of the Poplar Hospital for Accidents, which was held at the Savoy Hotel on December 12. The Hospital meets the needs of a population connected with shipping and the great London Docks, and for this reason it can count on ready sympathy from the Port of London Authority. Sir Montagu Cornish Turner, Chairman of the Chartered Bank of India, was in the Chair, and among those present were Lord Ritchie of Dundee, Sir Charles and Lady McLeod, Sir Stanley and Lady Bois, Admiral Sir Frederick Latham, Captain Sir Arthur Wellesley Clarke, Captain Sir Hamilton and Lady Benn, Sir Edward Boyle, the Rt. Hon. Thomas Wiles, K.C., Mr. and Mrs. C. S. S. Guthrie, and Brigadier James Whitehead.

In proposing the toast of "Success to the Poplar Hospital," the Chairman referred to the unavoidable absence of Lady Turner, which was regretted the more on account of her lifelong interest in hospital work, and Sir Montagu recalled the fact that her association with the European General Hospital in Calcutta had won for Lady Turner the title of "the Angel of the Ward." The importance of the Poplar Hospital for the shipping world was emphasised by several speakers, and it is well that Britons overseas should be reminded of its claims on their support.

Mr. J. Douglas Young, who was recently appointed a Judge of the High Court of India at Allahabad, was entertained by a large number of his professional friends at a complimentary dinner at the Trocadero Restaurant on December 10. The company included Sir George and Lady Fowler, Sir Malcolm Macnaghten, Major-General Sir Sydney Crookshank, Mr. H. G. Comber, and Sir Cecil and Lady Walsh.

CORRESPONDENCE

The columns of THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA are open for the discussion of subjects of general interest to its readers. The publication of such letters must not be taken, however, as indicating that the views expressed by the writers are those of THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA.

ON DHUFAR.

To the Editor of THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA.

Sir,—Referring to the report appearing in your issue of December 13 of the Paper read by Mr. Bertram Thomas before the Royal Geographical Society on December 3, I note from the concluding sentence that some observations of mine with reference to Ophir have been completely misunderstood or mis-reported. I shall be grateful, therefore, if you will give me space to make a correction.

I am very far from thinking that the theory that the site of Ophir is to be sought for in the vicinity of Dhufar is an absurd one; on the contrary, circumstantial evidence seems to lead a good deal in that direction. My remarks, however, related to the etymology of the words Ophir and Dhufar, and not to the site of the former. Mr. Thomas made the interesting suggestion that Dhufar might very likely be a contraction of the words *Dhu-Afar*, which would give the meaning "endowed with redness," *Dhu* being a common Arabic prefix signifying "endowed with" or "possessed of," and *Afar* meaning "red" in the local vocabulary, and relating to the markedly reddish hue which pervades the landscape on that part of the coast when viewed from a distance. I remarked that this diagnosis of the word seemed to be a very plausible one, in contradistinction to another suggestion put forward by a lecturer at the Central Asian Society last year (May 11, 1927),* who held that Dhufar was really *Ed-Ophir*, the *Ed* being a local form of the Arabic definite article *El*. It was this suggested derivation that I impugned, holding that it would not bear examination from the etymological point of view. As to the probable site of Ophir, Mr. Thomas admittedly had not addressed himself seriously to the study of that problem, and apart from what has been said above regarding his interpretation of the word *Dhufar*, I still hold the view that I expressed last year—namely, that "the subject wants more study before we can accept that we are any further advanced towards the proof of the identity of Ophir with Dhufar."—I am, etc.,

P. Z. Cox.

[We much regret the slip made in the report of Mr. Thomas's lecture to which Sir Percy Cox refers. His remarks, it so happens, were not misunderstood at the time, but the report does not clearly represent the fact that Sir Percy Cox was challenging the identification of the two words, Dhufar and Ophir. Readers of THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA who are interested in this fascinating derivation may be referred to Sir Percy's own remarks upon Commander Craufurd's lecture, published in our issue of May 19, 1927; and to the account of Mr. Thomas's Oxford lecture, published in our issue of November 1, in which the suggested derivation of the word Dhufar (concerning which we regret that we are unable to print the Arabic characters used by Mr. Thomas and by Sir Percy in his letter) is more fully investigated. As for the site of Ophir, that is a subject which, as Sir Percy says, Mr. Thomas did not discuss at the Royal Geographical Society lecture. Nor did Sir Percy then discuss it; and our representative naturally did not intend to imply that the subject had been raised.—ED.]

* See *Journal of Central Asian Society*, Vol. XIV., page 234.

A NEW IRAQ CUSTOMS HOUSE.

To the Editor of THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA.

Sir,—In your issue of October 4 (in your Baghdad Correspondent's letter) mention was made of the proposed new Customs House at Basrah. It was further stated that the Baghdad merchants were strongly opposed to the Basrah site for financial reasons (i.e., loss of interest on the time taken up in transit of duty-paid merchandise from Basrah to Baghdad, which loss, it was pointed out, would amount to a very considerable sum per annum).

As your journal circulates in both Basrah and Baghdad, may I submit through your columns an additional reason why the new Customs House should be located at Baghdad, which is, that the terminus of the proposed Trans-Asiatic Railway (Haifa-Baghdad) will be at Baghdad, and that it is obvious that all merchandise imported from Europe for Iraq and Persia via the Trans-Asiatic Railway will require to be dealt with for customs duties at Baghdad and not at Basrah?

It would, therefore, seem that the building of a new Customs House at Baghdad is in any case imperative, apart from any question of what may (or may not) be done at Basrah.

Engineers' plans for the Baghdad terminal of the Trans-Asiatic Railway have been in the possession of the Iraq Government since the autumn of 1927, and it is submitted that these plans suggest that the most convenient site for the Baghdad new Customs House—in order to serve the treble purpose of the requirements of imports from (1) the Persian Gulf and (2) from the Mediterranean (via Haifa) and (3) from Persia (via Khaniqin)—is on the right (western) bank of the Tigris between the north side of the Maude Bridge and the southern end of the British Residency.

The Trans-Asiatic Railway terminus on the Tigris is planned for the adjacent site immediately north of the above in the Shawakah quarter of the city.

The Customs House site suggested would have an available river frontage on the Tigris of about 270 yards, thus allowing for ample wharfage for river craft from Basrah, and it would be within 280 yards from and south of the site of the proposed Trans-Asiatic Railway terminus. The distance from the proposed Trans-Asiatic Railway goods terminus and sidings and the proposed new Mediterranean Railway wharf on the Tigris (south of the Maude Bridge) would be about 360 yards, and from the existing railway wharf of the Iraq Railways on the Tigris about 280 yards.

The available depth of the suggested site for the new Customs House (after clearance of existing buildings) would be 140 yards at the north end and 80 yards at the south end. This would allow for ample quay space.

Reference is made in your issue quoted above to a proposed permanent bridge over the Tigris at Baghdad. It may, therefore, be of interest to state that the engineers' plans of the proposed Baghdad terminal of the Trans-Asiatic Railway show a proposed new 30-foot wide road bridge over the Tigris at a point 670 yards north of the existing Maude Bridge.

The alignment of the proposed new bridge is identical with that of the 45-foot wide straight street leading south-westwards from Exchange Square in the eastern half of the city (Takiyah quarter) to the river, the western abutment of the bridge and a new continuation roadway being immediately along the north side of the proposed new Trans-Asiatic Railway passenger terminus and thence leading westwards through the Alawi al Hillah quarter to the Masudi and Fallujah roads.

If this site is adopted for the proposed new bridge there will be direct access to the centre of Baghdad (Exchange Square) from the new railway terminus, thus avoiding the long détours otherwise necessary via the existing North Bridge or the Maude Bridge.—I am, etc.,

JOHN M. NEWTON.

Manchester, November 26.

Book Reviews

A FIELD WORKER'S LABOURS.

"BURIED TREASURES OF CHINESE TURKESTAN." By Dr. Albert von Le Coq. Illustrated (London: George Allen & Unwin Ltd. 18s. net)

This is an account of the travels of the author and his companions in very remote parts of Chinese Turkestan in search of artistic, literary and historical remains of the old days when the country was very different and when the inhabitants had a far higher degree of civilization than at present prevails. The title of the original book, which appeared two years ago, may be translated literally as "On the Tracks of Hellas in Eastern Turkestan," which gives a clearer idea of what his object was. His researches showed clearly, as his illustrations prove, that the influence of Hellenistic art in these regions was most marked and lasting.

Yet the book says but little on these subjects. The ordinary reader, perhaps, will feel that he does not miss very much from the absence of detailed information about works of art which, as regards works in the flat, were due largely to stencils and, in the round, largely to moulds. What we do miss is some account of the numerous Manichaean religious books which he found. These opened out new territory to students of religion and have been exhaustively studied elsewhere. But a chapter on the subject would have been very welcome here.

What the author sets out to do is to give us some idea of the terrible difficulties in the way of the field worker in these parts. And here his extreme modesty gets into the reader's light. Indeed, it is only by reading between the lines, as it were, that it is possible to realise what endurance and perseverance are required and how much depends on the physical powers and mental stamina of the explorer. He is far more concerned to sketch the people among whom he worked, doing so with an affectionate and humorous insight which is infinitely to his credit. When he comes to his almost superhuman performance in getting Captain Sherer, of the Indian Army, over the wintry passes into safety when the latter was in a condition of utter collapse, we feel ourselves to be reading the words of a gentleman whose modesty is equal to his gallantry.

His travels took place in 1904-1906, but there is nothing to make them seem out of date. His illustrations are numerous, excellent and enlightening. It is a pity that the index is not better, and the want of a map is sadly felt when travels in such completely unknown lands are

attempted to be followed. The reader's exasperation at this defect is not lightened by finding reference by the Publisher to the "clear maps" which help to complete the book. The book is well translated and becomingly produced. C. S-W.

A RED CROSS PILGRIM.

"ABOUT IT AND ABOUT." By L. F. Gielgud (Edinburgh: William Blackwood & Sons, Ltd. 12s. 6d. net).

Mr. Gielgud, a member of the Secretariat of the Central Red Cross organization travelled, *via* America, to Japan with the American President of that organisation to a Oriental Red Cross Conference in Japan, returning with him by way of China, Philippines, Siam, India, Egypt and the Near East. In the various countries visited, they discussed Red Cross matters with the various national societies. The author claims that this contact with the inhabitants of the countries hurriedly visited gave him an insight into things which escape the ordinary globe-trotter. We regret that we find little in the book to justify the claim. What we do find is a good deal of acute, if perfunctory, observation and a great deal of generalisation based necessarily on little knowledge. About India the author is merely peevish and depressed. He finds that the Taj Mahal has "sex appeal" just as Mary Pickford and Nazimova have, but nothing more. In Egypt he remarks that the pyramids "are as silly today as on the day they were built." Of Bulgaria he tells us nothing except that the Chairman was suddenly taken ill and that the King allowed him to use his bedroom to recover in. The best part of the book is the section on Japan, where he had some time to look round. C. S-W.

"MASSIS."

The second number of *Massis*, the new monthly paper devoted to Armenian interests, has reached us. Its principal articles are devoted to "Great Britain and Armenia," and "Armenian Economics and 'Tufa' Stone." The first article seeks to show that for a whole century there has been an attitude in British official quarters of hostility to Armenia: Lord Aberdeen in 1828, Lord Salisbury in 1875, and British representatives at the League of Nations this year are quoted in support of this indictment. In the second article mention is made of the remarkable discovery of the *tufa* stone of Artig, a village near Leninakan. This *tufa*, which is to be used as building material, will, it is hoped by scientists, become to Armenia what the Baku oilfields are to Azerbaijan and the manganese mines are to Georgia.

Other things to be particularly noted in this number are "Armenian Geographical Names in Hittite Records" and the editorial "Notes," which display enthusiasm for the establishment of an Armenian "Homeland" under Russian protection and corresponding lack of enthusiasm for the scheme advocated by the French in Syria.

Mr. Vasila Nahariak, a native of Czernowitz (Roumania), who is 100 years of age and has spent the last 20 years in Limerick, Saskatchewan, where he has become a naturalised British subject, having saved enough money to go home, sailed on December 10 from Halifax to spend Christmas with his kinsfolk in Roumania.

Major John Henry Kennedy, of Attleborough Lodge, Norfolk, died suddenly in London on December 10 at the age of 69. He took part in the Gordon Relief Expedition as one of Lord Wolseley's special service officers, being employed as boat officer at Korti. Afterwards he took over the management of the Second Cataract and all the river south of it as transport officer under General Sir William Butler. He received the Egyptian Medal with clasp, and the Khedive's Star.

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JEWISH STUDENTS FROM PALESTINE.

An admirable conception of the enthusiasm which animates the young Jewish community of Palestine was obtainable on December 13 at an informal party given by the National Union of Students (3, Endsleigh Street, W.C.1) to some of the Palestinian students now studying in England. Songs were sung in English (translations of Schubert) by Miss Walmsley, in Hebrew (Palestinian folk-songs) by Miss Katinsky, of Tel Aviv, who is now studying in London, and by a mixed group of young Jews and Jewesses (Palestinian songs). Some of these folk-songs—which, by the way, are still in the making in Palestine—were most attractive. Not uninfluenced by the Slav idiom—the Russian Jew preponderating in Palestine—they yet possessed a definite Hebrew individuality. The evening, which was organised by Miss Nancy Parkinson, Hospitality Secretary of the National Union, provided manifest enjoyment for both the hostesses and the guests. Among those who accepted invitations to meet the students were Dr. and Mrs. M. Eder, Mrs. Hertz (wife of the Chief Rabbi of the British Empire), Miss Reynard (Warden of King's College for Women), Miss Sylvester Samuel, and Mr. Humphrey Bowman (Director of Education in Palestine).

THE LONDON MUSLIM LEAGUE.

The Times states that, following the death of Mr. Ameer Ali, and with the assent of the President, the Aga Khan, the London Muslim League has been dissolved. The remaining assets, after due audit, have been paid to Barclays Bank, Ltd., as trustees of the Indigent Muslim's Burial Fund. The organisation was formed as a branch of the newly created All-India Muslim League in 1908 under the chairmanship of Mr. Ameer Ali, and with the support of a virtually unanimous community. It played an important part in pressing for the decision under which in 1909 Lord Morley's plan of joint electoral colleges of Hindus and Muhammadans was dropped and a scheme of separate Muhammadan electorates was introduced in the Morley-Minto reforms. Over a long series of years the London League made representations to the authorities on subjects both of special Muslim and of general Indian interest, the latter including claims for the admission of Indians to the higher commissioned ranks of the Army (conceded in 1917), and for Indians in other parts of the Empire to be freed from disabilities and to have the due rights of citizenship. The dominating influence was that of Mr. Ameer Ali, and it is felt that, following his death, there is no occasion for the continuance of the organisation.

CRETE.

Captain E. N. Bennett lectured to the members of the Near and Middle East Association on December 13 on "The Island of Crete: Its Past and Present." Lady Newnes presided, and the discussion was led by Mr. John Penoyre. The following were among those present: The Egyptian Chargé d'Affaires, Count and Countess Los, Herr Karl Zeileissen, Major and Madame vitez Beldy, Mahmoud Bey, Viscountess Dupplin, Lord Hedley, Sir William Clark, Lady Tighe, the Hon. Lady White Thomson, Baroness de Goldsmidt, Major F. A. Hamer, Sir Thomas Arnold, Mrs. Halford Hewitt, Miss Ella Sykes, Mrs. E. N. Bennett, Lady Sprigge, Professor Norton, Mrs. Geoffrey Mander, and the Rev. Chancellor Ponsonby. The lecture was held at 133, Queen's Gate, by kind permission of Miss Spalding and Madame Griboval, who held a reception afterwards.

The Polish Diet has ratified the Treaties of Friendship and of Commerce with Persia.

Signor Grandi, Italian Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs, arrived in Constantinople on December 16.

On December 15 Belgrade experienced a mild earthquake. The epicentre was Mladenoyatz, about eighty miles away.

The Albanian Cabinet has authorised the Finance Minister to prepare a Bill for the appointment of a National Committee to study economic problems.

The death has occurred, at the age of 75, of Mr. Demetrius Boulger, who showed a constant interest in things Asiatic and African. In conjunction with Sir Lepel Griffin, he founded the *Asiatic Quarterly Review* (which is now the *Asiatic Review*, edited by Mr. Richter). He published many articles and books, including lives of men such as Gordon and Stamford Raffles.

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NEWS IN BRIEF.

The first session of the new Albanian Parliament was opened at Tirana on December 10.

A proposal has been made for the creation in Albania of a women's society to work for the emancipation of Albanian women.

The Turkish Minister of Finance is drafting a Bill for the creation of free zones in which foreign firms may erect motor-car factories.

The Viceroy of India and Lady Irwin left Rangoon for Calcutta on December 11 after spending 23 days in Burma.

Nine members of a party of cinematographers who were making a film of the North Caucasian mountains, near Grosny, fell down a precipice and were killed.

The Rev. P. Graydon Tibbs, formerly a Government chaplain in the diocese of Bombay and a canon of Bombay Cathedral, has accepted the living of Hargrave, Northants.

The Turkish Government is selling the treasures of the ex-Sultan, and it is reported that those jewels which are not of historic value have been acquired by English purchasers.

A Mechanical Transport Company is to be formed for service with the British troops in Egypt, to be designated the 39th Company (Mobile Repair Unit), Royal Army Service Corps.

A by-law has been published forbidding, from Christmas onwards, the making of any noise by the use of mechanical or electric horns or klaxons within the municipal bounds of Jerusalem.

Won by Lieut. William Alexander Kerr, of the 24th Bombay Native Infantry, for "gallantry in capturing a stronghold near Kalapore" in 1857, a Victoria Cross was sold in a London auction room for £39.

In the Coptic Cathedral in Cairo, on December 16, Mgr. Ambu Yoannes was consecrated as Coptic Patriarch. He has taken the name of Yoannes XIX.

Eleven men were injured at Corinth on December 12 when a crowd demonstrating in favour of the immediate distribution of the funds collected for the relief of sufferers from the recent earthquake came into collision with the police.

The collier River Clyde, now named the Angela and sailing under the Spanish flag, which played an important part in landing troops at Gallipoli, put into Dover harbour on December 13 with condenser trouble. She was on a voyage from Sunderland to Italy.

At a meeting of the Council of the East India Association on December 10 the new members elected included Earl Winterton, M.P., Sir Malcolm Seton, Sir Edward Maclagan, Sir Verney Lovett, Sir Walter Willson, Sir Clement Hindley, Mr. A. Yusuf Ali, and Mr. J. E. Woolacott.

Sir Frank Clement Offley Beaman, of the Byculla Club, Bombay, and Palace Gardens Terrace, Kensington, W., formerly a Judge of the High Court, Bombay, and a writer on philosophical subjects, who died on August 12, aged 71, son of the late Surgeon-General Arden Hulme Beaman, left unsettled estate in this country of the gross value of £14,083, with net personality £13,969.

The Greek Chamber on December 12 passed a law creating a Senate. The body is to be composed of 92 members elected directly by the people, 18 by professional bodies, 10 by the Chamber and Senate. A proposal assigning two seats to the clergy was withdrawn. Greece has had no Senate since 1862. Thracian Muslims and Salonika Jews form separate constituencies.

It is reported from Cairo that excavations carried out by the Egypt Exploration Society at Armant (the ancient Hermonthis), on the left bank of the River Nile, 12 miles south of Luxor, have resulted in a notable discovery. The excavations, which were begun in the 1926-27 season by Mr. Robert Mond and Mr. W. B. Emery, were resumed on November 15. A subterranean chamber has now been laid bare. It contains a large granite sarcophagus, which is probably that of a bull.

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PERSONAL AND GENERAL

TO-DAY

December 20, 1928 (New Style).
 December 7, 1928 (Old Style).
 Rajab 7, 1347 A.H. of the Muslim Calendar.
 Tebet 7, 5689, of the Jewish Calendar.

Mr. George Terrell left London on December 13 for Calcutta, joining the Rajputana at Marseilles.

Lieut.-General Sir Aylmer and Lady Hunter-Weston will leave London to-morrow (Friday) for Egypt.

The King of Italy has conferred the Collar of the Order of the Annunziata on the King of the Albanians.

Mr. Hart, the new United States Minister to Albania, presented his credentials to King Zogu on December 13.

Bishop Gwynne, Bishop of Egypt and the Sudan, has returned to Cairo from a visit to India and Australia.

The Gaekwar of Baroda arrived last week at the Hotel Hermitage, Nice.

Mr. Ardeshir, Secretary of the Persian Legation in London, left with Mrs. Ardeshir this week for Teheran.

The Hon. Mrs. Adeane has left London for Egypt, and will be away until January.

The Earl and Countess of Selborne will shortly leave 14, Buckingham Palace Gardens for Egypt.

Mr. Betram Thomas, O.B.E., Grand Wazir to the Sultan of Muscat and Oman, left London this week to resume his post at Muscat.

Lt.-Col. Sir Lionel B. H. Haworth, K.B.E., late Political Resident in the Persian Gulf, arrived in England last week.

Viscount and Viscountess Inchcape left London on December 13 *en route* for Egypt, where they will remain for a few weeks.

The Maharaja of Baroda, the Aga Khan, and the Jam Sahib of Nawagar left Marseilles on December 14 in the P. and O. liner Rajputana for Bombay.

Dr. Eden, formerly Bishop of Wakefield, is acting as Chaplain of the Anglican Church at Assouan for the winter season.

Mr. and Mrs. Geoffrey Dawson have left England for a visit to India and Ceylon, and expect to be absent till the end of March.

General Gouraud, Military Governor of Paris, sailed on December 14 for India, where he is to be the guest of the British Government.

The German Minister to Albania, Herr Kardorff, has presented his Letters of Credence to King Zogu of Albania.

Mr. Dennis Herbert, M.P., has left for India, and expects to be back at the end of January. Mrs. Herbert has gone with him, but will not return till February.

To celebrate the birthday of King Alexander of the Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes, a service was held at the Russian Church of St. Philip, Buckingham Palace Road, on December 17.

Mr. Amin Rihani, author of "King Ibn Saoud, His Land and His People," who has been staying for some time in London, left on December 15 for America, taking with him the horses given to him, when in Najd, by King Ibn Saoud.

Lady Beatrice Ormsby-Gore arrived at 5, Mansfield Street from India on December 15.

Manubhai Mehta, who came to London to take part in the conferences of Princes and Ministers, and Lady Mehta embarked in the Rajputana at Marseilles on December 14 on their return to India.

General the Right Hon. Sir John Maxwell and Lady Maxwell, who had arranged to go to India this month, have altered their plans. They will sail on December 28 for South Africa, where they will be the guests of Sir Abe Bailey at Rustenen-Vrede, Muizenberg. After a brief visit to Rhodesia they hope to proceed to Egypt by the east coast route.

A memorial service was held on December 12 at St. Mark's, North Audley Street, for Miss Mary Adelaide Broadhurst, President of the National League. The Rev. W. G. Pennyman officiated. Among those present and those who sent messages of sympathy were the Estonian Minister and Mme. Kallas, the Countess of Shaftesbury, the Earl of Denbigh, Viscount and Viscountess Templeton, Lord Montagu of Beaulieu, Lord Islington, General Sir Reginald Wingate, Lord Waring, Lord Danesfort, Lord Lamington, Lord Headley, Mrs. Sanford Bissell, Sir Gilbert Parker, Bt., Sir Bertie Frere, Sir Douglas Newton, Sir Patrick Ford, Mr. J. S. Wardlaw Milne, M.P., Colonel Lewis Butler, Colonel Howard Bury, M.P., Sir Logie and Lady Elphinstone, Mr. J. D. Cree, Mr. F. J. Nettleford, Sir Clifford Cory, Mr. Arthur Palliser, Lady Stephenson Kent, Lady Firth, Lady Ryall, the Hon. Violent and the Hon. Hilda Douglas-Pennant, the Hon. Mrs. Adolphus Graves, Captain Richard Ford, Mr. A. Rihani, Mme. Yovanovitch, Mrs. Alec Tweedie, Mrs. Campbell Ogilvie, Mrs. Eckstein, Colonel and Mrs. St. John Cooke, Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Dick, Mr. Kenneth Williams, Shaikh Dojaily, and Mr. Sa'ib Salam.

Where to stay in the East

*Write for particulars of attractive offer
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BEYROUT—Hotel Metropole.
 CAIRO—The National Hotel.
 JAFFA—Hotel Jerusalem.
 JERUSALEM—St John's Hotel,

H. & F. Fast, Managers

KYRENIA, Cyprus—Sea-View Hotel.
 NICOSIA, Cyprus—George Hotel.
 PORT SAID—Casino Palace Hotel.
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CYPRUS.

SAVOY HOTEL :
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 Golf, Tennis and Excursions

THE WEEK AT HOME

London, Tuesday Morning.

The Season.

The shadow of the King's health still hangs over us, but the spirit of the Christmas season is manifest, all the same. Naturally many Christmas functions depend upon the speed of the recovery of the Sovereign, but there is, apart from them, sufficient of jollity and brightness to remind the young, at any rate, that Christmas is almost here.

In the shops an even gayer show than ever seems to be made this year, and he who cannot in the West End think of presents is a dull bird, indeed. Of course, there are other reasons that lack of ideas for the non-buying of presents: money is still fairly tight.

A Forecast of the Election.

Various minds, eminent and otherwise, are now occupying themselves with forecasts of the result of the General Election next year. Of these, incomparably the most interesting, in the immediate sense, is that of Lord Rothermere, who is so independent of Conservative party attachments as to face the prospect of a Socialist Government with equanimity. And, of course, he is none the worse for that.

It is instructive, however, to see on what he bases his conviction that, *ceteris paribus*, the Conservatives cannot possibly come back with a majority. First, he says that the "Flapper Vote" is electoral suicide—and presumably the *Daily Mail*, which numbers among its readers so many of the readily impressionable sex, ought to know. He states that the De-rating Bill is unfair to small rate-payers and taxpayers, and again he ought to know something of the way in which this numerous section of the community thinks. And lastly he affirms that under the weight of the Budget the industrial foundations of the country will sink. He also brings in foreign politics, but that is a subject hardly likely to be uppermost in the mind of the average voter next year.

Lord Rothermere is plausible, but is he sound? Certainly he will find many to follow him in voting for or against an Administration not because it wears this or that party label, but on account of what it has actually done or failed to do. His thesis is reinforced, moreover,

by a considerable section of the thinking community which is profoundly dissatisfied with the foreign policy of the Conservative Government. But I still doubt whether these two strains, domestic and foreign, of opposition to the present Government will combine to make a greater stream than that up which the Conservatives claim to be sailing.

Helping the Miners.

The distress of the families of unemployed miners is almost intolerable, although it is but recently that the nation as a whole has become possessed of some notion of that distress. When it learned of the miners' plight, however, it not only responded in the form of public benevolence (e.g., some towns "adopted" certain mining districts, as they "adopted" French villages stricken by the War), but also morally forced the Government to supplement the largest benevolent Fund, that is, the Lord Mayor's Fund, with gifts from the Treasury.

It is a timely action that, at the season of Christmas, Government should have come to the aid of the starving and helpless miners. Of course it is no solution: the problem still remains. But there is something in the British character (or, rather, it is common to humanity) which, whatever theoretical reasons may exist urging the contrary, insists on common charity being extended to those who through no present fault of their own are threatened with the blackest Christmastide of their lives.

Trade with Russia.

It looks as if in one important particular the Government may attempt to cut the ground from under the Opposition's feet. For no less a personage than the Parliamentary Secretary to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Mr. R. G. Boothby, has raised the question of the desirability of trade relations with Russia. Certain Ministers are said to be strongly in favour of such a move, and although it seems difficult to credit Mr. Winston Churchill, of all people, with a wish for a *rapprochement* with the Bolsheviks, the fact that it was his Parliamentary Secretary who brought up the question would seem to indicate that he, too, has been converted to the more reasonable view.

Commercial opposition to the Soviets has never, I think, been a very strong card in this country, and if the Government could find ways and means to resume trade with Russia, it would probably gain many votes which, unless something is done, will certainly be cast against it.

If the Conservatives save up all their little surprises, including a reduction of Income Tax, to the months immediately preceding the Election, their prospects may not be quite so dismal as our Lord Rothermeres make out.

Max Beerbohm's "Ghosts."

Max Beerbohm is here in London again, this time caricaturing the famous men who strolled the stage before we were young men. He calls the exhibition at the Leicester Galleries of his drawings "Ghosts": a most happy title, for even those of his "victims" (an absurd *cliché*), who are still living will be reminded of this version of their youth with, so to speak, a jerk.

You must chortle or sniff or expound in the presence of these portrayals. It is difficult, for one who has not seen all the originals in the flesh, to choose, but drawings like those of Mr. Joseph Chamberlain, Mr. Walter Pater, Mr. Bancroft and Mr. George Bancroft, Wilson Barrett, Mr. Henry James, Rothschilds at Play, and so on, most extract a guffaw of appreciation or the inner smile of contentment which is the more complete for not being so externally expressed.

It is really a wonderful show, because (mainly) there is nobody like "Max." Although nobody is very much flattered by him, nobody could get very angry with him. "Max" still stirs the child within us, although he is not quite irresponsible.

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"THE GENTLE ART OF SUASION."

By E. DAVID GOITEIN.

In Palestine advertising is still in the embryonic stage. As you walk up the Mount of Olives no hoarding calls to you "If you must get stout—get Aaron's," and no notice assures you that Carmel soap will "keep that school-girl complexion." Yet dotted up and down the country are to be found go-ahead salesmen who advertise their wares in crude but cryptic fashion.

An Arab pastrycook whose "shop" is a stone's throw from the Jaffa Gate, advertises in Arabic and English. The English notice reads—and the spelling is not mine—"Eat us here. Our cakez best in the Jerusalem." And underneath is a crescent with the words "You wil not die." But the Arab's favourite method of advertisement is to hang over his wares a large photograph of himself in European costume, with a tarbush on his head. Below the photograph, usually in Arabic, sometimes in French, sometimes in English, run such words as these: "I, Djamal Yussuf Sheikh, am the owner of this shop. Buy your things here, I am honest." But of all the Arab advertisements in Jerusalem the one that delighted me most was a quatrain—almost untranslatable—but which in English might sound something like this:

I, Abdul, sell meat, which is good to be eaten,
I am good—so's my meat—and it cannot be beaten!
Therefore come and buy, and eat just a plateful.
May Allah be praised, I am one of the Faithful.

I may say that his booth was rather a dirty affair, his meat was covered with flies, and he himself did not present the appearance of being the personification of purity! As, however, almost all his customers were illiterate and could not read a word, the apparent incongruities between the advertisement and fact did not matter so very much.

The Jews in Jerusalem are not behind—nor much in advance of—their Arab brothers so far as the gentle art of advertising is concerned. A remarkable fact to be chronicled is this, that the largest synagogue in the old City finds it necessary to advertise its wares. During the season one can read in the advertisement columns of the *Doar Hayom*: "Tourists! You must visit the Hurba Synagogue. Special services for visitors. The High Commissioner will be among the Worshippers next Saturday."

I have never been able to decide whether it was not some English wag who wrote the advertisement for a silk merchant, which reads in English: "Come inside. We will do you." It is difficult to believe that this is unconscious humour. His next-door neighbour, however, has certainly paid some English scholar to concoct the following advertisement. . . . Picture to yourself a green board. On the right of it there is a crude painting of a man holding up a pair of trousers. Next to it is written: "Have you a trouser? We has a million." Below is the picture of a cap. Next to this the words: "Why do you walk in the sun, then you have no cap? I has all the caps in Palestine." At the bottom is a drawing of something that looks like a Dutch cheese. The inscription is very graphic. "You must not clothe with anything. I sell everything clothes." It is fairly clear that Waldstein's Hebrew-English dictionary was extensively used in putting together this travesty of the English language.

All the instances I have so far given are taken from Jerusalem. But Tel-Aviv, the suburb of Jaffa, is famous for one particular advertisement which all English-speaking visitors are shown. It is a brass plate of a nurse who has been granted a diploma. But she has expressed this fact a little incorrectly. For the words on the plate read: "Mrs. —, Diplomatic Midwife." But "Diplomatic" is not precisely the adjectival form of "diploma."

Mr. Golding alleges that a certain doctor advertises himself as curing "Women and other infernal diseases."

I need scarcely remind my readers that there are many

ways of advertising, and appeals to the eye are often more successful than appeals to the sense. I was one day strolling through a narrow, meandering lane with tiny "booths" which serve as shops, with dilapidated houses and with ragged children who swarmed all over the place. I had reached almost the end of the lane when I noticed on the right-hand side a rich-looking building, with shining brass lamps, a fine entrance, two beautifully carved seats on either side, and more noticeable than all an elaborately dressed man with a sword in a superb sheath, standing in front. My first impression was that this must be a mosque. Yet it did not look like a mosque. I thought it might be a *medrassa*—a school. But I could not understand why so noble a looking shaikh should stand guard outside a *medrassa*. However, I was not allowed to stand there for long deciding what it might be, for the shaikh came up to me and in silver-tongued speech asked me to enter; it was free to anybody, Muslims and Infidels alike, patronised by all the saints of the town, the envy of all the country, and he who entered partook of the blessings of Allah. "If your lordship," he said respectfully, "would deign to dignify this noble building with your presence—well, so be it." Then he shrugged his shoulders and almost pushed me into the overheated building. I walked in, and when I was inside the palatial hall you can perhaps imagine my surprise when I discovered Turkish towels hanging on the backs of chairs right round. It was the Turkish Baths!

I will end my account of the gentle art of suasion in Palestine with an incident that happened to me and which illustrates a more subtle type of advertisement than those to which I have already referred. I had hired a car to take me to Safed. The chauffeur, as is usual, asked for an exorbitant fee, and after long and animated bargaining, carried on in a hotchpotch of three languages, accepted a-fifth of the original charge on condition that he might take two other people in the same car. I did not object.

When the car arrived it was found to contain four passengers. I was angry.

"You said there were to be only two others in the car!"

"That is so, but he"—he hitched his head sideways—"is my son."

"That doesn't make any difference."

"It is a larger car."

There was nothing for it but to get in and squeeze myself into a seat. But the chauffeur still made no attempt to start up the car.

"Why are you waiting?"

He smiled broadly. "There is a gentleman. I made a promise to him. He will be here soonest."

The gentleman came, a stout, laughing, jolly fellow. He sat exactly opposite me. The car started. A cool breeze blew. Soon the "squash" was less obvious and we were all before long the best of friends. I was questioned as to my movements.

"So you are going to Safed?" said my stout friend.

"Yes."

"Where are you staying?"

I told him.

"Dear me! What a pity! It is very expensive, very dirty, and the food isn't good."

"That is usual in hotels in this part of the world."

"Not at all. In Safed there is a very good hotel indeed. Inexpensive. Half what you will pay at Blank's. Good food and plenty of it. And spotlessly clean. I am staying there myself." And he told me the name. He spoke good English. I was grateful to him. We arrived at Safed. I jumped out of the car and bade my friends "Good-bye!"

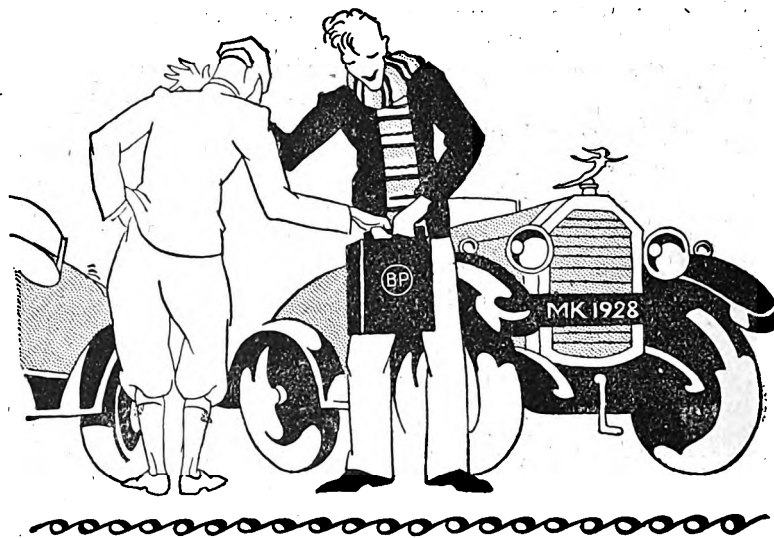
"Shall I show you where the Malon (Hotel) Margulies is?" said my stout friend.

"Don't trouble yourself."

"A pleasure, a pleasure."

He took me there. A small, insignificant, unpleasant-looking affair. To my horror and amusement I discovered that my friend was Mr. Margulies himself.

"BP" Proverbs, No. 8



"A FRIEND IN NEED IS A FRIEND INDEED"

**AND HE REALLY WILL BE
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IF HE LENDS YOU A TIN OF**

"BP"

**ONE GOOD TURN—
IT NEEDS NO OTHER**

Any motorist desiring a copy of a booklet containing reprints of the "BP" Proverb Series, to be published shortly, should apply to the Company.

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Commercial and Financial Section.

NOTES AND NEWS

170, Strand, London, W.C.2,
Tuesday Morning.

Greek Loan Result.

The new Greek Loan duly made its appearance last week, the issue being a 6 per cent. loan at 89, attractive terms it would appear but seemingly not attractive enough, as it is reported that 75 per cent. of the loan was left with the underwriters, and the loan opened at about one discount and subsequently went fractionally lower. A number of causes probably combined to bring about this result, not the least of them being, one may assume, the psychological effect of the attitude of M. Venizelos with regard to the internal loan. It was proposed, it will be recalled, to reduce the rate of interest on this loan, but when the consequences of this step became clear the project was abandoned. Merely to moot such an idea is, however, enough to disturb confidence in a country, and M. Venizelos, who is primarily a politician, and is not versed in the ways of finance, clearly made a miscalculation when he ventured into an unfamiliar field with such a startling proposal. Whatever effect this episode may have had is, of course, pure speculation, and there were other potentially adverse factors such as the fact that the loan was not issued under the auspices of the League of Nations (which has come to be such an important factor in regard to Balkan loans) and the proximity of the New Year which made it an unfavourable time for a large issue like this loan.

Roumanian Oil Developments.

Special interest attached to the meeting this week of the Steaua Romana (British) in view of recent developments in Roumania which hold out, at long last, the prospect that Roumania will be able to make full use of her great oil reserves. The effect of the policy of the late Administration was to cramp enterprise and hinder development, for under the Mining Law the extension of enterprise in the oilfields was impossible. Happily, as I have already pointed out, the policy of the Maniu Government is the reverse of that of M. Bratianu, and there is every reason for hope that henceforward the path will be made smooth for progress in the country's chief industry. In his speech at the meeting Sir Albert Stern, who presided in the absence of Lord Greenway, pointed out that the success of the company was intimately bound up with the prosperity of Roumania, whose economic development, he added, has been delayed by lack of capital, but he looks confidently forward to the flotation of the Stabilisation and Railway Loan which "should herald a new era of prosperity." Sir Albert Stern had some interesting figures to give with regard to the production of the Roumanian company. For the year ended June 30 last this amounted to 578,964 tons which represents an increase of 20 per cent. on the previous year's total. Then for the five months ended November 30 last the production was 300,273 tons as compared with 243,989 tons for the same period last year. Like all oil concerns the company has been handicapped by the low selling price of oil products, and steps have been taken to counter this factor by cheapening the cost of drilling and production. The company's drilling programme is being continued, and it is considered that the increase in production, to which reference has been made, will be continued in 1929 until the Steaua Romana's production amounts to 80-90,000 tons per month which represents the present crude oil capacity of its refineries.

America and Artificial Cotton.

The news that artificial cotton is to be put on the market next year is evidently occasioning grave concern in America which has so far had matters all her own way in the cotton market. The cotton growers of the Southern States are reported to have written to the Department of Commerce at Washington asking for information as to the project, and it will be interesting to learn the nature of the report they receive, for questions in the House of Commons recently elicited no information and Americans cannot expect to be more fortunate, though it will be possible further, of course, to include a map of Great Britain with the counties of Essex and Sussex where the artificial cotton is being grown delineated in red or some other striking colour. Joking apart, it is no matter for surprise if the American cotton growers should be concerned at the development, for it is the type of cotton they produce which will be affected, and if it is possible to produce it on a large scale it is going to make a great difference to them, while from our point of view it has two important aspects, the possibility of recapturing markets by being able to produce cotton goods cheaper, and a new support for the sterling exchange.

Sudan Trade Progress.

Details of the trade of the Sudan for the first nine months of this year make a satisfactory showing compared with the figures for the corresponding period of 1927. The value of the imports is £E4,550,529 as against £E4,256,654, while that of the exports is £E5,219,478 against £E4,596,124. With the exception of Government imports, which are £E92,885 down, every item in the list shows a more or less substantial increase, ranging from £E26,379 for re-exports to £E623,354, in the case of exports, while the total trade comes to £E10,224,115 as compared with £E9,153,165. This is not at all a bad result for nine months, and the increase in the imports affords a satisfactory indication of the improvement of the country's purchasing power, while the increase in the exports bears tribute to the growing and potential value of cotton to the Sudan. It is not wise, however, to wax too confident at the moment as to the development of the Sudan as a market, for dura is the keynote to the position, and it has not yet been found possible to permit the export of this commodity again.

Lord Inchcape on Trade.

It is no exaggeration to say that no meeting is looked

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forward to with more eagerness than that of the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation owing to Lord Inchcape's practice of dealing with the general outlook in his speech on that occasion. While he was guarded in his remarks at last week's meeting, a note of subdued optimism was in evidence in his reference to the prospects of a trade revival. He pointed out that at the present time there is more tonnage in the world than is required to carry the cargo available, while prices are still far above the pre-War level, but he believes that better conditions will ultimately prevail, and he feels certain that this country will continue to hold the supremacy on the sea that she has held for generations. He takes the view that the trade of the country will revive before long, "especially as the Government appears determined to pursue a path of economy in public expenditure and to ease the burdens on industry."

COMMENTATOR.

THE WEEK'S FINANCE.

(By Our Financial Expert.)

London, December 18.

The King's illness and the slump in Wall Street have together conspired to produce a dull and irregular tendency in the Stock Markets, though the more favourable nature of the former towards the end of the week helped to produce a steadier tone. Business, however, is on a very much smaller scale than in the recent past, and there is little prospect of expansion until after the turn of the year. Home Rails, as the dividend season approaches, remain dull on apprehensions that such undisclosed economies in working expenses as have been achieved will not be sufficient to offset the declines in the published traffic receipts. In the more speculative sections irregularity has been the order of the day, the gramophone and artificial groups being lower. There has been considerable activity in cement shares, and a few iron and steel descriptions have exhibited a firmer tendency.

Balanced Capital.

Balance, American authorities never fail to tell us, is essential to good business management; there must be balance between sales and production, between production and purchases, between income and expenditure. It is equally true that there must be balance between the classes of capital. By this we mean that the capital of a company should be so arranged as to ensure justice to the various classes of security holders. Top-heavy capitalisation—the reverse of balance is capitalisation—is unsatisfactory to all who are financially interested in the concern. Let us suppose a company having a capital of £25,000, divided into £20,000 in preference shares and £5,000 in ordinary. Assuming that the company is gaining a normal return on its working capital, any falling-off in its profits would probably be immediately disturbing to the preference shareholders. It is true that in similar cases preference shareholders are often given the right to participate in any excess after the ordinary shares have received a fair dividend, but this right is only compensation for the fact that the preference shareholders are not in as secure a position as one expects with shares of that type. The security of income of the preference shareholders is similarly impaired when there is an excess of

debentures in relation to the share capital. On the other hand, where the volume of prior charge capital is small, the company is not making full use of the possibilities of raising well-secured capital at fairly cheap rates. Such capital would earn more than the interest or dividend paid, and the excess would serve to increase the earnings available for the ordinary shareholder.

French Rentes.

Attention is directed to the merits of French Government stocks by the recent publication of the Department of Overseas Trade's report on economic conditions in France. It is shown that the restoration of the gold standard in June last was but the climax to a quiet reconstruction of her industrial life. Not merely have the devastations caused by the War been repaired, but in many ways the position in 1927 showed an advance upon that of 1913. An unfavourable trade balance of £51 millions has been converted into an export balance of £19 millions. The outputs of pig iron and of steel are respectively seven and eight times as great as fourteen years ago, and the coal production is also much higher. Unemployment is almost negligible. These are results of which this country might well be envious, and some useful lessons might be drawn from the causes of this prosperity. It is true that the increases are in part due to the acquisition by France of Alsace-Lorraine, one of the most important industrial centres of Europe, but the fundamental causes are the industriousness of the French workpeople, the replacement of old by up-to-date machinery, and a movement towards concentration and improved organisation. Prosperity which has such solid bases is almost certain to continue. As a result of comparative lack of attention 3 per cent. perpetual Rentes may be bought to yield £5 3s. per cent., while the 4 per cent. Rentes which have the advantage of bearing interest payable at the Bank of England yield £6 4s. per cent.

The Drapery Trust and Drage's.

The Drapery Trust, which is controlled by Debenham's, have made a provisional agreement for acquiring control of Drage's, Ltd., the well-known hire-purchase furnishing concern. The Drapery Trust will guarantee the maximum dividend of 10 per cent. on Drages Participating Preference shares for ten years, and the present Ordinary shares are to be converted into Preferred Ordinary, with a fixed non-cumulative dividend of 15 per cent. also guaranteed by the Trust. In return the Trust is to be issued 2,000,000 Ordinary shares of 1s. each. The reason given by Drage's directors for entering upon the agreement is the need for increasing capital in a growing business in a trade which requires a relatively large capital. For this reason the Drapery Trust has undertaken to provide £300,000 of additional working capital as required. The scheme has been criticised on the grounds that the capital required could have been raised more cheaply in other ways. Since its transformation into a public company Drage's has distributed only a portion of its earnings as dividends, and under the agreement the whole value of the equity in Drage's would pass to the Trust. On the basis of last year's earnings the considerable sum of £54,000 would be available, or 54 per cent. on the price to be paid by the Trust. The suggestion that the company could have obtained the capital required more cheaply from its shareholders would therefore seem reasonable.

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An interesting little brochure has been issued by the American Express, giving details of their tours in Egypt, the Sudan, Syria, and Palestine for the current season. The brochure, which is illustrated throughout, contains details of itineraries to please all tastes, and, coming at the present juncture, when the delayed fogs of November are at last upon us, it will carry a special appeal to all in a position to leave this country for sunnier shores for a long or short period during the tedious winter.

Irrigation in Egypt—IV

LAND DRAINAGE.

By H. HINDMARSH.

In countries with a heavy rainfall the rivers run in valleys and carry off surplus water, but the reverse is the case in Egypt where the rainfall is negligible. The cultivable land of this country is built up entirely of silt deposits brought down by the Nile; the deposit is thicker, and the land level consequently higher near the river branches, both those which exist to-day and many others long abandoned but clearly traceable by the ridges which they have formed.

Irrigation canals have been built on top of most of these ridges in order that water may be led down a gentle slope to irrigate the land on either side, and so closely do some of these canals follow the winding course of long-forgotten streams that they do not look like canals at all.

To carry off surplus water it has been necessary to construct other and quite different channels in the low ground between the ridges. Running thus in valleys and increasing in volume from source to mouth, the main drains of the Delta might be described as artificial rivers, and some of them are quite big enough to justify such a description.

For instance, the Gharbia Drain has a natural catchment area of about half a million acres and a length of 60 miles from its source near Tanta, in the centre of the Delta, to its mouth on the sea coast near the most northern point of Egypt. In its lower reaches it is about 40 yards wide and 12 feet deep.

For the first 30 miles it flows with a fairly steep slope and well below land level, so that the country traversed can all be drained by gravitation, then the water slope becomes flatter and the land relatively lower, until, for the last 15 miles of its course, the drain has to run between banks to prevent its waters from spreading over a flat swampy area of which the surface is almost at sea-level.

As the Mediterranean is practically tideless a system of tide sluices, such as operate in the Fen District of England, cannot be used, and it is necessary to resort to pumping to lift the drainage water of the low northern regions over the banks into the drains which carry it to the sea.

Into the numerous main drains flow branch drains, which in turn receive the water of smaller branches. This network of drains covers most of the perennially irrigated area of Egypt. It has been steadily built up and extended by the construction of new branches and the improvement of old ones, but there are still a good many gaps to be filled.

The general policy is to make so many branch drains that one may pass within one mile of every estate; that is to say, no land owner should have to dig a ditch more than a mile long to get rid of his drainage water.

In some countries such as Holland, most of this work would be done by local enterprise, but in Egypt all irrigation and drainage work is undertaken by the Central Government, which has not only to dig the drain in a strip of land which it has bought for the purpose and to build all the bridges and other works required, but also to maintain it afterwards—cut the weeds and dig out the accumulated mud from the bed. This maintenance is a troublesome and costly business. No special drainage tax has so far been imposed; drainage is included in the services rendered by Government to the landowner in return for the fixed land tax which he pays every year.

The standard aimed at is to keep the water surface of the drains five or six feet below the land level, so that every field may get four feet of drainage when allowance

has been made for the water slope in the connecting ditch. Some landowners have stated that this is not enough, but there are many more who content themselves with three feet or even less, rather than go to the extra expense of deepening their ditches. To do so is costly, because every foot of extra depth in a ditch means at least four feet more in its overall width. On many estates about 15 per cent. of the total area is occupied by open drains and thus is thrown out of cultivation.

Covered drains have been tried fairly extensively, but they hardly seem to pay. Egyptian soil is fine but permeable, and soon finds its way into the pipes, which after a very few years have to be dug up, cleaned, and relaid, a process during which they are apt to be broken.

The practice in newly reclaimed marsh land, where the salt is still near the surface, is to dig field drains about two feet deep and twelve to fifteen yards apart. These little open ditches are generally about 100 yards long, and discharge into collectors about three feet deep, which in turn flow into the main ditch where the water should be four feet below land level. After a few years of cultivation and irrigation the salts will have been driven down well below the surface, and alternate field drains may be filled in and dispensed with. At a later stage this process of elimination may be repeated, and so on; but, in the Lower Delta at least, permanent drains are needed every 100 yards or so if the land is to be kept in good condition.

Drains are necessary, not only to get rid of salt, but to keep down what is called the "Water Table," of which the level is indicated by the depth to which a pit may be sunk without coming to water. It is only this limited depth of soil which is available for the roots of a plant, and, if drainage be stopped and the water-table allowed to rise, part of the root system will be asphyxiated, and the development of the plant will be checked until it can make good the loss by growing other rootlets nearer to the surface.

No proof of the value of drainage can be more striking than the rapid decline in fertility of estates when the ditches have been neglected for a year or two. Barren patches appear in the field, and a grey incrustation of salt may be seen on the surface as it dries off after each watering.

About two-fifths of all the Delta land surface is less than six feet above sea level. This low land consists of a broad band all the way round the coast, and it is only separated from the Mediterranean Sea by a line of sand dunes varying in width from a few hundred yards up to five or six miles. It is very flat, and the main drains of artificial rivers flow through it with their water surface nearly at land level.

In this region are about one and a-half million acres of waste land, which represent Egypt's main reserve of future wealth. Its reclamation and subsequent cultivation must provide employment and livelihood for succeeding generations of her constantly increasing peasant population. Both climate and soil are good, and seem to be specially suited for the production of the finer grades of cotton. This is amply demonstrated by the results obtained where a company or large owner has banked off a block of land, drained it by means of pumps, and reclaimed it for cultivation.

Between the low waste lands of the Northern Delta and the relatively high and completely drained land further south there is a zone about ten miles wide, most of which is cultivated.

Its depth of drainage being insufficient, the crops grown do not give a yield commensurate with the amount of labour and valuable irrigation water expended in their production.

(Continued on page 751.)

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LET THE "NEAR EAST & INDIA" carry your message to the markets of the Near and Middle East. You will find it a paying proposition

It was for many years the policy of the Government to leave the owners to find their own remedy by the installation of pumps to lift water from their private ditches into the public drains. The great advantage of this plan is the enforced economy of irrigation water, which no one will waste into a draining ditch if he knows that he must himself pay for pumping it out again. A certain number of drainage pumps have been erected all along the northern fringe of cultivation, but the majority of the peasants have not the capital to erect such installations nor the capacity to keep them running efficiently.

When it became evident that the natural development of the country was being checked for lack of drainage, the Government decided to do the pumping wholesale by means of big units with a high mechanical efficiency. The war interrupted these schemes, but since its termination two pumping stations serving 70,000 acres have come into action, and another for 100,000 acres is in course of construction.

Work is proceeding on the basis of a fifteen-year programme, covering about 600,000 acres in all, and comprising projects for the complete drainage of all the partially cultivated intermediate zone, and as much of the northern waste land as can be developed with the supply of capital, labour, and extra irrigation water likely to become available within this period.

The general scheme is to leave all the higher lands to drain through their branches into the main drains which flow freely to the sea, passing between banks through the low land, where the water of the branch drains will be lifted into the main drain by means of pumps electrically driven with current from central generating stations.

The branch drains are to be grouped together so that each pumping station may deal with the drainage of from 30,000 to 100,000 acres, and efficient pump units each discharging up to ten tons of water per second may be used.

Irrigation and drainage must go hand in hand. It is useless to drain land without providing enough irrigation water to plant it with the summer crops of rice and cotton, which alone can render its reclamation economically possible. This entails not only the construction of a network of new irrigation canals in the area to be reclaimed, but the considerable enlargement of main canals, which must carry water to it through regions already cultivated, as well as the provision of increased reservoir capacity to enable a greater portion of the annual surplus flow to be impounded and released for use at the season of the low Nile.

The overall cost of the scheme, including dams, canals, drains, pumps, and subsidiary works, is undoubtedly formidable, but a substantial part of the initial outlay may be recouped by the Treasury from the sale of many thousand acres of State land, now unproductive and quite worthless, which will attain a value of at least £30 per acre as soon as they are given facilities of irrigation and drainage.

The indirect gain to the community is much more important than the direct return to the Government. To continue her economic development Egypt must have increased agricultural production, and the surest method of getting it is by increasing her area of well-drained land.

IRRIGATION PROJECTS.

At the present time there exist various projects, some of which have already been studied and are actually under execution, while others are as yet under examination. Some of the latter will be begun in the near future and the remainder will follow.

The most important of the works under execution are the following:—

Upper Egypt.

(a) The construction of Nag Hammadi Barrage on the

Nile in Upper Egypt and its subsidiary works on the Eastern and Western sides of the Nile.*

(b) The erection of a main power station near Esna, Kena Province, for generating the required electric current and its transmission over a distance of more than 120 kilometres, to work 14 big pumping stations serving various isolated basins, the total area of which is a little above 50,000 acres in Aswan Province. This project includes the digging of canals and other channels which would facilitate the proper water distribution in those localities. The cost of the work will amount to one million pounds to be spread over three years ending 1930-1931.

Middle Egypt.

(c) The improvement of drainage in Middle Egypt, which involves the remodelling and deepening of the main drains, and the increasing of the number of pumping stations, in order to ensure efficient drainage in this part of this country. The estimated cost is £E500,000.

(d) Improvement of the present irrigation systems by remodelling the present canals and cutting new subsidiary channels. This work will cost £E500,000.

(e) Improvement of the present lines of navigation by connecting the main navigable canals with the Nile. This work will cost £E220,000.

(f) Carrying out defence works against damages caused by torrents, such as digging special channels to carry the water of torrents directly to the Nile. The grant allotted for the execution of this work is £E50,000.

Lower Egypt.

(g) Improvement of the irrigation system by the construction of new canal branches for the proper water distribution. The sum to be expended on this project is £E1,705,000.

(h) Improvement of the drainage systems. This comprises the following:—

(1) Deepening and remodelling the existing main drains.

(2) The construction of new branch drains.

(3) Erection of three main generating power stations, one in the Eastern Delta, the second in the Central Delta, and the third in the Western Delta, to supply the electric power and distribute it by means of transmission lines to the various pumping stations for drainage purposes, and lowering the water table in the northern water saturated zones of Lower Egypt.

The estimated cost for these works is £E4,726,000.

(i) Improvement of the lines of navigation by means of cutting new connecting channels between some of the existing waterways. The grant allotted for these works amounts to £E302,000.

According to the programme of execution laid down, the above projects, forming the first category of works in hand, will be completed in three years' time.

The second category of important works for execution in the near future comprises the following projects:—

(1) Heightening the Aswan Dam.

(2) Generating electric power from the Aswan Dam.

(3) Construction of a new barrage over the western branch of the river in the vicinity of Dessouk town, 175 kilometres north of Cairo.

(4) Construction of Gebel Aulia Reservoir.

(5) Strengthening of Esna, Assiut, and Delta Barrages.

(6a) Development of cultivation to fallow land in Lower Egypt.

(6b) Conversion to perennial irrigation of the lands now under basin irrigation in Upper Egypt.

* This Barrage was described in the previous article in the issue of THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA of December 13.

The third category of works which are under study, and will be executed in the future, are the following:—

- (1) Opening a new cut through the Sudd Region in the Sudan.
- (2) Lake Albert Reservoir.
- (3) Lake Tana Reservoir.
- (4) Drying the Lakes of the Delta adjoining the Mediterranean Sea.

COMPANY NOTES AND REPORTS.

NATIONAL BANK OF EGYPT.

Position at October 31, 1928, published in conformity with Article 8 of the Statutes. Banking Department.—Liabilities: Share capital (300,000 fully-paid shares of £10 each), £E2,925,000. Reserve Fund: Statutory reserve, £E1,462,500; special reserve, £E1,243,125; current, deposit, and other accounts, £E14,329,169; Egyptian Government, £E17,644,491; Sudan Government, £E137,082; Mixed Tribunals, £E1,836,321; bankers' accounts, £E732,046; cheques and bills payable, £E288,752; sundry other accounts, £E2,146,475—£E42,684,961. Assets: Government securities and securities guaranteed by the Egyptian Government, £E20,634,533; sundry securities, £E519,633; advances on merchandise, £E4,156,801; advances on securities, £E5,717,055; advances otherwise secured, £E1,510,937; bills of exchange, £E2,386,100; local bills discounted, £E668,683; buildings and furniture, £E249,215; money at call and at short notice, £E502,125; bankers' accounts, £E469,659; sundry other accounts, £E1,414,696. Cash: Notes, £E2,162,760; gold, £E489,903; silver, nickel, etc., £E226,977—£E2,879,640—£E42,684,961. Issue Department.—Notes issued, £E33,800,000—£E33,800,000. Gold, £E3,339,570; *British Treasury Bills, £E13,560,430—£E16,900,000. Securities: Egyptian Government securities and securities guaranteed by Egyptian Government, £E1,500,000; British Treasury Bills, National War Bonds and British War Loan, £E15,400,000—£E16,900,000—£E33,800,000.

*By authority of the Egyptian Government these Treasury Bills are deposited in lieu of gold. (See *Journal Officiel* of October 30, 1916.)

The new Roumanian Government has decided upon the reorganisation of the railways, and is, it is reported, to invite a number of experts from abroad to give their advice and help in the matter.

The new Sofia power station, which has a capacity of 35,000 h.p., was formally opened recently in the presence of King Boris and the members of the Bulgarian Government.

Sir George Beharrell, President of the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders, arrived at Southampton on December 14 from New York on board the *Majestic*, after a three months' visit to the United States, Canada, and Japan in connexion with the properties of the Dunlop Rubber Company, Ltd., of which he is managing director.

Barclays Bank (Dominion, Colonial and Overseas) announce that they have received the following cable from their Cairo branch:— "The Statistical Department of the Ministry of Finance announces that the total imports for Egypt for the month ending November 30 amounted to £E5,261,673, against £E5,112,489 for the corresponding month last year, and exports to £E7,459,417, against £E6,059,778 in November, 1927. Cotton exports were £E6,176,155, against £E5,136,688."

TENDERS INVITED.

Tenders are invited for the following contracts, and must be made by the dates mentioned.

(Particulars of tenders marked D.O.T. are to be obtained from the Department of Overseas Trade, 35, Old Queen Street, S.W.1.)

EGYPT.

Mild Steel Plates, Etc.—The Director-General, Mechanical Department, P.W.M., Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of steel, mild, plates, ordinary steel; mild, bar, angle and flat, rivets, bolts, and nuts required for the Government Workshops, Bulaq (January 6); crockery required for the Government Workshops, Bulaq, Cairo (January 14); and for the supply and erection of aerial wire ropeway at Sollum, February 28.

Miscellaneous.—The Egyptian State Railways, Telegraphs and Telephones, invites tenders for sanitary fittings, paving cement tiles, steel boiler tubes.

Various Equipment.—The Section des Municipalites et Commissions Locales, Ministry of the Interior, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of additional equipment, comprising a Diesel engine driven D.C. generator set, D.C. rotary balancer and accessories for the Kafr El Zayat Electric Station. January 31. (D.O.T.)

Paper, Etc.—Tenders are invited by the Ministry of Finance for the supply of paper, stationery, chemicals, for Photocopying Office, other miscellaneous articles such as canvas sacks, required for the year 1929-1930. January 31.

Electric System.—The Ministry of the Interior, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply and installation of a proposed electric system for Beba. January 24. (D.O.T.)

FORTHCOMING SAILINGS.

The following are the sailings for the Near East and India, the ports of departure and closing dates for cargo being given in parentheses:—

Anchor Line.—S.s. *Britannia* for Bombay (Birkenhead, December 24). (For passenger sailings and dates see advertisement.)

Anchor Brocklebank Line.—S.s. *Holywell* for Calcutta (Birkenhead, December 24).

Bibby Line.—S.s. *Lancashire* for Port Said, Port Sudan, Colombo, and Rangoon (Birkenhead, December 26).

British India Line.—S.s. *Hatimura* for Bombay and Karachi (London, December 22); s.s. *Manora* for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, December 29).

Cunard Line.—S.s. *Bactria* for Casablanca, Gibraltar, Genoa, Leghorn, Naples, Palermo, Messina, Catania, Corfu, Bari, Gruz, Venice, Trieste, and Fiume, also at Ancona if inducement (Liverpool December 22, Swansea December 27); s.s. *Brescia* for Gibraltar, Malta, Patras, Piræus, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, and Constantza (this steamer will also call at Volo if sufficient inducement) (Liverpool January 19, Glasgow and Swansea January 18).

Johnston Line.—S.s. *Jessmore* for Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, and Constantza (Liverpool, January 12); s.s. *Quernmore* for Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, January 26). (The first sailing of the season to the Danube ports of Galatz and Braila.)

P. and O. Line.—S.s. *Ranchi* for Bombay (London, December 21); s.s. *Nagoya* for Calcutta (London, December 22); s.s. *Ranpura* for Bombay (London, January 4); s.s. *Bangalore* for Calcutta (London, January 5).

Prince Line.—S.s. *Syrian Prince* for Tunis, Malta, Alexandria, Jaffa, Haifa, Beyrout, and Cyprus (Manchester, December 22); s.s. *Highland Prince* for Tunis, Malta, Alexandria, Jaffa, Haifa, Beyrout, Tripoli, Alexandretta, Mersina, and Cyprus (London, December 20).

Ellerman and Papayanni Lines.—S.s. *Andalusian* for Malta, Alexandria, Jaffa*, and Haifa* (Liverpool, December 22); s.s. *Algerian* for Algiers, Patras, Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, and Varna (Liverpool December 22, Swansea December 22); A steamer for Gibraltar, Malta, Alexandria, Jaffa*, and Haifa* (Glasgow, December 28); s.s. *Kyno* for Gibraltar, Malta, Alexandria, Jaffa*, and Haifa* (Liverpool, December 29); s.s. *Trentino* for Algiers*, Malta, Piræus, Syra*, Volo*, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, and Varna (Liverpool January 5, Swansea January 5); s.s. *Lesbian* for Genoa, Leghorn, Naples, Palermo, Messina, Catania, Bari, Gruz*, Ancona*, Venice, Trieste, and Fiume (Liverpool January 5, Swansea January 10). *Subject to sufficient inducement. Cargo taken on through Bill of Lading to:—Algerian ports via Algiers; Moroccan ports via Gibraltar; Tripoli (Barbary) via Malta; Syria and Cyprus via Alexandria; Greek outports via Piræus or other convenient ports.

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Engineering Topics

By G. B. B.

Earth Roads.

When we in England are talking of roads, road construction, and highway engineering generally we are prone to forget that in many districts even water-bound macadam roads are hardly ever found, whilst reinforced concrete roads are unknown. In many parts of the Near East and in many districts in India earth roads still constitute a very large proportion of the highway system. It is true that the authorities are placing gravel and broken stone surfaces on these as quickly as labour and funds will allow, but there is still a large percentage of roads in those localities which will have to be constructed and maintained as earth roads pending the era of reconstruction which everyone so fondly hopes is near at hand.

Such location parties as are at work on road building in the Near East are taking preliminary profiles and determining the heights of embankments and the required capacity of drainage structures. In location work the greatest changes that have taken place during the past few years have been in connexion with matters of alignment and sight line. Wherever possible the endeavour is to obtain a clear sight line of 500 feet at least on both horizontal and vertical curves. In ideal circumstances a curve of 16 degrees would be the largest allowable, but that ideal is not always reachable and much sharper curves sometimes have to be made.

The features that make an earth road maintainable, as has been said before, must be built into the road during its construction. Efficient maintenance can be accomplished only by preventing damage instead of repairing damage. It consists, for example, in keeping ditches and culverts cleared of refuse so that road flooding will not occur, rather than in repairing the effects of the flood after the damage has been done. Maintenance work in general is not so much a matter of knowing what to do and how to do it, but rather to keep on, continually, doing what we know ought to be done. A successful maintenance operator should have a keen interest in his work, and it is a difficult matter to get part-time employees to take an interest in anything other than drawing their wages. Adequate and systematic maintenance is necessary to keep

miles of even earth-surfaced roads in condition, and this constant and systematic work can only be done by men who give their whole time to road patrolling and maintenance. There is a tendency amongst some to look down on the building of earth roads as something almost, if not quite, beneath notice. Yet in my opinion there is no more difficult problem—I quote Mr. H. R. MacKenzie, the chief engineer of the Highways Department of Saskatchewan, as my authority—confronting highway engineers than that of properly constructing and maintaining an earth road. The work may be, and most frequently is, less spectacular than the construction and maintenance of hard-surfaced roads, but there is a greater latitude in location, method of construction, and choice of materials, consequently there is more scope for the exercise of sound judgment on the part of the engineer.

Tarred Surface.

One of the best things to do to an old gravel or water-bound macadam road is to tar it, and this work can be easily and quickly done—when one knows how. There is some impression about that it does not matter how it is carried out, as it is certain to be successful. That is by no means the case. One has only to travel a few score miles over roads thus treated to realise what a wide variation there is in the effects obtained. The best advice given is that where an old gravel or macadam road is used as a foundation for a new tar-treated surface, the surface of the old road must first be brought into a smooth and even condition, with a proper camber. This can be done by scarifying and re-rolling, or by patching all holes and filling up all hollows with water-bound macadam. Generally speaking, if the road is in bad condition, the quickest and cheapest thing to do is to scarify it and then run a roller over it. The worst of that is that it tends to weaken the foundations of the road.

After this is done and the road is in a dry condition, it should be swept clean and a thin dressing of hot boiled tar should be applied, over which a coating of stone chip-pings or coarse gravel should be strewn. Sand is next to no good for this work, and rounded, water-worn gravel has such a tendency to rock and roll as to make the task of forming a good hard surface both slow and difficult.

Important Contracts.

I have just heard that Ruston and Hornsby, Ltd., of Lincoln, have received an order for a giant electrically-operated power shovel which, it is said, will be the largest excavator in the world for its particular sphere of utility. The machine will weigh, approximately, 380 tons and will carry a $7\frac{1}{2}$ cubic yards bucket and will have a jib 90 feet in length. The ordinary working capacity of this machine will be 200 tons of clay per hour, although it would be possible, were occasion to arise, to speed this up considerably.

I am informed by the Cement Marketing Co., Ltd., of Portland House, Tothill Street, Westminster, that they have received an order for 6,000 tons of "Ferrocete" for the construction of a hangar at Seville. This is to house two giant airships which are to operate an air service between Spain and the Argentine. It is significant to note that this cement was tested in competition with various continental brands and was selected entirely on account of its quality and its rapid hardening characteristics.

Babcock and Wilcox.

Among engineering firms which are finding considerable scope for business in the Near East and India mention may be made of Babcock and Wilcox, Ltd. This firm are supplying to the Constantinople Tramways four Cross

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Regular Passenger and Freight Service from

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To **BEIRA, DELAGOA BAY, DURBAN, EAST LONDON**
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RANGOON—J. & F. Graham & Co.
CALCUTTA—Andrew Weir & Co.
COLOMBO—Skrine & Co.
BEIRA—Beira Shipping Agency.
DELAGOA BAY—John T. Rennie & Sons.
DURBAN—Andrew Weir & Co.
EAST LONDON—Messrs. Dunn & Co.
PT. ELIZABETH—Mackie, Dunn & Co.

MOSSEL BAY—Messrs. E. Searle & Co.
CAPE TOWN—Thomson, Watson & Co.
HONG KONG—The Bank Line, Ltd.
BANGKOK—Siam Forest Co., Ltd.
SINGAPORE—Hattenbach Bros & Co.
MAURITIUS—Adam & Co.

LONDON—ANDREW WEIR & CO., 21, Bury Street, E.C.3

type marine water tube boilers, each capable of evaporating some 50,000 lb. of water per hour. The boilers are complete with superheaters, chain grate stokers, and economisers, and the furnaces are equipped for the burning of oil fuel. For the Egyptian Government—for the Belgas Power Station—Babcock and Wilcox have under construction three C.T.M. water tube steam boilers, each capable of evaporating approximately 40,000 lb. of water per hour, the boilers being complete with superheaters, economisers, steel chimneys, and furnaces arranged for the burning of oil fuel. In addition, coal handling plant is being supplied.

Then for the Malta Government Electricity Works, a plant is in hand for evaporating 25,000 lb. of water per hour. In this case also chain grate stokers, economisers, pipework, and other accessories are included. Other contracts in progress of execution or recently supplied by Babcock and Wilcox include two boilers complete with stokers, soot blowers, and other accessory equipment, for the Government of India Railway Board for Talchar Colliery; three complete steam-raising units for the Western India Match Co., Ltd.; two units for the Motilal Hirabhai Spinning, Weaving Manufacturing Co., Ltd.; and two similar boilers for the Vikram Mills Co., Ltd. Numerous other plants could be referred to, but sufficient have been indicated to show the wide area over which the famous Babcock boiler is being installed in the Near East and India.

NEAR EAST MARKET REPORTS.

The December issue of the Monthly Review of Barclays' Bank, Ltd., contains the following reports:—

Egypt.

The markets for both spot and futures cotton have remained steady during the month, and although premiums have continued to sag under pressure of sales, the general tone has been one of strength. The publication, on November 8, of the American Bureau Report showing an increase of only 140,000 bales over the previous estimate led to a strengthening of the markets, as a considerably higher figure had been generally expected. The crop estimates for Egypt have crystallised around 7,500,000 kantars, of which 2,500,000 kantars is Sakellaridis. The latter figure is regarded generally as too high, but some authorities maintain that it will ultimately be found to be too low, owing to the amount of other growths mixed with it in the interior, in spite of the law against mixing. The chief demand has been for Ashmouni cotton, and as there is a record yield of this growth, all demands have been easily satisfied and premiums have shrunk considerably. Record prices have been paid for Extra Sakellaridis grown by the State Domains. This cotton is eagerly sought after by spinners of very fine counts, as it is practically the only cotton that can be relied upon to be uniform in staple throughout. The spot movement has been large, the daily sales averaging 6,500 bales for the month, but arrivals have been so heavy that the railways have been unable to cope with them and a certain amount of congestion has resulted. The grower continues to market his produce rapidly, and at least two-thirds of the crop is already in sight.

Cotton seed has been quietly steady, with a slightly weakening tendency, owing to heavy arrivals and lack of serious demand, except for local consumption. The cotton goods market has been active and prices have improved by about 3 per cent. The steadiness of the cotton market has stimulated demand from the interior and although

stocks are now reduced, arrivals are small. Manchester goods have also been in better request and stocks are decreasing, but prices have not changed. Under the influence of the New York and Java markets, sugar quotations have weakened. Nevertheless, the spot market has been active and the demand for local consumption and for export has absorbed all fresh arrivals. Importers consider that actual prices are low and business has been done in June/July, 1929, shipments of Java sugar. The spot market for flour has been steady owing to reduced stocks, the demand for local consumption and for export having been very satisfactory. Prices for forward deliveries, however, have been irregular and have shown a weak tendency. Large quantities appear to be afloat. Under the influence of the producing markets, all varieties of imported rice have been in good demand and quotations have advanced, while there is a tendency towards further improvement. Egyptian rice has been in fair demand, but holders are not pressed to sell.

The export demand for cabots has been satisfactory and sellers have only been inclined to dispose of their goods at advancing prices. Stocks are reduced and quotations show an upward tendency. No business of importance has been done in gunnies, demand having been quiet and prices irregular. The existing stocks are considered to be quite sufficient for requirements. The cereals market has been steady, with a normal demand, prices, if anything, being slightly higher than a month ago. Stocks are decreasing, except in beans. Business in stocks and shares has been active, and quotations generally have been higher than in the previous month.

The Sudan.

There has been little change in the situation during the period under review, markets being quiet but not depressed. Stocks of the old gum crop have all been exported and the new crop, which appears to be of good quality, is expected to be normal in size, rains having been satisfactory in the gum-producing areas. Contracts for new crop shipments in December/January have taken place at 40s. per cwt. c.i.f. United Kingdom for natural and 42s. for cleaned. It is estimated that the sesame crop will be approximately the same as last year, but the forecast of the groundnut crop at 5,000 tons shows an increase over a year ago. Contracts for groundnuts have been made at £15 15s. per ton c.i.f. United Kingdom. It is anticipated that the dura crop will be below average and, in that event, although there will be ample for the country's requirements and it will not be necessary to import, there will be no possibility of export being permitted.

Palestine.

Retail sales generally have been slightly better than in the previous month, but, partly owing to the prolonged summer, business activity, compared with the corresponding period last year, has been relatively small. As a result of the more or less complete failure of the wheat crop, imports from North Africa are taking place and the arrivals are having a steadying effect on the local market. The Government has arranged to purchase 1,000 tons of best Morocco wheat for sowing, which will be distributed in those areas where little or no stocks exist. Prices of imported wheat have varied between £13 5s. to £14 5s. per ton, according to quality, but moderate supplies from America are expected at an early date at approximately £12 5s. per ton. The importation of foreign wheat is expected to continue until August, 1929, as, owing to the failure of the crops this year, local milling will be almost entirely dependent upon foreign wheat. Australian flour at £13 10s. per ton has been imported in larger quantities than usual and is being mixed with flour from hard wheat for baking purposes.

In the Colonial goods market, sugar, in sympathy with American markets, showed a distinctly downward tendency during the latter half of the period under review, and a decline of £2 per ton was recorded, but prices have since improved, Java sugar being quoted at £14 10s. per ton. The coffee market is stagnant and buying on retail account is reduced to an absolute minimum, but rice has been active, with prices showing an upward tendency. The cotton goods trade has been normal and business in woollen goods satisfactory, but dealings in silk goods have been quiet, although prices are unchanged.

THE P.G. MACRIS TRADING & INDUSTRIAL CO. Ltd.

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Company Meetings.

PENINSULAR AND ORIENTAL STEAM NAVIGATION.

Increased Dividend on Deferred Stock.

Trade Conditions and Outlook.

Lord Inchcape's Address.

Viscount Inchcape, Chairman of the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company, presided on December 12 at the company's eighty-eighth annual general meeting.

The report and accounts having been taken as read,

His Lordship said the company had at the moment no bills payable. The setting aside in good years of generous sums for depreciation had enabled them to face the bad times of the last few years without the passing of dividends or writing down capital, as so many great industrial concerns had had to do, with the result that the 324 steamers of which the P. and O. are absolute proprietors were worth to-day considerably more than their book value. The board had, therefore, considered it would not be imprudent if, during the present cycle of bad trade, they contented themselves with providing a more modest amount for depreciation, with advantage to the Deferred stockholders. As they, the stockholders, had seen from the report and accounts, the board proposed to give a final dividend for the past half-year of 7 per cent., tax free, making 12 per cent. for the year instead of 10 per cent. as was paid last year. This would involve an increase of £91,850 in the amount distributed, to which the stockholders would doubtless agree, unless they regarded it as rather reckless finance. (Laughter.) Last year's issue of a million of Deferred stock at the price of £200 per £100 stock had been fully taken up, and to-day the stock stood round about £275, giving the subscribers a bonus of some three-quarters of a million in capital value. Although the issue had created an additional million of Deferred stock, it had given them a million of free cash, which was more than enough to meet the cost of their new ship, "Viceroy of India."

£1 Deferred Units.

Recently it had been suggested that instead of the Stock Exchange quotation being per £100 of Deferred stock, it should be per £1 of stock. The board's acquiescence was sought merely as a matter of courtesy, and it was accorded, because, under the charter, a holder of a minimum of £10 or more of Deferred stock was entitled to have £1 of stock added to his holding. This new quotation should increase the number of the company's stockholders—not a disadvantage, because the more so-called capitalists there were in the country, the better for everybody.

The Insurance Fund.

He had mentioned last year that the amount then standing to the credit of the Insurance Fund, £3,280,000, would probably, when outstanding claims had been settled, be in the neighbourhood of three millions; at September 30 last the amount at credit was £3,073,278 10s. 4d., and the forecast of a year ago was likely to be fulfilled. The risks of their allied companies were now insured in the open market at, he believed, adequate premiums; but if premiums were raised it might become necessary to bring the risks back into the P. and O. Fund. He was unselfish enough to hope, however, that the underwriters' book would be on the right side, as theirs certainly had been.

Sinking Fund.

Continuing, his Lordship said that the setting aside of £103,132 7s. 2d. towards redemption of their Debenture stock of £7,000,000 would bring that fund, as at September 30 last, up to £1,360,000, and it was proposed to add to this an annual sum calculated at 5 per cent. compound interest over the period prior to redemption, which would bring the fund in 1940 to about £2,500,000. In 1940 they would, therefore, have to find £4,500,000 from their resources or issue fresh debentures, which, he added, they might be able to do at less than 5½ per cent., their present average rate of interest. The sinking fund, he pointed out, appeared on both sides of the accounts, and was entirely kept apart from their other resources, and was invested in Government securities.

Investments.

Their general investments stood in their books at to-day's market value, and their investments in allied companies at much less than their intrinsic worth, so that they might, as Lord Fisher once said, sleep peacefully in their beds.

The Work of the Fleet—Remarkable Figures.

The 324 vessels of the P. and O. Company and its allies had run throughout the year without serious mishap. They had traversed 17 million miles; made 30,000 port entries; carried 2,000,000 passengers. These figures spoke volumes for the skill and care of their captains, engineers, and officers, whose motto was "Safety First," but who managed, in ninety-nine cases out of a hundred, to make their ports in schedule time.

The Personal Touch.

Referring to the exceptional gales of the past few weeks, his Lordship said that he saw the "Narkunda" off on the afternoon of November 16 during a very high wind when, thanks to the care of their own and the dock officials, she got safely out of Tilbury Dock. Next afternoon, by wireless, the commander reported all was well, but that having been unable to land the Thames pilot at Dover, he had put him ashore down channel at Torbay. That night the Folkestone-Boulogne steamer had put her passengers ashore at 3 a.m.—nine hours late. A week later he was at Tilbury again to see the departure of the "Rawalpindi." At 5 p.m. the gale was so fierce that their superintendent, Captain Sweny, decided not to risk moving her until next morning. At 10 p.m. the superintendent telephoned to him that he had got the ship safely out of dock. Next afternoon Captain Redhead reported that he had put his Thames pilot on board the Nab Lightship, as it had been impossible to land him at Dover. In answer to a wireless message which he sent to the captain late on Saturday night, he got a reply saying, "All well despite high seas and a strong gale," and that he was making Ushant. That was the night when Channel steamers had been suspended or delayed for hours, and when there were numerous casualties to shipping. Both "Narkunda" and "Rawalpindi" reached Gibraltar on their due dates.

He went down to inspect the "Mooltan" the other day and, noticing the fiddles for the tables in the saloon, said to the chief steward: "I suppose you often have to put them on." His reply was: "I have been in the ship from the time she went into commission five years ago, and I have only had to put them on once, and that was in the Australian Bight."

Captain Brooks, of the "Ranchi," he continued, came in to see him the other day on his arrival from Bombay and said he had experienced a severe gale and high seas in the Mediterranean. He asked if he had shipped much water, and he said, "No, only some spray." He inquired if the vessel had pitched or rolled much, and the captain's reply was: "Oh, no; the 'Ranchi' is a very steady ship—she scarcely moved." He, the speaker, was not sure, however, that all the passengers may have been of the same opinion. He hoped they were.

He mentioned these incidents to show that great credit was due to the seamanship of their captains and officers, to the skill of their engineers, and to the efficiency of their ships. (Applause.)

Economy and Efficiency.

They were, he continued, doing all in their power to effect economies consistent with efficiency and the maintenance of passengers' comfort, and in this way they were being loyally and materially assisted by their shore staff, their captains, officers, engineers, and pursers.

"Viceroy of India."

Their new steamer, "Viceroy of India," 19,500 tons, was launched and christened on September 15 last by the Viceroy's wife, Her Excellency, Lady Irwin. The installation of the vessel's machinery and internal fittings was proceeding, and she was scheduled to leave London for Bombay on March 28.

Old Steamers.

During the year three of the older ships, "Devanha," "China," and "Assaye," had been sold to be broken up, realising considerably more than their book value.

Profit Sharing.

Employees' deposits under the profit-sharing scheme which the board inaugurated two years ago had now reached £864,000, bearing interest, so long as the company's dividend was not less than 10 per cent., at 7½ per cent. per annum. This amount was a testimony

FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

Country.	Method of Quoting.	Parity of Exchange.	Latest Quotations
Alexandria.....	Piastre to £	97½	97½
Amsterdam ...	Florins to £	12.107	12.07½
Athens	Drachmæ to £ ...	25.22½	375
Belgrade.....	Dinars to £	25.22½	276
Berlin	Marks to £	20.43	20.35½
Berne	France to £	25.22½	25.17½
Bombay	Sterling to Rupee	18d.	18 3/64—5/64
Brussels	Belga to £	35	34 88½
Bucharest	Lei to £	25.22½	805
Budapest	Peu to £	27.82	27.83½
Calcutta	Sterling to Rupee	18d.	18 3/64—5/64
Constantinople	Piastres to £	110	986
New York	Dollars to £	4.86 2-3	4.85 ½—3/16
Paris	Francs to £	25.22½	124.15
Prague	Kronen to £	24.02	163½
Rome	Lire to £	25.22½	92 11/16
Sofia	Leva to £	25.22½	670
Teheran	Krans to £	48	49
Vienna	Sch to £	34.58	34.44½
Warsaw	Zloty to £	25.22½	43 3/16—7/16

to the thrift of their men and, although it cost, after crediting interest on deposits, some £20,000 a year, he felt sure they, the stockholders, would not grudge the amount. (Applause.)

Insurance of Passengers' Baggage.

The premiums charged under the scheme which they had recently inaugurated for the all-risk insurance of passengers' baggage were very moderate and left only a small margin after payment of claims. The great majority of passengers insured their belongings, and in such cases damage was at once made good by the company, without question, but some passengers did not insure. Insurance would save such passengers much loss and trouble. Some short time ago, when he was in India, he had seen a letter in a newspaper which said that passengers landing at Bombay were constantly losing their baggage. He had thereupon instituted a system of weekly reports. Since the inauguration of these reports in 1925, 36,047 passengers had landed from the P. and O. steamers at Bombay, and the number of packages of baggage was 360,470. Of these only 32 were reported missing, 24 being traced and delivered to their owners. The remaining eight had been paid for. One package, a baby's cot, had been landed in error at Aden, and was eventually found and forwarded to the mother with fifty rupees for the baby, who had been deprived of her cot for a month. (Laughter.)

Passengers' Suggestions.

Suggestions which they sometimes got from passengers were always carefully and courteously answered. One suggestion, which, perhaps ungallantly, he had turned down, came recently from a lady who desired to join one of their steamers as a "beauty specialist." (Laughter.)

The Improved Malta Passenger Service.

In June of this year, in response to a proposal by the Governor of Malta, Sir John Du Caine, and Lord Strickland, head of the Ministry there, it had been arranged that the company's Bombay steamers should call at Malta, on the way to and from Marseilles, every fortnight. The deviation involved an increase of speed between Marseilles and Port Said and *vice versa*, and although the small sum paid by the Maltese Government barely covered the extra fuel consumption, the board had decided to meet the convenience of Great Britain's isolated naval base and colony. He was told the arrangement was greatly appreciated and a good many passengers had availed themselves of it. In making this arrangement they were moved by a sympathetic desire to re-establish the old P. and O. relations with Malta and to extend tourist traffic with the island in its new position under self-government.



The Postal Account

It is often supposed that to live a long way from the nearest branch of a bank, or to be constantly unable to go to the bank in person, is a handicap to the enjoyment of the full advantages which, it is admitted, a banking account offers. Perhaps it is assumed that to conduct an account by post involves 'more letter-writing', or is costly, or is not welcomed by the Bank. It is the aim of the Westminster Bank to dispel such misconceptions by a leaflet entitled *The Postal Account*, which explains the convenience of the method, and offers some clear suggestions.

*A copy will be gladly sent
on application to
the Secretary*

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Work of the Bombay Port Trust.

He had visited many ports in various parts of the world; but in none had he found arrangements excelling those of the Bombay Port Trust for the embarkation and disembarkation of mails, passengers, and luggage. The railway arrangements, too, left nothing to be desired, both inward and outward trains being brought alongside the steamers. As the steamers got larger the Bombay Trust constantly took measures to improve the depth of water, and they seldom experienced any difficulty in getting the ships alongside the Ballard Pier. The stockholders would, he felt sure, agree with him in expressing the board's thanks to the Port Trust and the Railway Administration of India for their care of the convenience of the public.

The Suez Canal.

He would, he said, like to add a word about the Suez Canal. The P. and O. group were the largest users, in point of tonnage, of that great waterway, their dues amounting to about £805,000 per annum. The canal was constantly being widened, deepened, and straightened to accommodate the ever-increasing size and draught of ships, the transit of which was all the time being shortened, and more pontoons for the free use of passengers landing and embarking at Port Said had lately been constructed; the pilot service was most efficient, accidents being rare. He could not speak too highly of the courtesy and help afforded by the canal officials in Egypt. Looking back, as he could do, to the time when the canal was opened—a matter of sixty years ago—the improvement which had been effected, and which continued, reflected the greatest credit on the engineers and staff of the company.

The Indian Coastal Shipping Bill.

An attack had recently been made on English shipping in the Indian Legislature, where a Bill had been introduced which proposed to prohibit the trading of ships on the coasts of India and Burma, unless such ships were owned by Indians. Such a measure would be an act of confiscation, foreign to the principles of nations, and a blow to Imperial trade. It would no doubt lead to similar expropriation of other British commercial enterprises of immense value to India, and thousands of millions of British capital would go by the board. It would be monstrous if the British community in India were to be debarred from trading there, and it would, he ventured to say, not be for the good of the millions of Indians to whom they gave employment. The European commercial community had never asked for preference for British interests. Indians were free to establish themselves in Great Britain, and an Indian steamship company, the directors of which were the instigators of the Bill for the exclusion of British ships from India, had, within the last few months, registered themselves as a company in this country.

Australian Commonwealth Line.

Thanks, his Lordship continued, to the wise decision of Mr. Bruce, the Prime Minister of Australia, the Commonwealth Line had been sold to their friends the White Star Line. The P. and O. made no offer for it, having, they considered, quite enough on their hands at present in the Australian trade. Mr. Hughes's venture as a shipowner had cost Australia something like twelve millions sterling. Australia would have done better if she had followed the example of Great Britain and got rid of her state-owned ships and ex-enemy ships at the end of the War. With all respect, he ventured to say that Government officials, with the taxpayer behind them to bear the inevitable losses, never made good traders, and probably no one now realised this more than Mr. Hughes. There he would leave it.

Australian Waterside Strike.

The trade and shipping of Australia had, during September and October, suffered serious loss through the refusal of the waterside workers to accept the terms of the order of the Court known as the Beeby award, which laid it down that the workers might be engaged for half a day in the morning, or at noon, a not unreasonable provision, as a vessel might finish her discharge or loading before noon and require no more labour. The Waterside Workers' Union first called a strike, and later ordered the men to resume work and accept the award, which the men then refused to do. Volunteer labour enrolled to meet the emergency suffered intimidation and assault at the hands of the strikers. A threatened general strike in support of the waterside workers failed, and, after six weeks, work was resumed, volunteers as well as union men being eligible for employment. Mr. Bruce and his Government had acted with determination, laying it down that the law must be obeyed and that the country would not tolerate mob rule.

An instance of the strike's damage to trade was afforded by the s.s. "Moldavia," which left London on October 18 with only 3,000 tons of cargo and 5,830 tons of unfilled space; it was, he said, a safe assumption that the waterside trouble had deprived the "Moldavia" of 3,000 tons of cargo, representing freight amounting to nearly £12,000, and the example could be multiplied.

Australian Mails not Interrupted.

One of the most serious aspects of the strike was the difficulty of maintaining the regular shipment and discharge of mails at the Australian ports. The board owed it to the devotion of their officers and crews, in the face of sullen hostility and the imminent threat of violent action by the strikers, that the mail contract service was, in every case, punctually performed. They, the stockholders,

would share the board's satisfaction at the terms of a letter from the Postmaster-General, which he would read to them:—

"General Post Office,
"London, E.C.1,
"December 6, 1928.

"The Secretary, Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Co.
"Sir,—I am directed by the Postmaster-General to ask that you will be so good as to convey to the directors of the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company his appreciation of the special services rendered by the company in discharging and loading the mails in Australian ports during the recent labour disputes, sometimes, he understands, at the personal risk of officers and crews. It was clearly owing to the company's initiative that the mail service was maintained without interruption.

"I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
"(Signed) A. R. KIDNER."

The Strike's Wider Issues.

The recent policy of the Australian Waterside Workers, his Lordship continued, was a revolt against law and order, an attempt to levy blackmail on the trade and industry of their fellow-citizens; to raise an unofficial tariff barrier against both imports and exports. It would, if continued, have damaged Australia's credit abroad and have raised the price of money needed for her development. Australia had immense undeveloped areas; and anything calculated to retard immigration could not be for her good. The cost of primary production, inflated by labour disputes and waterside stoppages, was bound to reflect adversely upon Australia as an exporting country. He referred to the matter as much in the interests of British shipping as in those of a young Dominion faced with difficulties, not from any outside hostile source, but from a section of her own people. It was fortunate for Australia that Mr. Bruce had been returned to power, determined to carry on under the time-honoured slogan "Advance Australia."

The Seamen's Union. The National Maritime Board.

After referring to the immense influence for good of Mr. Havelock Wilson, whose wise administration as President of the National Union of Seamen had avoided loss by the men of a single day's pay during many unrestful years, besides instituting for the men and their families varied measures of relief, Lord Inchcape spoke of the beneficial work of the National Maritime Board, set up in 1919, under which the men's delegates and the shipowners, at repeated conferences in London, Liverpool, and other British ports, had accomplished an entire avoidance of serious stoppages during many years, a result which spoke well for the harmony existing between shipowners and their men.

The Fall in Railway Traffic.

Continuing, the speaker said that, in contributing to the recent agreement under which, in view of the heavily falling traffic receipts, the railway companies' servants, from the highest to the lowest, had accepted an all-round $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. reduction of wages, Mr. J. H. Thomas has shown far-seeing statesmanship, facing stern economic facts and realising that he was doing his best for the men in obtaining their approval of this necessary measure of relief.

Prospects of a Trade Revival.

So far as we could see at the present time there was, his Lordship continued, still a surplus of tonnage in the world, and tramp owners were rightly holding their hands. Prices of ships were still far above the pre-War level, and from these causes the past year had shown a considerable decline in the output of new tonnage. Better conditions would prevail and, he believed, the trade of the country would revive, especially as the Government appeared determined to pursue a policy of economy in public expenditure and to ease the burdens on industry. He welcomed Mr. Baldwin's declaration that if his party were returned to power, as he sincerely hoped it would be, his policy would not be protectionist. Great Britain, for her general prosperity, needed a free interchange of goods with the whole world.

Nationalisation of Industry.—Its Dangers.

From a resolution moved recently in the House of Commons, "that legislative effort should be directed to the gradual supersession of the capitalist system," in favour of which the whole Labour Party present voted, they might know what to expect if the Labour Party came into power. In his observation of the complex industry, trade, and transport of these islands, he was led to wonder what would happen to the people and the country if our industries were nationalised. Under our constitution and our King anyone, "from duke's son to cook's son," could rise to any position. He felt sure that no revolution, such as recently took place in Russia, could ever occur here. We should continue throughout the Empire, and for all time, to sing "God Save the King."

The Late Mr. Allan Hughes.

The stockholders, he continued, would have observed a reference in the directors' report to the death of Mr. Allan Hughes, late Chairman of the New Zealand and Federal Companies. An elaborate agreement for the acquisition of those companies by the P. and O. was drawn up, sanctioned by the Board, and duly signed, but his prediction to Mr. Hughes that the document would be pigeon-holed, and that neither of them would see it again, had been fulfilled. The board and Mr. Hughes had worked hand-in-glove from the moment the combine was made. A more able, loyal, upright, or congenial colleague to work with he had never met.

Mr. C. J. Cowan.

In Mr. C. J. Cowan, who, with the approval of the P. and O. board, had succeeded to the chairmanship of the New Zealand and Federal Companies, Mr. Hughes had had a coadjutor who was a most capable business man; and, knowing him as he had done for many years, he, the speaker, felt confident that the relations which had existed between Mr. Hughes and the P. and O. board would continue, and that the New Zealand and Federal Companies would be safe in Mr. Cowan's hands.

The Staff.

It was, he said, again his pleasing duty to express the board's appreciation of the loyalty and devotion of the company's staff afloat and ashore, and of its agents all the world over. A more agreeable crowd to work with it would be impossible to imagine. Commanders, officers, engineers, doctors, and pursers were, all the time, in good weather or bad, out to look after the comfort of passengers. They kept their ships in all respects seaworthy, clean and tidy, above and below, like yachts. He was sure the stockholders would join him in expressing grateful thanks to them all. (Applause.)

The Chairman concluded by moving the adoption of the report and statement of accounts, which was seconded by the Hon. Alexander Shaw (deputy-chairman) and was carried unanimously.

The payment of dividends as recommended was unanimously approved; the auditors were reappointed, and the proceedings terminated with a vote of thanks to the chairman, directors, and staff.

STEAUA ROMANA (BRITISH).

Progress of the Roumanian Company.

Sir Albert Stern's Speech.

The annual general meeting of Steaua Romana (British), Ltd., was held on December 17 at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, E.C. Sir Albert G. Stern, K.B.E., C.M.G., who presided, said:—Gentlemen,—I regret to say that your chairman, Lord Greenway, is unable to be present to-day, and he has therefore asked me to take the chair. I will ask the secretary to read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors.

The Secretary (Mr. W. G. Sole) read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said:—At our meeting last year I referred to the causes of the low earning power of the Steaua Romana Company. Some of these causes still remain with us, the most serious being the low world selling prices of oil products prevailing during the year under review which prevented the Roumanian company from paying a dividend for the year 1927.

The production of the Steaua Romana Company from July 1, 1927, to June 30, 1928, was 578,964 tons, as compared with 483,580 tons in the previous year, an increase of nearly 20 per cent. For the five months ended November 30 last, the production was 300,273 tons, as compared with 243,989 tons during the corresponding five months of last year, an increase of 23 per cent. The total quantity of products exported during the year ended June 30, 1928, was 458,327 tons, an increase of 122,849 tons, or 36 per cent., on the previous year.

The Steaua Romana is to-day drilling at the rate of 4,000 to 5,000 metres per month, and producing between 60,000 and 70,000 tons of crude oil per month, as against the corresponding average figures of approximately 2,900 metres and 45,000 tons per month for 1927, at a considerably reduced cost per metre drilled and ton of production raised. Our experts are of opinion that this rate of progress will be continued during the year 1929 until such time as the Steaua Romana's production has been raised to 80,000 to 90,000 tons per month—i.e., the present crude oil capacity of the refineries.

With the more intensive exploitation of its existing fields, the Steaua Romana has, in continuation of its sound policy of adding to its reserves of oil-producing territory, commenced exploration wells in three hitherto undeveloped areas. The steady progress that has been made since we and our Franco-Roumanian partners acquired an interest in the Steaua Romana will be appreciated when I point out that in 1921 the average monthly production was 18,786 tons, whilst this year the average is 53,596 tons, and for the last two months the average has been 64,000 tons. Incidentally, the Steaua Romana has the largest monthly production of any oil company in Roumania.

Production of oil in Roumania for the first ten months of this year was 3,466,470, as compared with 3,034,903 tons for the corresponding period of last year, and by the end of this month the 4,000,000 tons mark will have been passed. The total tonnage of petroleum products exported from Roumania during the same period was 1,933,247 tons, as compared with 1,576,001 tons.

As you all know, the success of your company is intimately bound up with the prosperity of Roumania. For the past 18 months the rate of exchange has been steady, and we confidently look forward to the flotation of a stabilisation and railway loan, negotiations for which have been proceeding for some time past. The economic development of Roumania has undoubtedly been delayed of recent years by lack of capital, but the successful flotation of the stabilisation loan should herald a new era of prosperity.

Reference to our accounts will show that on June 30, 1928, we held 241,758 shares in the Steaua Romana Company, costing

£1,124,850 10s. 2d. From this holding, for the reasons to which I have already referred, we have received no dividend for the past year.

Our trading profits for the year have again been increased from £26,147 10s. 10d. last year to £31,929 12s. 3d., equal to over 22 per cent. increase. The profit for the year, before making provision for taxation, is £95,801 11s. 5d. After deducting the approximate liability for income-tax there remains a balance of £74,831 11s. 5d., which, added to the balance of £22,180 12s. 1d. brought forward from last year, and an item of deferred interest amounting to £424 12s. 3d., makes a total of £97,436 15s. 9d.

Subject to your approval, we again propose paying a dividend on the Ordinary shares at the rate of 4 per cent. per annum, less tax, amounting to £64,000, placing to income-tax reserve the sum of £8,436, and carrying forward a balance of £24,980 15s. 9d.

The fact that, in spite of receiving no dividend from our investment in the Roumanian Company, we are in a position to be able to pay a dividend of 4 per cent. affords a remarkable proof of the company's inherent strength. With the largely increasing production and the lower production costs to which I have referred, it is anticipated that it will not be long before the Roumanian Company will be in a position to resume the payment of dividends, and if present anticipations of a favourable movement in the world's prices are realised, the outlook will be still more favourable. Summed up, the prospects are that, even without dividends from the Roumanian Company, we shall be able to maintain our present dividend of 4 per cent. per annum, and that, with a resumption of payment of dividends by the Roumanian Company, we shall be able materially to increase our own dividend. This position is, I think, gentlemen, one on which we have every reason to congratulate ourselves.

ANGLO-BELGIAN COMPANY OF EGYPT.

The twenty-third ordinary general meeting of the Anglo-Belgian Company of Egypt, Ltd., was held on December 18.

The Chairman, Mr. Francis Fitzgerald, C.B.E., who presided, said that the year's operations resulted in a profit of £2,537 11s. 10d., which, together with the balance brought forward from last year of £3,741 14s. 10d., gave a total of £6,279 6s. 8d. This profit the directors proposed should be utilised for the payment of a small dividend on the shares of the company, and recommended the payment of 1s. per share, less income tax, absorbing £3,456 18s., leaving £2,822 8s. 8d. to be carried forward to the credit of the profit and loss account. The Chairman referred to the manner in which the payment of the dividend had been distributed over the coupons attached to the share warrants to bearer, and added that the quotation of the company's shares on the Official List of the Brussels Bourse, "ex coupon 6," in spite of the protests of the company, was causing uncertainty amongst purchasers of shares on the basis of that quotation and had led the Board to take legal advice both in England and in Belgium as to the best course to be followed for the purpose of regularising the situation with due regard to acquired legal rights. The decision of the Board was in conformity with the best legal opinion in law and practice in England and in Belgium regarding coupons.

Proceeding to deal with the holdings of the company, the Chairman regretted that the results of 1927 were again unsatisfactory owing to the unfavourable results of the Fayoum Light Railway Company. The increased road competition, affecting both passenger and goods traffic, was a principal factor in the reduced accounts. The absence of proper regulations made it possible for every car to be used as a public conveyance; very low fares could be charged because the car was generally filled to its capacity. In spite of representations to the Egyptian Government on the subject, nothing had yet been done to remedy a state of things that was unfair and unjust to railway companies operating in the Egyptian Provinces, who were obliged, under the terms of their concessions, to maintain services under strict regulations and onerous conditions. It would be learnt with satisfaction that His Excellency Sidky Pasha had accepted a seat on the Board of the Railway Company.

Sales had taken place during the year of various plots of land at profitable prices, but the company's most valuable property, the ex-French Institute, remained unsold, offers received being unacceptable. With regard to this property, the policy of the Board had been frankly and clearly stated at a meeting held in February last year between directors of the company and Egyptian shareholders and had received their approval.

The Chairman referred to the political situation existing in Egypt and its effect on the financial and commercial situation, and stated that without the confidence that proceeded from the security of the Government the free and active employment of capital and the development of resources must necessarily be hindered. In his opinion, to the political situation must be attributed the hesitation of purchasers to come forward to acquire a property unique in its character as regards area and situation and of special adaptability for important usage.

The resolution for the adoption of the accounts and the balance-sheet was carried unanimously and MM. F. Casimir-Lambert and Henri J. Naus Bey, C.B.E., were re-elected directors of the company.

The Greek Government is reported to have abandoned the proposed examination of the existence of oil deposits in Epirus.

CYPRUS TRADE PROGRESS.

The report on Cyprus trade in October states that this has proved so far the best month of the year. Substantial increases in the value of both imports and exports are recorded. The quinquennial averages were exceeded by £32,700 and £29,650 respectively. Shipping remained constant.

The value of the imports was £182,669, and it is noteworthy that there was a general increase, cotton and woolen goods, showing the greatest individual rise. In the exports, amounting to £162,917, the values of asbestos, pyrites, and grapes were more than double the quinquennial averages; carobs and general fruit also showed improvement, and barley shipments have begun.

Compared with the ten months ended on October 31, 1927, there is, in the corresponding period of 1928, an increase of nearly £200,000 in imports. On the other hand, a decrease of £50,000 in exports is not disquieting having regard to the holding up of grain shipments and to the excellence of the 1927 harvest.

CYPRUS CROPS.

The report on Cyprus crops for November states:—

Wheat.—Rain has fallen and sowing is now in full progress. There is a very good demand for wheat for seed purposes, and the stock of good quality seed is hardly sufficient to meet it. There is a slight rise in the price of seed wheat—9s. to 10s per bushel. Imports of flour from Australia keep the local price of wheat low.

Barley.—Most of the fields are sown and have benefited from the first rains. The price is still firm at 3s. 4d. per bushel. Offers are poor but there is a good demand.

Potatoes.—The new crop has just appeared on the market, and the prospects are very promising. Shipments to Egypt and Greece have already started. The prices range from £6 15s. to £7 5s. per ton.

Carobs.—The harvest is stored, and no exports have so far been recorded. The price is quoted at 26s. per Aleppo kantar (4½ cwt.).

Cotton.—The final results of picking are not so satisfactory as last year's crop. Prices are 8d. to 9d. per ok.

Oranges.—The new season crop is now available. There are no quotations for export.

Onions are £6 per ton firm, with a good demand and a good supply; 175 tons were exported between October 16 and November 10.

Pomegranates.—There is a good demand for the Egyptian market and the price offered is £6 10s. per ton.

The Yugoslav State Railways are to invite tenders for the supply of 500 passenger cars and 1,500 trucks, as also for 500 locomotives.

The Roumanian Government has suspended a number of export duties, including those on live stock and on timber.

The Rohilkund and Kumaon Railway Company recommends a final dividend for the year ended September 30, 1928, of 6 per cent., together with a bonus of 5 per cent. on the Ordinary stock, making 18 per cent. per annum. The dividend and bonus will be paid, less tax at 2s. 3d. in the £, on January 18.

A general meeting of holders of the Turkish Unified Debt was held at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, E.C.2, yesterday, to receive a report with regard to the arrangement of the External Debt ratified by the Turkish Grand National Assembly on December 1.

The commercial treaty between Yugoslavia and Italy which was concluded some time ago and has just been submitted to the Italian Parliament, will, it is hoped, come into force early next year. It is based on most-favoured-nation treatment and provides for decontrol of trade and navigation between the two countries, no embargoes on exports, imports, or transit trade being permissible.

Roumania's Customs receipts for the first ten months of the current fiscal year amounted to 5,964,000,000 lei, as compared with 7,933,000,000 lei for the same period of the previous year. Of the above total, 616,000,000 lei represent receipts in respect of exports and 5,258,000,000 lei in imports. The receipts for exports for the first ten months of the current year are 1,400,000,000 lei less than in the same period of the previous year.

The preparation of the advance catalogue of the London Section of the British Industries Fair has been completed at the Department of Overseas Trade. Ten thousand copies will be ready for dispatch, to overseas buyers, on New Year's Day, seven weeks before the opening of the Fair. The catalogue contains particulars of the exhibits of 1,250 firms, with classified index of goods in nine languages, and is believed to be the largest produced in connexion with any trade fair so far in advance of the opening.

Cotton and Cotton Goods.

THE LIVERPOOL COTTON MARKET.

Messrs. Reynolds and Gibson report as follows for the week ended December 12:—

Egyptian Futures.

Sakel Contract.—Some active trading has taken place in this market during the past week; in the earlier stages values were inclined to ease, the general tendency being for the speculative long interest to reduce their holding prior to Saturday's report. Later dealings, however, revealed a consistent demand for contracts, one local house in particular taking a lot of cotton out of the market, presumably covering a large spot transaction. The net result was that on the reopening of our market on Saturday afternoon values were practically unchanged from the level ruling at the time of our last circular. The sharp break in the American departments just after the publication of the Bureau report and on Monday was more than reflected in this contract; heavy liquidation from Continental sources began to come in, and stop-loss orders were uncovered, so that in spite of further support from spot sources prices quickly reacted about $\frac{3}{4}$ d. per lb. At this point Alexandria commenced to show signs of recovery, and since a strong "bullish" movement has been in progress at the other side. Ginning figures to the end of November are returned as 1,341,208 kantars; apparently this is construed by the majority as an indication that the yield is going to fall short of earlier estimates. We hardly agree with this view; even presuming the crop only reaches the Government figure, it appears probable that supplies of fine cottons from Egypt and the Sudan will later on prove ample to meet all requirements.

Business in the fine section of the trade continues to be unsatisfactory, and spinners, with prices at their present level, have to contend with quite unworkable margins. There is no doubt that Sakels, as far as the home consumer is concerned, have been forced beyond their economic value, and the result of this will be evident in a marked falling off in the consumption during the next few months. In the meantime, more and more Egyptian mills are turning over to Uppers and outside varieties; the minority, still persisting with their customary qualities, are keeping their commitments as close as possible and are anxiously awaiting the marketing of the coming Sudan crop.

Strong interests appear to be behind the market in Alexandria, and prices may easily be manipulated to still higher levels in the immediate future. The absence of trade backing, however, has been disregarded for some little time now, and unless there is a revival of activity in this quarter, and we must admit we cannot foresee this eventuating for reasons stated previously, we consider that conservative operations on the "short side" on any further appreciation are to be recommended.

Upper Contract.—Whilst fairly wide fluctuations have been experienced in this market during the week, trading throughout has been of a light character. Price movements have approximated fairly closely to the ruling American values, and practically no change in the straddle differences is to be noted. Spinners' activities have been rather curtailed owing to the unsettled market conditions. In comparison to other cottons this contract appears fair value and purchases on easy markets should later on be realisable at a moderate profit.

Egyptian Spot.

This week has been chiefly remarkable for the advent of another U.S. Bureau report, which produced a temporary shock for all markets. Except for a short period immediately following the report business has continued much as usual. The market was very steady just before it was published, and a certain amount of trade support was noticeable on the decline. On the strong tone which has since developed, both here and in America, spinners are showing some inclination to acquire more cotton. The Sakel offtake has shown no improvement, so far as spot cotton is concerned, and a very large proportion of the daily inquiry has again been for cotton at from "200 off" and below.

Owing to the strong competition which is now being experienced from staple American cotton, Tanguis, etc., the demand for Uppers has been somewhat quieter recently, and stocks have been steadily mounting up, but a fairly steady trade has continued in the "25 off to 25 on" quality, and there has been for once an improved inquiry for the top grades. The demand for Pilon cotton has been maintained, but here again is to be found the general tendency of the trade to-day. We refer to a partial neglect of the better qualities in favour of the lower, and of course cheaper, lines. Nahda cotton and the other "fancy" growths have been neglected this week.

In spite of discouraging reports from up-country, spinners' takings have recently been on a much improved scale. Last week's figures, for instance, were 11,104 bales Egyptian and 808 bales Sudan. It is obvious that the purchase of forward delivery cotton has been taking place on a larger scale than had been generally thought. Interest in Sudan Sakel has recently shown distinct signs of revival, and some useful lines have again been placed. On the other hand, Tokar Sakel has been very difficult to move. Estimated spot sales, 1,300 bales Egyptian and 1,250 bales Sudan. Quotation of Sakel show a net advance of 20 points on the week. Others unchanged. F.G.F. Sakel to-day, 19.50d. F.G.F. Upper to-day, 12.45d. F.G.F. Pilon to-day, 13.05d.

THE EGYPTIAN MARKET.

The Alexandria Commercial Company, in their report for the week ended December 6, state:—

Since our last report the futures market has been less active, with a decidedly weaker tendency. The week's summary of price movements is as follows:—Sakellaridis: January, 37.44 dollars, 0.99 dollars down; March, 37.87 dollars, 0.92 dollars down; May, 38.15 dollars, 1.05 dollars down; November, 38.18 dollars, 1.15 dollars down. Ashmouni: December, 22.65 dollars, 0.59 dollars down; February, 23.17 dollars, 0.58 dollars down; April, 23.57 dollars, 0.71 dollars down; June, 23.97 dollars; October, 24.45 dollars, 0.62 dollars down.

Sakel.—As we anticipated in our last report, the movement by which January was pushed up to about 39 dollars having no real commercial basis, could not be sustained, and, with the cessation of speculative purchases, prices began to fall away, the decline gathering momentum with the growing discouragement of the longs and the throwing over of their positions and culminating in the return of January to the neighbourhood of 37 dollars. During all these fluctuations spinners maintained a more or less indifferent attitude, and both last week and this the demand from this source has been very moderate. The latest reports from the consuming centres moreover do not encourage the expectation of much change in conditions until after the holidays.

The Government's estimate of the Sakel crop, published on the 3rd inst., was 2,340,000 kantars, and this does not look to be very far wrong, the majority of the commercial houses putting the figure at about 2,500,000 kantars. On the other hand, the Government estimate of the total crop is 7,195,000 kantars, against a production generally estimated at from $7\frac{1}{2}$ to $7\frac{3}{4}$ million kantars.

While spinners maintain their present attitude of not entering the market, we cannot look for any advance from present levels, and it is even probable that, with their continued abstention, the recent reaction may be carried somewhat further.

The Sakel/Uppers straddle (January/February) this week stands at 1,427 points, against 1,468 points last week and 765 points at this time last year.

OVERSEAS AGENTS FOR THE SALE OF "THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA."

EGYPT.

Alexandria: M. Nacamulli and Co., 12, Rue Sesostris.

Cairo: M. Avatis, 1, Faggala.

Express Book and Stationery Store, P.O. Box 1113.

Port Sudan: English Agency, P.O. Box 240.

SUDAN.

Port Sudan: The Egyptian Library, Post Office Box No. 44.

PALESTINE.

Haifa: Newspapers Agency Steimatzky, Jaffa Street.

Jerusalem: B. Y. and W. A. Said, 23-24, Jaffa Road.

Newspaper Agency Steimatzky, Jaffa Road.

SYRIA.

Beyrout: Sarrafian Bros.

Librairie Steimatzky, Avenue Francais.

IRAQ AND PERSIAN GULF.

Baghdad: The Book Shop, New Street.

Basrah: Jashanmal, Bridge Street, Ashar.

Bahrein: Kamalieh Bookshop.

BULGARIA.

Sofia: Librairie Francaise et Etrangere, 6, Bvd, Tsar Ostvoboditel.

CYPRUS.

Nicosia: Dick Soultanian, P.O. Box 6.

GREECE.

Athens: Messageries de Journaux et Publications Etrangers, 24, Rue du Stade.

ROUMANIA.

Bucharest: Mrs. L. Hamilton, 21, Strada Regala.

TURKEY.

Constantinople: The Anglo-American Book and Newsagency, 18, Rue des Petits Champs, Pera.

YUGOSLAVIA.

Belgrade: Librairie Française, 19 and 22, Rue Prince Michel.

ALBANIA.

Tirana: Librairie Lumo Skendo.

AMERICA.

New York: Brentano's, Fifth Avenue and 27th Street.

Boston (Mass): Smith and McCance, Ashburton Place.

Uppers.—The Uppers market has not yet shaken off the heaviness to which we alluded in last week's report; and prices have receded a further half-dollar or more for no particular reason. There has been some falling off in the arrivals from Upper Egypt, with a resulting decrease in hedge selling against spot cotton. Trade demand has weakened somewhat, but still remains much better than the demand for Sakel.

Falling a serious setback in American, a probability which does not seem at all likely, we consider Upper very cheap at its present level, and have little doubt that, sooner or later, we shall see an appreciable improvement in prices.

The Ashmouni/American straddle (December/January) this week stands at 231 points, against 255 points last week and 647 points at this time last year.

The week's receipts amount to 340,622 kantars, against exports 261,468 kantars; the stock in Alexandria stands at 3,306,470 kantars.

Spot.—During the past week there has been a marked falling away in the demand from abroad, with a corresponding diminution of activity at Minet el Bassal, and the turnover for the week is greatly reduced. Sales amount to about 23,400 bales, of which we estimate 7,900 bales Sakellaridis, 13,300 bales Ashmouni and Zagora, 1,500 bales Pilion, 500 bales Nahda, and 200 bales other varieties.

Sakellaridis: Only a moderate business has been done, in which all grades have shared. Extra cotton continues to bring very good premiums. Spot differences are generally unchanged.

Ashmouni and Zagora: The demand has fallen away still further, and only a moderate turnover has resulted, covering all grades. Spot differences are without change.

Pilion: Has met with a fairly good demand at last week's spot differences. All styles have been dealt in.

Other Varieties: Nahda continues in great favour with buyers, and a good business has been done. Spot differences are unchanged. A retail business has transpired in White. Spot differences have eased except for Fully Good, which maintains its parity. A small business has taken place in Maarad and Fouadi.

Up-country: The crop movement is falling off gradually, due both to the prices demanded by holders of cotton and to the shortage of warehousing facilities which is beginning to make itself felt in Alexandria owing to the heavy accumulation of stocks. On the 5th inst. the Government published the following *communiqué*: "The Minister of Agriculture informs growers that the law reducing the acreage to be planted under cotton to one-third of the total was enacted for three years, to expire in 1929, and that the Ministry has no intention of repealing this law, which will remain in force despite rumours circulated to the contrary." Nevertheless, since the new Ministry took office, it has been noted that the application of the law has been somewhat less rigid, and it is probable that much the same attitude will obtain next year.

The Eastern Telegraph Company, Ltd., announce the payment on January 15 next of a dividend at the rate of $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. per annum, less income tax, on the Preference stock of the company for the quarter ending December 31, 1928, and a dividend of $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. on the Ordinary stock, free of income tax, for the quarter ended September 30, 1928. The transfer books of the Ordinary stock will be closed from January 1 to 8, 1929, both days inclusive.

Stock and Share Markets.

LONDON EXCHANGE		Prices on Dec. 17	Railways.		Prices on Dec. 17	INDIAN EXCHANGES.		Prices on Nov. 28
Government Stocks.						Government Loans.		
Egyptian 4 p.c. Unified Debt ..	84½		Assam-Bengal ..	100 00	95½	3½ Government Paper ..	1500	72 11/16
Do. Pref. 3½ p.c. 1890 ..	74		Bengal Doonars ..	180½	180½	Banks ..		
Do. Turk 4 p.c. 1891 ..	90		Bengal Nagpur ..	5½	5½	Imperial Bank of India ..	97½	
Do. 3½ p.c. Eg. Trib. Bonds '94 ..	84		Egypt Delta Light Rly. ..	42½	42½	Bank of India ..	25	
Bulgaria 4½ p.c. Gold, 1907 ..	29		Nizams Gtd. ..	70	70	Central Bank of India ..		
Do. 7 p.c. ..	90		Ottoman (Smy t. Aid) ..	61	61	Coal.		
Greek 5 p.c., 1881 ..	74½		Do. 5 p.c. 1st Deb. ..	56½	56½	Baraboni ..	395	
Do. 5 p.c., 1884 ..	71½		Do. 6 p.c. 2nd Deb. ..	188½	188½	Bengal ..	101	
Do. 4 p.c. Rentes, 1889 ..	58		Pirous Athens and P. 1st Bds. ..	123½	123½	Burrakur ..	17½	
Do. 5 p. 1890 ..	71½		Southern Punjab ..			East Indian ..	18½	
Do. 5 p.c. Funding Loan, 1893 ..	74		South Indian ..			Equitable ..	15	
Do. 4 p.c. Rents, Loan, 1902 ..	63					Pench Valley ..	7	
Do. 4 p.c. Loan, 1910 ..	77		Rubber.			Raneegunge ..	73½	
Do. 5 p.c. Loan, 1914 (Lon. issue) ..	101½		Ceylon Para Rubber Ord. ..	7.6	7.6	Standard ..		
Do. 7 p.c., 1924 ..	92½		Doolalla (Ceylon) Rub. Est.	15.32	15.32	Cotton.		
Do. 6 p.c. St. Bds.	104½		Grand Cent. (Ceylon) Rubber... ..	10.9	10.9	Bengal Nagpur ..	28½	
Palestine 5 p.c.	89		Hewagum Rubber Co.	1.3	1.3	Bombay Dyeing, etc.	570	
Persia 5 p.c., 1911 ..	69½		Kepitigalla Rubber Estates ..	29.7	29.7	Bowrah ..	350	
Roumania 4 p.c. Ext ..	55½		Malayalam Rub. and Produce ..			Buckingham and Carnatic ..	120	
Do. 4½ p.c. Consolidation ..	108½		Shipping.			Cawnpore Textiles ..	407½	
Sudan 5½ p.c. Guar. Bds.	70½		Anchor 5½ p.c. Prf.	8½	8½	Century ..	492½	
Do. 3 p.c.	60½		Cunard ..	30.6	30.6	Central India ..	91	
Do. 5½ p.c.	103½		Furness Withy ..	38.6	38.6	Elgin ..	82½	
Do. 4½ p.c.	92½		Khedivial Mail Ord.	57.6	57.6	Muir ..	325	
Turkish 4 p.c. Unified ..	23		P. and O. Deferred ..			New Ring ..	289	
Banks.			Tea.			Phoenix ..	362½	
Agri. Bank of Egypt... ..	8		Assam Co.	23.16	23.16	Svadeshi ..	456½	
Bank of British West Africa ..	4½		Bengal United Tea Ord ..	21	21	Jute.		
Bank of Roumania ..	86.3		Bramapootra ..	37½	37½	Alliance ..	492½	
Barclays Dom. Col. Pf.	28.9		British Indian Tea Ord.	4½	4½	Barnagore ..	304	
Chartered Bank of India ..	21½		Cachar and Doonars Tea Ord.	213.16	213.16	Budge Budge ..	636	
Eastern ..	7		Carolina ..	34	34	Clive ..	41½	
Hambros ..	10½		Ceylon Tea Plantations Ord.	33.16 3d	33.16 3d	Dalhousie ..	563	
Ionian Bank ..	7½		Consolidated Estates ..	3	3	Delta ..	620	
Imperial Bank of Persia ..	11½		Darjeeling Co.	37.16	37.16	Fort Gloster ..	970	
Land Bank of Egypt Ord.	19½		Dimbula Valley (Ceylon) Ord.	31	31	Gourepore ..	513	
Lloyds ..	64½		Doonars Tea Ord.	14	14	Howrah ..	711	
Mercantile Bank of India A ..	34		Dooloogram Tea ..	44	44	Kamarhatti ..	593	
Do. B ..	34½		Doom Dooma ..	215.32	215.32	Kankannarah ..	110	
National Bank of Egypt ..	36½		East Assam ..	27.16	27.16	Khardah ..	1,050	
National Bank of India ..	52½		Empire of Ind.	51.6	51.6	Kinnison ..	36	
Ottoman Bank ..	14		Haleem Tea ..	5	5	National ..	515	
P. and O. Bank Corporation ..	9		Imperial Ind.	45.16	45.16	Standard ..	774	
Westminster ..	20.5/16		Jorehaut ..	44	44	Miscellaneous		
Land.			Lanka Plantations Ord.	24	24	British India Corporation ..	4	
Kassala Cotton ..	6.9		New Dimbula ..	13	13	Bengal Paper Mills ..	215.16	
Latifiyah (Iraq) Estates ..	4/6		Nuwara Eliya Tea Estates Ord.	511.16	511.16	Bengal Timber Trading ..	245	
Sudan Plantations ..	313/16		Nedem ..	3	3	Burn and Co. ..	46½	
Mines.			Ouvah ..	6½	6½	Cawnpore Sugar ..	20½	
Balaghat Gold Mining ..	6½		Pabbojan ..	61	61	Champaran Sugar ..	10	
Burma Corp.	15.44		Standard ..	2.932	2.932	Howrah Oil Mills ..	8½	
Champion Reef Gold... ..	9.9		Scottish Assam ..	34 3d	34 3d			
Mysore ..	15-		Scottish Tea and Lands ..	3	3			
Nandydroog... ..	17½		Upper Assam ..					
Ooregum Gold Mining Ord.	12.9		Insurance.					
Oil.			General Accident Fire and Life (25, 21½ paid) ..	14½	14½			
Anglo-Egyptian B ..	229.32		London & Lancs (25, 21 paid) ..	304	304			
Anglo-Persian Ord... ..	41		Royal Exchange (21) ..	6½	6½			
Do. 8 p.c. Cum. 1st Pf.	58		Sun Fire £10 (22 paid) ..	39½	39½			
Do. 9 p.c. Cum. 2nd Pf.	59.14		Trade Indemnity (£10) ..	15½	15½			
Do. 5 p.c. Debs.	58½		Miscellaneous.					
Do. 6½ p.c. Notes ..	101		Alexandria Water Co.	17½	17½			
Brit. Burmah ..	7.3		Associated Cotton Ginners ..	11.16	11.16			
Burmah Oil Co. Ord.	26.10		Dunlop Rubber ..	23.44	23.44			
Do. 8½ Cum. Pref.	10½		Egyptian Hotels ..	7	7			
Hamilton's Oil Concessions ..	14.9		Do. Markets Ord.	25-	25-			
Panama Oil and Transport (f.p.) ..	7.9		Do. Salt and Soda ..	35-	35-			
Do. (1/-) ..	527.32		Mortgage Co. of Egypt 5 p.c. Pref. ..	3.3.16	3.3.16			
Shell Transport ..	11-		Oriental Telephone ..	15.6	15.6			
Steaua Romana ..			Waring & Gillow ..					

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aCity of Simla	9,468	Jan. 24	Bombay & Karachi
City of London	8,956	Feb. 2	Bombay & Karachi
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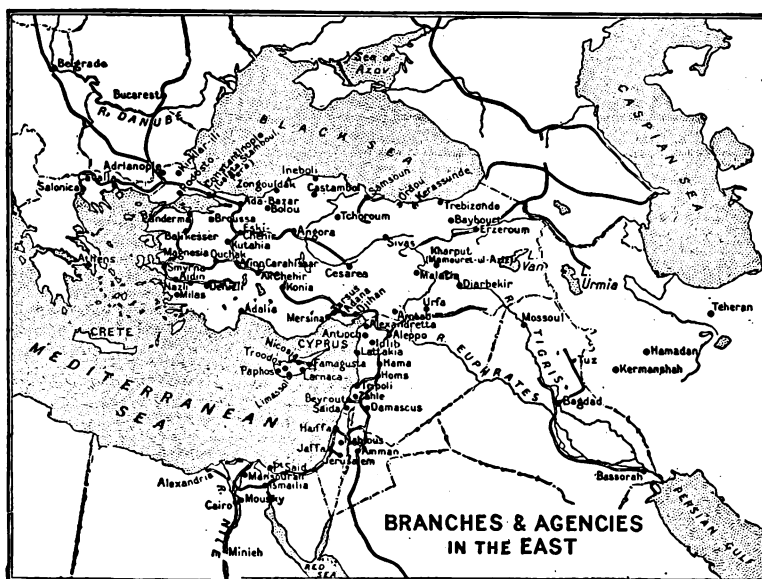
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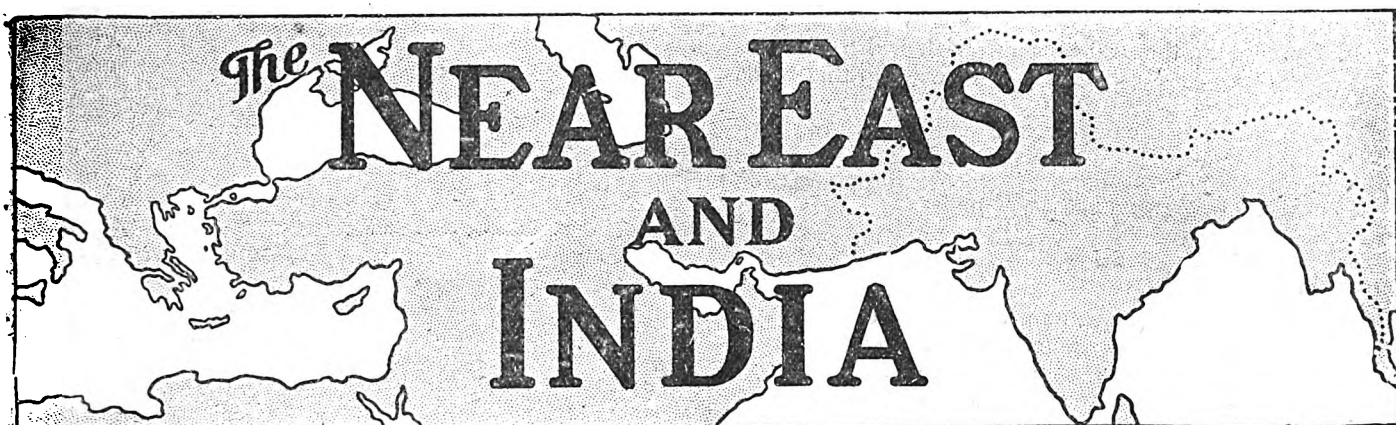
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No. 919.—VOL. XXXIV.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 27, 1928.

Editorial Offices: "THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA," 170, Strand, London, W.C.2.

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Notes of the Week.

Middle East Supplement.

With this issue of THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA is included a Supplement dealing with countries of the Middle East—Egypt, the Sudan, Palestine, Syria and Iraq. The Egyptian season is too familiar an institution to the travelling public to call for any special mention, and most people who are able to go as far as Egypt contrive to include Palestine in their itinerary. Within the compass of a few pages, therefore, there is no need to go over familiar ground, and in regard to these two countries the Supplement serves to call attention to the era of development on which the former is launched and to the steady progress which the latter, with its handicaps and more restricted opportunities, is making. Development in Egypt entails not only continued concentration on Nile irrigation works, as exemplified in the Nag Hammadi Barrage now under construction, but also town-planning schemes to enable the chief towns to keep pace with modern requirements. An article on agriculture shows that in the midst of all these material developments the groundwork of the country's prosperity remains unchanged. The Sudan, as well as Syria and Iraq, is apt to be regarded as off the beaten track. It is a mistake, however, to suppose that this second country of the Nile duplicates Egypt or has not attractions and interests of its own. There are many ways of reaching Iraq. Until 1922 only the adventurous thought of varying the long sea-route via Bombay, Karachi and Basrah. The Royal Air Force came first to the help of those determined to get there by quicker means; two years later the motor service across the desert proved that it was not such an adventure, after all, to go to Baghdad. In this issue we show how the journey can be accomplished, for all but two hundred miles, by train as comfortably as any other railway journey outside the favoured run to the Riviera. Arrived in Iraq, the traveller, as he or she may learn from another article "Between Desert and Sown," has abundant material for an extensive and absorbing programme. Last, and not least, there are the claims of Syria, which, behind the troubles of a mandated sphere, can boast of a country wonderfully varied in character and appeal, where again the contrast between the old and the new is strikingly illustrated.

The Yugoslav Crisis.

Although the Serbian Democrats, when in a Coalition Government with the Radical Party, make a practice of preaching revolt and as often abandon for a period their criticism of their colleagues in return for some concession in the way of an extra portfolio or further official posts for their followers, on the present occasion they are credited with the intention to push their opposition to extremes. Any other Prime Minister than Dr. Koroshetz, it would be imagined, would long ago have resigned or dismissed his Democrat colleagues from the Cabinet; but in this matter as in many others during his tenure of the Premiership he does not appear to have been a free agent. What is expected to prove the fateful decision of the Democrat Club is to be taken while these pages are being printed. The defection of the Davidovitch Democrats should materially help towards bringing the Yugoslav crisis to a head. Even if not much attention is paid to the speech made at the railway station on his departure from Zagreb by General Uzun-Mirkovitch, who declared his intention of forming a Party of Right, Freedom and Unity, it is evident that the prolonged stalemate in Yugoslav affairs is increasing dissatisfaction among Serbs themselves with the policy of the Radical Party. When once the Croats realize that the constitutional changes which they require must be secured by constitutional means, they will appreciate the necessity of keeping in touch with other political parties, so that in a new Parliament, in which they will be represented, a new Constitution can be voted which will give the various divisions of the country the autonomy under the Yugoslav Crown that seems essential in the interests of the Kingdom. In this connexion a perusal of the article in this issue which deals with provincial differences in Yugoslavia may be commended.

The Italian Visit to Angora.

The visit paid last week by Signor Grandi, Italian Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs, to the Turkish President is ostensibly only a mission of courtesy to return the visit paid last April by the Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs to Signor Mussolini in Milan. It would, however, be contrary to the practical spirit of Signor Mussolini's policy that such an opportunity should be wasted on

trivialities. Both the Italian and the Turkish Governments affect to regard the Treaty of Friendship that binds them as an instrument of great potentiality; but so far it has little more to its credit than the eulogistic words with which it was launched. The desire of Italy at the time to have a tripartite agreement in which Greece would be a partner came to nothing in view of the opposition of both Turkey and Greece. Since then, in spite of an exchange of friendly sentiments between the Greek and Turkish Prime Ministers, the relations between the two countries have experienced a set-back as a result of the protracted failure to arrive at an agreement over the exchange of populations. At the same time Turkey will have disappointed the Italian Government by the refusal, couched in rather unflattering terms, to recognize Italy's protégé, King Zogu of Albania. Signor Grandi, therefore, will have at least two delicate questions to raise at Angora, and the measure of his success with them will be an indication of the practical value of the Italo-Turkish Treaty. That the Turkish Government is not altogether happy under Italy's eye in regard to its relations with Greece is suggested by the sudden change of note in the references of the Turkish Press to Greece. The bickerings of the representatives of the two countries on the Mixed Commission for the settlement of the exchange-of-population question and the unrestricted venom of the Press on both sides have effectually prevented any solution of the problem from being found. It is to be hoped, however, that the mediation of the Italian Government in the person of Signor Grandi will lead to the desired end.

France and Syria.

The return of M. Henri Ponsot, High Commissioner for Syria, should put an early end to the suspense in which the people of the French mandated territory now stand in regard to their political future. The Constituent Assembly, it will be remembered, was prorogued until next February, in order that M. Ponsot might find in France a way out of the difficulty which has arisen from the Assembly's drawing up a Constitution which impinged upon France's rights and obligations as Mandatary. Presumably the High Commissioner will be returning to Beyrout with a new scheme for the political ordering of Syria. It is to be noted, incidentally, that the campaign for having a monarchy in Syria was continued in France even during the High Commissioner's visit; but that particular "solution" of the political difficulties would appear to be rather a forlorn hope. There is, however, no certainty of the future line of political development in Syria, if only because the people therein speak with no united voice. In France there is no longer a

disposition to treat Syria as a colony; it remains with the Syrian peoples, therefore, to consider among themselves whether their aims are not likely to be better realised by the attainment of reasonable unity rather than by the continual emphasising of racial or religious differences. What change, if any, has come over the minds of the members of the Constituent Assembly since it was suspended, it is impossible to say; but in the interests of peace and stability it is to be hoped that they have listened to the promptings of reason and have been persuaded of the sincerity of M. Henri Ponsot, whose task is one of the most difficult in the whole Middle East.

INDIAN NOTE.

The European Association.

At the annual meeting of the Calcutta Branch of the European Association, which was held last month, Mr. C. B. Chartres, the President, said that he anticipated the grant of a very large instalment of political autonomy as a result of the investigation which is being made by the Simon Commission. This seems to be the general opinion in India, and if it proves to be correct, then, as Mr. Chartres pointed out, the Europeans in the country will have to see where they stand. They will not count for much when it comes to voting, for in numbers they are few. But they represent great material interests, and they have done, and are doing, an immensely valuable work in the development of the commercial and industrial resources of India. How, being so placed, are they to hold their own in the changed political conditions which a large measure of provincial autonomy will establish? Mr. Chartres looks to more and more efficient organisation; they must, he said, stand together as a community in one organisation throughout the country. He also strongly urged them to support and to encourage those moderate Indians who, although they may now stand aside, nevertheless recognise the value of the British connexion. It is, he went on to say, one of the chief aims of the European Association to support and to help these men so that they may take their rightful place in the administration of the country when Swaraj is an accomplished fact. The attitude of the Europeans towards India's political problems has been often adversely criticised in the past. They have been said to be antagonistic to all Indian aspirations, and to concern themselves solely with their own selfish interests. This criticism never had any solid foundation in fact, and to-day it would be absurd. Far from refusing to recognise Indian aspirations the Association recognises full well, as Mr. Chartres said very plainly, that Great Britain is pledged to grant responsible government to India as an integral part of the British Empire. And not only does the Association accept this position, but it believes that this measure of self-government can be achieved without damage to India's economic development if the advance is not made too rapidly. And, furthermore, the Association looks upon it "as one of the primary duties of Britons resident in India to help such development along sound lines by every means in their power." This explicit declaration is, of course, in line with the Memorandum which the Association submitted to the Statutory Commission, and which we noticed in these columns some weeks ago. With the establishment of provincial autonomy the position of the Europeans in India will no doubt be different from what it has hitherto been. But we do not think that the community will fail to hold its own provided, of course, that legislation discriminating against European trade and industry is not undertaken. For it must be remembered that the British in India know far more about the practical working of democratic institutions than the Indians can possibly know. And if this knowledge is utilised aright, and if the Europeans alike in the mofussil and in the great centres, take their proper place in the political life of the country we do not think that they will be submerged.

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THE AFGHAN RISING.

The recent course of events in Afghanistan is inevitably involved in a certain amount of obscurity, but there can be little doubt that the rising has proved more formidable for the King and his Government than was at first appreciated either in Kabul or in foreign countries. The trouble originated with the Shinwaris, who occupy territory on the Indian frontier, and both Jalalabad and Dakka, at distances by road of about one hundred and one hundred and forty miles from Kabul, were threatened. The tribesmen do not seem to have had things their own way for long, and must have been sufficiently punished to make them consent to an armistice in order to meet the authorities in conference. Their grievances are alleged to have been entirely fiscal, arising from the imposition of new taxes and the more than usually efficient methods adopted for collecting them. It is not clear whether this conference had been satisfactorily concluded, or whether it was still in session when trouble broke out near Kabul. Here again the reports are vague. It seemed reasonable to suppose at first that the Shinwari outbreak, having been not altogether unconnected with popular hostility towards King Amanullah's hurried reforms, had acted as an incentive to malcontents in other parts of the country to raise the standard of revolt. A later version represents Kabul as having been momentarily terrorised by "a band of four hundred brigands," who were subsequently attacked and defeated, leaving the capital in a state of normal quiet. Unfortunately for this account, which has the authority of the Afghan Legation in London, there is the contradictory evidence that Kabul is still in precarious communication with the outside world. No direct connexion may exist between the Shinwari outbreak and the situation in Kabul; but it is at least probable that the former was used to further the opposition to King Amanullah's reforming activities by a more conscious agent than is predicated in the movement of raiding brigands. This, however, does not necessarily imply that the King is confronted with a situation with which it is beyond his powers to cope. He has already had to face several insurrections during a short reign, and if trouble had not broken out in Kabul, there would have been little inclination to make much of spasmodic insurrections. The isolation of the foreign Legations caused the Government of India to send an aeroplane to reconnoitre; the machine was fired at and forced to land, fortunately coming down in the Kabul aerodrome. When a second machine appeared the next day, it was warned from the Legation to fly high and not to land. A later message from Sir Francis Humphrys, British Minister in Kabul, was to

the effect that the situation was improving, and it may, indeed, be that those outside the country are regarding the situation more anxiously than those on the spot. The fact that the British Legation is two miles from the centre of the town may in itself be sufficient explanation of the scarcity of news during a period of raiding and street fighting.

Behind the anxiety that is felt abroad over the situation in Afghanistan lies the reputation of that country for turbulence and fanatical outbursts. King Amanullah's reform campaign has been followed with admiration for his courage and determination, but with some doubt as to the wisdom of his methods. It was admittedly a great temptation to emulate the thoroughness and rapidity of the Turkish reform movement; but reflexion might have shown the King that conditions in Afghanistan were very different from those in Turkey. In the first place, he must have realized that the position of Mustapha Kemal Pasha in the Turkish Republic, of which he was founder, was far less exposed to challenge than his own in Afghanistan. Further, in Turkey the President could count upon much wider and more efficient support in the administrative sphere than was available for King Amanullah; and, finally, the Ghazi had an army devoted to his person, which rendered opposition to his will a dangerous indulgence. The Turkish reforms, moreover, were carried through exclusively by Turkish agency. King Amanullah's policy was thrust upon his backward subjects red hot, as it were, from the glow of his Western tour, quite apart from his reliance on foreign instructors. Although he could quote for his reforms the precedent of acceptance by a Muslim State, he had forgotten that his Afghans would insist upon using their own judgment as to what was, or was not, in keeping with the tenets of Islam. He failed to reckon with the fanaticism which has always been a difficulty in Afghanistan, and on which his reforms may yet suffer shipwreck, even if he succeeds in weathering the present storm. It would have been better if the King could have concentrated first on material improvements, particularly in regard to communications, and then have built on these the social developments calculated to accelerate the progress of the country.

From the scanty information that reaches the outside world it is to be feared that King Amanullah has been led away by his own enthusiasm to minimize the opposition that his reforms are calculated to evoke among a conservative and fanatical people. If it be true that he has allowed the pay of the army to be in arrears while education has had the prior claim on the exiguous exchequer, he will have shown how completely he has misunderstood the secret of the success of Mustapha Kemal Pasha, who is a soldier first and a reformer afterwards. It will be unfortunate, if the present challenge to the King's authority should have the effect of retarding the march of progress in Afghanistan. A more gradual programme of reform will do no harm to the cause that the King has at heart; as it will be less liable to create complications with foreign countries. So far the reports suggest that, apart from attacks on caravans regardless of their nationality, the insurgents have recognized that their grievance is against the Afghan Government and not against foreigners. Any serious trouble in Kabul which brought the foreign Legations into grave peril or identified a Turkish military mission, if it should arrive there, with the Sovereign in antagonism to the Army might undo at one stroke all the good that King Amanullah sought to achieve by his tour abroad. It is hoped, therefore, that he will be able to rise superior to the present setback and continue his work of reform in a manner more suited to the mentality of his people.

THE PROVINCIAL PROBLEM IN YUGOSLAVIA.

By J. A. SELBY BIGGE.

The wanderer in a foreign country produces evidence of a different kind from that of the avowed investigator, who, after interviewing officials and collecting data, issues a statement of facts. Yet sometimes the wanderer by assimilating impressions of a general nature can lend perspective to the array of facts set up by the investigator.

As a mere wanderer, I jolted on my leisurely way through the provinces of Croatia, Dalmatia, Bosnia, Herzegovina and Montenegro in the late summer of this year. As our two-seater car usually carried from two to five wayfarers, I can at least claim to have been in close contact with the natives. Moreover, the hospitality of our passengers ensured a proper assimilation of the country, though it sometimes retarded our rate of progress to about 1-5 inns per hour.

The dominant impression of this visit was one of the dissimilarity of these provinces and of certain contrasting—I might say conflicting—characteristics in the provincials. An understanding of these points of difference is, I believe, essential to a proper appreciation both of the seriousness and of the complexity of the present situation in Yugoslavia. While the Serbs are determined to enforce the enjoyment of their conjugal rights, the Croats are filing a petition for divorce, and other members of the family are suffering from domestic infelicity. At the heart of the problem lies the old plea of incompatibility of temperament.

The Serbs are, undoubtedly, a fine and courageous race; furthermore, I feel that they are by nature a ruling race. Unfortunately their conception of ruling is based on the Balkan traditions of the last century—a system of jobbery supported by gendarmerie. In this article, however, I propose to deal only with the Serbs from the point of view of the provincials, leaving it to another to deal with the provincials from the point of view of the Serbs.

To generalise broadly, there was throughout all these provinces a strong feeling of discontent against the governing clique of Serbs, based on a mistrust of the centralised system that concentrates all the power in the hands of this clique, who exploit it for the benefit of themselves and their fellow-Serbs. In every province and even among some Serbs I heard the Beogradski spoken of with contempt.

In all these provinces, with the exception of Bosnia, I was struck by the ubiquity of the gendarmerie, mainly

composed, I believe, of Serbs. They seemed highly efficient and well organised, but I could not help feeling that their activity was often of a distinctly repressive character. I have a suspicion that the Serbs are particularly proud of their gendarmerie system, and consider this to be the normal means of administering—or controlling a province.

The Army was much in evidence, and I believe most of the troops in these districts are Serbian regiments. They impressed me at once as being remarkably efficient and well disciplined, while the string of garrison towns along the hinterland of the coast were humming with military activity. From many small incidents I gathered the impression that the troops were not merely a corps of defence, but represented to the provincials a demonstration of the power of the central Government. One wonders whether home politics also have been a factor in determining the immense military Budget of the country.

Turning now to the specific situation in the different provinces, I will outline a few of the salient features that impressed me.

In Bosnia I was surprised at the extent to which the Muslim Bosniaks had remained "Turkified," in character as well as in custom. As a result they are even now despised by their Christian neighbours for having changed their faith in the distant past. Certainly, after watching a colossal Muslim festival in Sarajevo, I felt that these people stood isolated. The Christian Bosniaks described themselves as Serbs: but as the name is used locally as a term of religious distinction, it was difficult to assess the true degree of affinity. Christian and Muslim, however, combined in decrying the neglect of their welfare by the Government. Certainly most of the villages, particularly those of the Muslims, seemed poor and squalid, although the surrounding land was comparatively rich and the population sparse. Many of the peasants informed me that that most of the good land was still in the hands of the Beys and big landowners, and that little or no land had been distributed under the Agrarian Reform. I myself saw an unmistakable old Bey driving about in his barouche to inspect his herds in true Turkish style. Also I remarked that many of the villagers had all the appearance of miserable tchafliks and the villagers of serfs without hope.

The Herzegovinians I should class with the Montenegrins rather than with their historical associates, the Bosniaks; indeed, I found the peasants anxious to assure me that they were just the same as the Tsernagortsi. None the less they are looked down on by the latter as having been a subject race, and are penalised by the Serbian Administration for having served in the Austrian army; at the same time they have no affinity with the Croats and little with the Dalmatians. The peasants were loud in their complaints against the Government, the gendarmerie and the troops. The Government, they affirmed, either refused to grant them land or else offered them "desirable plots" on the barren mountain-tops at highly undesirable prices. As regards the troops, two of my passengers nearly had a battle with a patrol, who had closed the road for the day. Finally they resorted to guile by pretending that I was a Frenchman, which at least pacified the Serbian sergeant-major.

The Montenegrins are certainly the poorest, probably the proudest and, for some mysterious reason, perhaps the happiest of peoples. Their country is little better than a stone-heap, and this winter famine awaits them. Their present position in the comity of Yugoslavia is complicated. They despise the newly-liberated provinces and retain bitter memories of the cruelties committed by their neighbours when in Austrian uniform. Likewise they are bitter against the Serbs for the trickery by which the independence of their unconquered mountain was filched from them, and for the brutality with which their subsequent revolt was crushed. Moreover, there was a rumour that the Government intended to close down the

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higher grade schools. Now the Montenegrins regard education as the solution of their economic difficulties, and apparently are quite prepared to shed blood in its cause.

The Government, however, appeared to have granted them certain privileges. I was told that they were exempt from military service. Also, in reward for their prowess in hunting down Albanian brigands, they were to be granted land along the Albanian border, where presumably they would form colonies of frontiersmen. But the Montenegrins complained that the Albanian brigands have only Italian money in their pockets.

Generally speaking, they seemed to be divided in their counsels, some wanting a kingdom, others merely independence, and others again preferring for economic reasons to remain within the union. Their attitude to the Skupshtina may be judged by the reply of a chance acquaintance to whom I tactfully expressed a regret at the murder of Raditch.

"Yes, it was a bad business. Ratchitch! What could he do? You see, the trouble is we have only got two or three deputies; now if we'd six or seven we could have shot up the whole dirty lot!"

The Croats and the Dalmatians I propose to class together, regarding the Italianism of the latter as an obsolete factor. I was deeply impressed by their youthful vitality, intelligence and practical efficiency, not only in the towns, but in the villages as well. The towns were humming with business, and the villages were prosperous and enlightened. Moreover, they seemed to have a certain peculiarity, in that evolution of the town bourgeoisie from the peasant stock takes place by a series of gentle gradations, the essential spirit of the people being preserved intact at each stage. This peculiarity provides a degree of homogeneity that is rare in such countries.

Both peasant and townsman were anxious to impress on me that as Hrvatsi they were an entirely different race from the Serbs; that they belonged to Western civilisation, whereas the Serbs were a Balkan people of Balkan traditions. They made disparaging comparisons between the present régime and the past; the bourgeoisie, because they had been governed by civilised people in a more or less civilised manner, and the peasantry, because "they had lived better" in the old days. Thus the hatred of the bourgeoisie was directed against the Serbs as a whole on racial and cultural grounds, while that of the peasants was more against the Serbian politicians on grounds of class interest.

The importance of the murder of Raditch has been in no way exaggerated. Zagreb and, to a lesser degree, Split and Soudhak, were in a state of seething excitement, though it was of a very cheerful order in spite of the black flags. In the villages there was the same display of black flags and an atmosphere of sullen fury. To the peasant Raditch was the constructive reformer, the founder of the village clubs and the champion of the peasant interest. To the townsman he was the adroit politician who could play skittles with the Serbian politicians.

Though the bourgeoisie and the peasantry were united as Croats, there seemed at that time to be a possibility of the Croat peasants combining with those of other discontented provinces, and even with the peasants of Serbia, to form a political party based purely on the peasant interest. On the analogy of the peasant movement in Roumania and in other States of Eastern Europe, this would seem to be the line of natural evolution, in that the possession of land leads to a greater self-consciousness and to a desire for self-expression.

As against this natural development stands the present disruptive movement in the whole State of Yugoslavia, which is based on a provincial self-assertion against the centralising and dominating force of the Serbs. The galling pressure of this force can probably be relieved by a judicious degree of decentralisation of administration and by making the central organisation common to all.

A united Yugoslavia has the opportunity of an important economic and cultural future, by utilising for the common welfare of the country the varied characteristics of its people as by developing its varied natural resources. Provincial dismemberment can only lead to economic limitation and to cultural stagnation. Meanwhile "Yugoslavia for the Serbs" ultimately spells chaos; and chaos will provide an opportunity for any foreign country with unscrupulous ambitions.

After all, Zagreb is not very far from Sarajevo either in space or in time.

CORRESPONDENCE

The columns of THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA are open for the discussion of subjects of general interest to its readers. The publication of such letters must not be taken, however, as indicating that the views expressed by the writers are those of THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA.

ENGLAND AND EGYPT.

To the Editor of THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA.

Sir,—The recent suppression of the Egyptian Constitution by Mohamed Pasha Mahmoud and the establishment of a dictatorship (mild in comparison with some), but still a dictatorship, is an event which, while of doubtful benefit to Egypt, is certainly detrimental to a solution of Anglo-Egyptian differences. The Egyptian nation has been fighting, since 1882, for independence and constitutional government, and in this period the political knowledge of the people has rapidly advanced. Thus, any adjustment or settlement of Anglo-Egyptian differences which has not been accepted by the Egyptian people, that is, by its constitutionally elected representatives, must be without value.

Let us first take the Egyptian side.

Mohamed Pasha is a Liberal Constitutionalist and in spite of his recent action is a sincere believer in constitutional methods. In taking the steps which he has, many of his friends and admirers consider that he has been either ill-advised or unduly pessimistic of the Wafd's parliamentary régime. He has, however, every intention of re-establishing the Egyptian Constitution at the earliest opportunity.

In Egypt, opponents indulge in a battle of personalities, and the Egyptian Press is notable for vitriolic attacks on individuals. These methods should not be taken too seriously, as bitter enemies of to-day become close friends of to-morrow. Unfortunately, Egyptians themselves are particularly sensitive to Press attacks, and at the moment over-estimate the relative importance of these journalistic stunts. This leads to hasty action; a case in point is the present stifling of nearly all opposition opinion as represented by the Wafd Press.

But the Wafd, however incensed it may be with Mohamed Pasha for his unconstitutional action, must not forget how much sincere, patriotic and arduous work has been accomplished in the past by this man, and that equally with the Wafd, Mohamed Pasha acts only with the ultimate benefit of this country before his eyes and as his guiding principle.

Therefore the Wafd should never lose sight of the possibility of mistakes existing on both sides, and that the aim of both being identical, some means of bridging the present harmful gulf should be found at the earliest

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opportunity. For the benefit of Egypt both in immediate external and internal problems the co-operation of every sincere leader is essential. Personal ambitions and rival jealousies must be subordinated in order to vanquish the reactionary forces and uphold progressive democratic government. The people of Egypt realise, better than any foreigner, the strength of these forces and the many strongholds from which a devastating attack can be launched on the young and somewhat undisciplined forces of progress. And, here I might be allowed to quote Clemenceau in his "Demosthène" as a caution: "C'est une autre chose de parler . . . la liberté, l'indépendance, la patrie même ou de réaliser la discipline intérieure, souvent sévère, que commande le service désintéressé des nobles causes plus faciles à clamer qu'à réaliser dans la vie."

Let the young and ardent patriots of Egypt recognise that shouting, railing and haranguing will not advance the cause of their country's freedom in comparison with co-operation, discipline and unity. But on that word "patriot" let me rest for a moment. In the history of England, no virtue has been more highly praised and no sentiment more deeply respected. How is it, then, that when the people of alien races proclaim their wish for independence, and work for this aim, they are so often labelled "agitators" and "rebels?"

Nothing is more mischievous and less worthy of the English people. True patriotism—not that patriotism which leads to aggression—is equally magnificent and befitting in the Egyptian as in the Englishman.

The régime instituted by Mohamed Pasha is unlikely to be accepted by the Egyptian people with enthusiasm, unless some almost revolutionary reform which would benefit the mass without being economically unsound is carried out. Such reforms are the *raison d'être* of dictators, since established prejudices and privileges can be ignored, and a reform which might take years by constitutional procedure be legalised and administered in a few months. But such does not appear to be the plan of Mohamed Pasha. His administrative acts, much heralded in certain English papers, are but a continuation of the late Parliament's legislation and are not of his own personal creation.

However, this is not a reason to criticise his administration: it is, on the other hand, a proof of his soundness and of his desire to put into action the best of the late Parliament's work for the benefit of his country, irrespective of the authorship.

The Egyptian people have fought too long and too thoroughly for a constitution to accept this present abrogation with good will. If elections were to be held in Egypt to-morrow, there appears to be little doubt as to what the result would demonstrate.

How does this dictatorship in Egypt affect England?

First and foremost, few Egyptians believe otherwise than that the English Government either assisted or gave tacit approval for the *coup d'état*. In the House of Commons it has been stated that the Residency knew that the event was about to take place. This implies nothing. But ninety-nine per cent. of the Egyptians are confident that the English Government acted, at least, with benevo-

lent neutrality. It is a pity that even a faint suspicion of British interference with the Constitution, outside the four reserved points, should arise. The British military occupation is a cause of this misgiving, since many Egyptians argue that their country would quickly have made it impossible for Mohamed Pasha to have carried out his coup if the people had not feared the intervention of British troops on the pretext of safeguarding foreign lives and property. But the greatest difference this régime makes to Anglo-Egyptian relations is the postponement which is brought about for the solving of the final form which these relations shall bear. The longer this remains unsolved, the less likely does it become that the final Alliance will rest on the real sentiment of good will which exists for England to-day in the hearts of the Egyptians.

There are three main reasons why I consider that the solution of these differences should be whole and immediate, and not partial and temporary:

(a) That the political energies of the Egyptian people are being diverted from the channel of internal progressive reform to the more burning question of sovereign independence. The former naturally suffers.

(b) That a solution on the basis of an Alliance is bound to come in time; in consequence, England should take advantage of the existing good will, and should give freely now what future circumstances will force her to grant.

(c) A friendly Egypt guarantees the Empire communication more assuredly than a hostile nation, cowed by battleships and various other means of repression.

Both sides must have faith and courage to solve the problem aright. It is the spirit of faith which should guide England in the final settlement, and not the doubts, the queries, the "ifs" and the petty safeguards here, there and everywhere, which do nothing but annoy, creating an impression that England has no faith in her Ally. For an Alliance to be accomplished, it is necessary that not only the British Government but also the British representative in Cairo should be imbued with the will to this end—for how often can the actions of one individual undo the work of many!

All questions such as protection for foreigners, judicial and financial advisers, European police, etc., are but by-paths of controversy, leading one off the basic route of difference—that is, the sovereign independence of Egypt and the vital communications of the British Empire.

Without going into detail, I suggest that:

(1) British troops should be immediately retired to Port Fuad, if not out of Egypt altogether.

(2) That Egypt should join the League of Nations. One year after her entry, all foreign privileges in Egypt would be automatically abandoned.

(3) Re-establishment of the Condominium in the Sudan, with the understanding that the Sudanese shall be gradually educated to administer their own affairs under the flags of Egypt and Great Britain.

(4) A defensive alliance between Egypt and England.

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The path is clear! Let Mohamed Pasha re-establish the Constitution; let fresh elections be held; let the Wafd, if returned to power, nominate another Prime Minister in place of Nahas Pasha, so that both sides shall show conciliation in order to produce a real unity. Then, let the statesmen in England and Egypt, directed by good will and inspired by faith and courage, settle once and for all these dismal animosities and corrupting discords.

But let both sides remember the words of Nietzsche, "Art thou a slave? Thou canst not be a friend. Art thou a tyrant? Thou canst not have a friend."

And if this alliance is to be accomplished, let its base be founded, not on the shifting surface of the desert sands, but in the deep bed of Mother Nile around which the waters of prosperity shall ever flow.

To-day in the Near and Middle East British foreign policy has become noted for hesitancy and lack of decision. In the question of Egypt, where the goal is obvious, let courage direct to an immediate and just decision.—I am, etc.,

R. GORDON-GANNING.

23, Cork Street, W.1.

[Our correspondent combines in his letter many obvious and some highly provocative statements. There can be no ground at present for saying that the action of Mahmoud Pasha's Government in suspending (not suppressing) parliamentary government is of doubtful benefit to Egypt, as the time to form trustworthy judgment on the subject will not come until the Government has had a longer opportunity to show of what it is capable. Judged by past Egyptian standards, it would seem to have achieved marvels in a few months. It certainly cannot be proved that the existence of the present Government is "detrimental to the solution of Anglo-Egyptian differences," nor is it proposed to arrive at a permanent settlement of those difficulties without reference to the Egyptian people. All that the present Cabinet has done is to put those differences into the background, while it gets on with work of extreme urgency, the proper administration of the country. With the advice that our correspondent offers to the Wafd we are mainly in agreement. If it be the case that the Egyptian Press "is notable for vitriolic attacks on individuals," a Government that tries to change such a regrettable state of affairs, which is derogatory to the country and demoralising to public life, would seem to be worthy of support.

One clause in the letter suggests that what our correspondent calls Mahmoud Pasha's dictatorship would no longer be of "doubtful benefit" but would be of positive advantage to Egypt and would be accepted by the Egyptian people "with enthusiasm," if it were more dictatorial. The reference is to agrarian reform. As the "dictatorship" has not yet been in existence for six months, it seems hardly fair to blame it for not having done what must needs call for years of careful preliminary investigation. One of the grounds on which the present Government justified its action was that its predecessors got nothing done, in spite of laws' being passed by Parliament. Accordingly one of its first acts was to carry into effect long-delayed measures of pressing urgency for Egypt.

Our correspondent in being able to speak for ninety-nine per cent. of the Egyptians has an advantage which we do not possess. Most Britons, however, we imagine, have a higher opinion of the Egyptian people than he has, as they are quite prepared to believe that there are some

Egyptians capable of trying to save their country from administrative chaos, without prompting from Great Britain. The contention that the present régime has brought about a postponement of a solution of Anglo-Egyptian relations will hold water only if it can be shown that there was the least chance of any solution's being found under a Wafd régime. In the light of the experience of the last few years it would be supposed that no such solution was in sight when the present Government took office.

As for the points that our correspondent tries to make, we can say only that (a) is entirely contrary to the facts, as for the first time in six years the energies of the Egyptian people are being directed into the channel of internal progressive reform, and away from the question of sovereign independence. In (b) our correspondent urges that the Government should do now what he has already warned it not to do for three years, when parliamentary government may once more be in operation. Point (c) is so obvious that it serves only to call attention to the present "friendly Egypt" in contrast to the "hostile" attitude of Wafd politicians.

With regard to our correspondent's suggestions for a settlement, it is to be feared that the subject cannot be dismissed in a few words; but the settlement will, no doubt, be brought very near when those who summarily rejected, without discussion, the draft treaty of last year have taken to heart the excellent advice given to them in the letter.—ED.]

APPOINTMENTS.

The King has been pleased to approve the addition of two Puisne Judges to the permanent strength of the High Court of Judicature at Madras, and to fill the two vacancies thus created by the appointment of Mr. Henry D'Arcy Cornelius Reilly, I.C.S., and Rao Bahadur Chittoor Vaidyalinga Ayyar Anantakrishna Ayyar. His Majesty has also been pleased to approve the appointment of Mr. Krishna Pandalai as Puisne Judge of the Court in succession to the Hon. Muthiah David Devadoss, who is retiring, and the appointment of Mr. Alladi Krishnaswami Ayyar as Advocate-General, Madras, in succession to Rao Bahadur Chittoor Vaidyalinga Ayyar Anantakrishna Ayyar.

The King has been pleased to approve the appointment of Mr. Nripendra Nath Sircar to be Advocate-General for the Presidency of Bengal, in succession to Sir Brajendra Lal Mitter, who was recently appointed to be a Member of the Executive Council of the Governor-General of India.

STANDING JOINT COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS.

As foreshadowed in THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA on December 13, the following members of the House of Commons have been appointed to serve on the usual Standing Joint Committee on Indian Affairs with members of the House of Lords:—

Brigadier-General Charteris, Sir G. Hamilton, Colonel Howard-Bury, Sir A. Knox, Mr. Wardlaw-Milne, Sir F. Nelson, Mr. G. Peto, Mr. Pilcher, Mr. Scurr, Mr. Snell, and Mr. Wallhead.

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THE WEEK AT HOME

London, Saturday Morning.

The King's Health.

Incomparably the news that has heartened most people this Christmastide is the improvement in the health of the King. In many an obscure homestead prayers had been made for his recovery, and even among those of the more flippant sort there is discernible a sense of the ending of a certain strain or anxiety.

Instinctively tributes are being paid to the King's fight for health, and the universal sentiment is that the finest sportsman in the nation, who has never shirked a duty, is most deservedly pulling through.

Parliament.

As Parliament adjourned last week for a month's recess, one was prompted to wonder which of its accomplishments would stand the present Administration in the best stead. There can be no doubt upon this matter: it is De-rating. Wherever one goes, one finds the scheme of Mr. Neville Chamberlain regarded as the trump card of the Conservatives for the next election. Whether it will be sufficient to stay the progress of the Labour Party is another matter.

Over the question of unemployment, which hung like a shadow over the Parliamentary session, there is considerable perplexity. Could the Government have done more to alleviate the position? On the last day it voted £295,000 as a Supplementary Estimate for the relief of the distressed areas. This, however, is charity (although Christian charity which could hardly be denied) rather than statesmanship. All that the Government can do, it seems, is to talk of the transference of labour, emigration, and so on. These are helpful measures, but they touch, apparently, only the edge of the problem.

Meanwhile, the ground is fruitful for those whose business it is for whatever reasons to criticise the Administration. Even the Government grant to the miners was criticised by the Socialists.

Liberals' Troubles.

The Liberal Party cannot complain of lack of publicity for their activity, but unfortunately that seems so often to consist of quarrels within the camp. Now it is over Mrs. Runciman, and her scorning of Mr. Lloyd George's

help, now over the indiscipline of Captain F. E. Guest, who was at one time Chief Liberal Whip.

Captain Guest has caught it "good and proper" from Mr. Lloyd George's supporters. Actually in his constituency in Bristol a rival Liberal candidate is to be set up—with the inevitable result, so it is said, that a Socialist will be returned! The joke of it is that Captain Guest is stated to have been largely responsible for the raising of Mr. Lloyd George's "Personal Fund." What tales he could tell! But will he?

Holly and Christmas.

"Heigh ho, the holly!" But where is it this Christmas? Hardly a berry is to be seen, no matter where you go (I write, of course, before Christmas Day itself). The reason is, of course, that the gales of November swept down the berries from the branches, berries which until then were plump, red, and abundant.

What good holly there is this Christmas comes, like the mistletoe, from the Continent.

The King's English.

If you came across this sentence (which appeared in a legal document exhibited during the hearing of a case in the King's Bench Division last week)—"They or neither of them are liable"—what would you make of it? The Judge before whom this monstrosity was brought rightly described it as "really shocking English"; but the amusing thing is his interpretation of the sentence.

Mr. Justice Horridge suggested that the sentence ought to read: "They are not, nor are (is) either of them liable." Possibly; the Judge knew the context. But the words themselves would appear to mean: "Either they are liable, or neither of them is liable." What do you make of it?

The Road Burst.

Nobody who saw the road explosion in the West Central district last Thursday could help thinking, first, of the Zeppelin bombs during the War, and secondly, of the intricacies of modern civilisation. A less advanced city than London, although it might be subject to such calamities as earthquakes, would not have this vast subterranean system of gas and electric light and of telephonic communication. We hardly realise, indeed, what we are walking over nowadays.

Obviously this explosion, which by extraordinary luck caused the death only of a horse, has scared London. And indeed it is a very nasty experience to know that if you come down more or less whole after being flung up from the pavement you stand a very good chance either of being set light to by flames or of being gassed. Such accidents happen so rarely, however, that in a few weeks the incident will have been forgotten for most purposes.

Three to Play.

With unusual relish and tenderness one got down one's bats this week for their (all too rare) winter oiling, for the news of England's second Test-match victory had stiffened with pride the hopeful cricketers in this country. Certain things, admittedly, there are to criticise about the English batting in Australia, but the efficiency of the team, as so far displayed, is most heartening.

Nor are Australia quite the "rabbits" which certain eager decriers have made out: they may, in fact, pull one or two nasty-looking rabbits out of their capacious caps before the Fifth Test is finished. Up to the present, however—even granting, and deploring, the bad luck of the Australians in injuries and illness—all has gone well. Of course, there are still people who know better than Chapman who ought to be picked and what ought to be done, but there are, on the other hand, hosts of sensible people who trust and him and his team to see the thing through to its correct conclusion.

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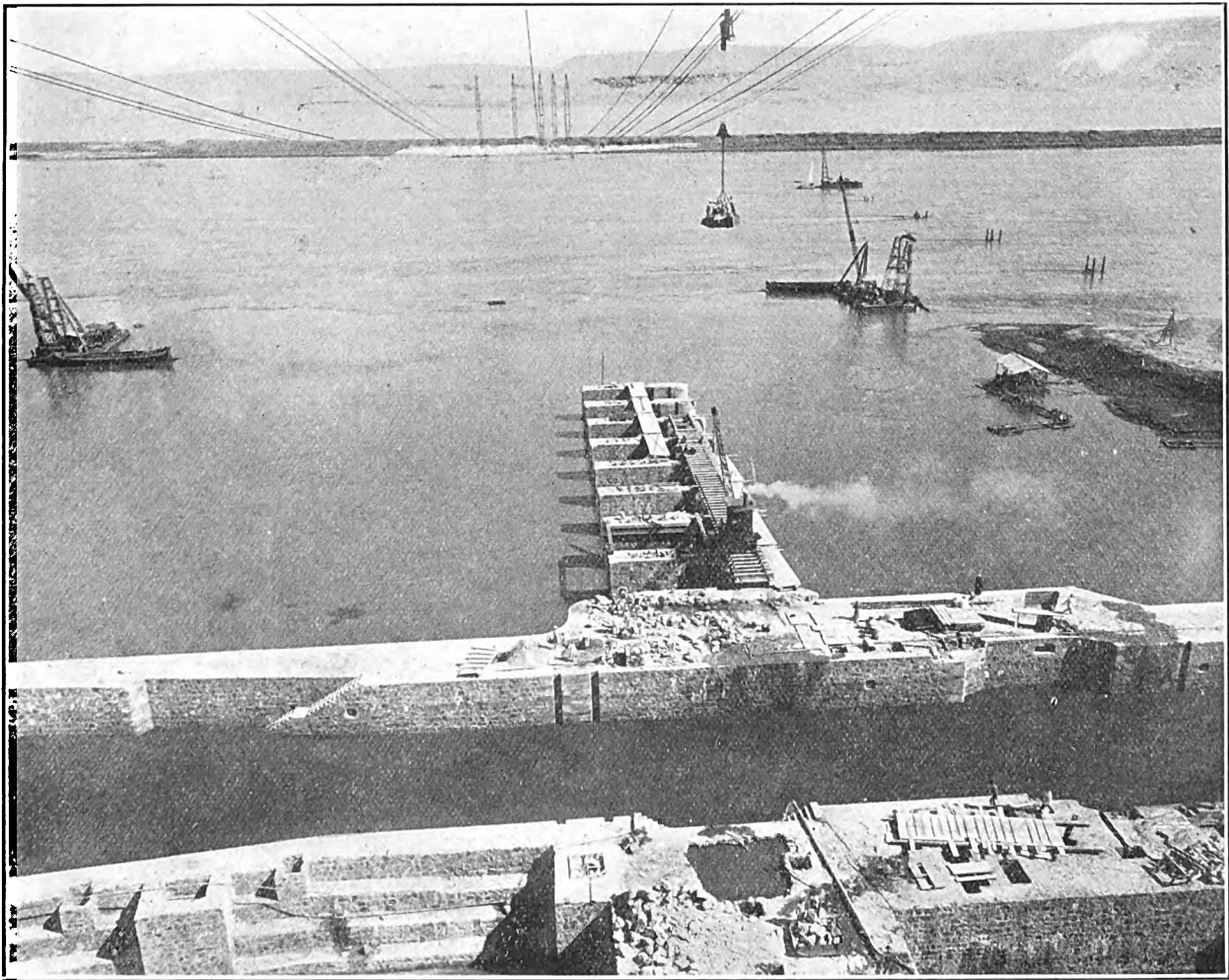
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KING FUAD I.

EGYPT

Reforms in Egypt.

Cairo and its Development.

Some Features of Egyptian Agriculture.

Egyptian Irrigation Works.

REFORMS IN EGYPT

In spite of notable progress throughout the last forty years, the reforms on which Egypt has now embarked are sufficiently striking and numerous to constitute a separate chapter in the history of the country. They form, moreover, a fitting prologue to the era of independence inaugurated six years ago. In the circumstances of the British occupation it was inevitable that much should remain undone in respect of the normal development of the country; it was the purpose of Great Britain to help the Egyptians to look after themselves, not to do everything for them. Progress, therefore, although maintained, was uneven and partial. There was a tendency on the part of the Egyptians to look to their British advisers for a lead, and on the part of the British to leave in certain spheres the initiative to the Egyptians. Possibly in no direction was this divided purpose and lack of effective co-operation more clearly seen than in regard to education, with the result that the grant of independence in 1922 found Egypt still with the great mass of her population illiterate.

Accordingly, in the programme of reforms special attention is being given to education. The Budget for Public Instruction has risen from less than half a million in 1917-8 to over two millions in 1927-8, and to-day nearly seven hundred thousand young people are receiving instruction in Egypt. Not the least significant innovation is the reform of the thousand-year-old University of Al Azhar. The process has been effected gradually. The first step was the re-organization of the Higher Council of the University, which was carried out by the promulgation of numerous laws and rescripts in 1920 and 1921. Although Al Azhar has shared with six other institutions in Egypt the work of imparting Muslim religious instruction, it differed from the others in embodying higher education in addition to the elementary and secondary education given by all. The attempt in 1911 to impart higher education at other institutions under the condition that the final examination for the degree of Alim (Ulama) should be held in Cairo was not successful owing to the failure of other centres to reach the Cairo standard, and in 1921 it was decided that all higher education should be centralized at the University of Al Azhar. Certain reforms were introduced in regard to the entrance examination, discipline and the curriculum; but it was not until the present year that the problem of more radical reforms was grappled with successfully. A commission, on which the University and the Government were represented, has agreed upon certain recommendations designed to bring Al Azhar into line with modern Universities. It is intended that it should retain its old pre-eminence

in the Muslim world for its religious teaching, but that it should at the same time offer to its students the advantages of training in science and the arts on modern lines.

Foremost among the social reforms now being carried out by the Egyptian Government is the endowment of the country with hospitals which will be within easy reach of the peasantry. The existing hospitals are almost exclusively in the large towns. It is proposed, therefore, to build a hundred hospitals in villages and another fifty in the smaller towns, the work being proceeded with at the rate of thirty hospitals a year. These hospitals are intended to serve as educational centres where the principles of child welfare and elementary hygiene can be taught to a population at present totally ignorant of such things. The prevalence of certain endemic diseases in the country is a permanent handicap to the efficiency of the population, and, in addition to the steps now being taken to extend the application of remedial measures, it is sought to deal more effectually with the causes. To this end special attention is now being paid to the sanitary conditions throughout the country. Insanitary village ponds, that have been formed in holes made by the removal of earth for mud bricks and used for the dumping of refuse, are to be cleaned and filled up, adequate steps are to be taken for the more general distribution of clean water for drinking purposes in villages; and in towns provision is to be made for better housing accommodation for the labouring classes.

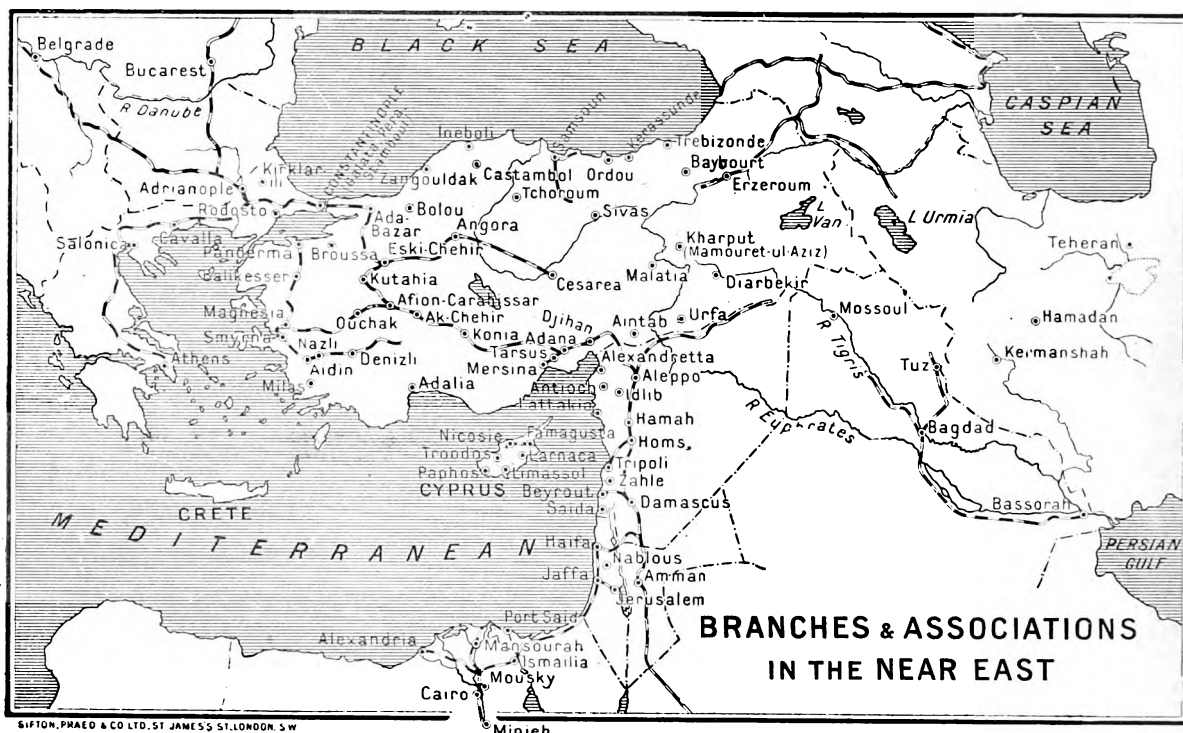
Finally a big programme of public works will not only materially increase the productivity of the country, but will also put into circulation large sums of money which will help to remove the financial stringency from which Egypt has suffered during the last few years. The irrigation projects, as is well known, include the construction, now in progress, of the Nag Hammadi Dam, the raising by seven metres of the Aswan Dam, and the creation of the big Gebel Aulia Reservoir on the White Nile above Khartoum. At the same time considerable impetus is being given to road construction, not only for the improvement of the main thoroughfares in view of the requirements of motor traffic, but also with special reference to the needs of the fellahs in the marketing of their agricultural produce.

All these reforms, it will be noticed, affect the material well-being of the nation and call for no political creed to endorse them. They commend themselves to all sections of the population, and the urgency for them has long been recognized. The merit of the present Government consists in no small measure in its resolve to subordinate all political considerations, however much desired, to the pressing needs of the country.

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Cairo and its Development

Cairo, the largest city in Africa, and the capital of Egypt, with a cosmopolitan population of, roughly speaking, just over one million, is of peculiar interest to the traveller, town-planner, and archaeologist alike. Its varied characteristics and extensive history have bequeathed a legacy to posterity of innumerable beautiful monuments of Arab civilisation dating from the tenth century A.D., as well as a very extensive quarter of primitive disposition, which is redolent of the atmosphere of a thousand years of Oriental life.

The pre-Arab history of Cairo is so vast and vague as to be impossible to recount here, and there have been many towns, variously named, built round about its site, but its present name is said to have been

imbued with modernised ideas, but lacking in co-ordinated directive effort, the Government authorities are unable to enforce general advantages as opposed to private interests. The work, moreover, of preserving the archaeological beauties and the character and atmosphere of the City's old quarters (both opposed to modern ideas of sanitation and traffic facilities), as well as of replacing, where imperative, with wisdom and taste, demands a considerable knowledge and sympathy.

Geographically Cairo is situated approximately at the apex of the Nile Delta, and is closely confined on its eastern limits by the Mokattam Hills, a long scarp of fossiliferous limestone, some 500 feet in height. To the west the boundary may roughly be considered as the River



CAIRO: THE KASR EL NIL QUARTER.

In the background (from left to right) the British Residency, Hotel Semiramis, Kasr el Nil Bridge, and the Barracks.

given to it about the year 960 A.D.—Kahira, or El Kahir (Arabic for the planet Mars, which was in the ascendant when the first trench was dug), which became corrupted to Cahere—Caïre—Cairo, for Europeans. Saladin in the 12th century A.D. was one of the first creators of Cairo as we know it, and some of its most famous landmarks, such as the Citadel Mosque and Fortress, and the first hospital for sick people, Egypt owes to him. Following the Ayubites, to which dynasty he belonged, came the Mameluks, during whose 300 years of power were built the greater number of the ancient mosques still standing in Cairo to-day.

In 1801, during the reign of the Viceroy, Mohamed Ali the Great, the modern development of Cairo began, and this in close juxtaposition to the medieval city and monuments has been such as to create a problem difficult of solution; for under inadequate legislative control of the building activities of an ever-increasing population,

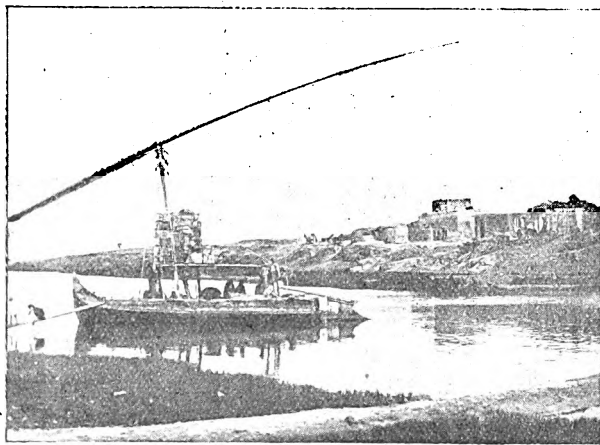
Nile, the cultivated land behind the western bank being waterlogged annually in many areas during the flood season, and so having restricted development up to date, although a limited number of good class villa residences have been built here within the last few years. To the north-east of Cairo, however, there stretched a gently sloping desert plain, along the fringe of which have recently grown up the City's most northerly extensions, and still farther afield lies in the desert the rapidly growing suburb or rather satellite town of Heliopolis, the property of an enterprising Belgian Land Development Company, which, undoubtedly, forms the nucleus of a city of the future.

Until the 19th century the city extended on the west about half way between the Khalig Canal and the Nile, the remaining area as far as the river bank being occupied (with the exception of the river port of Boulaq) by a few places with their surrounding parks. This Khalig Canal

is now filled in and forms a narrow street running north and south and carrying a tramline. One very large area of Cairo, which is to-day the most modern and important residential and commercial quarter, formed at the beginning of the 19th century a portion of the estates of the Khedivate. This, the Ismailia quarter of Cairo, owes its inception and well designed planning (although the streets are now proving too narrow for modern traffic conditions) to the Khedive Ismail Pasha, father of King Fuad, who, carrying on the parental tradition, also takes the greatest interest in the development of his capital.

Improvement schemes of modern times under the auspices of departments of the Central Government, with whom lies the care of Cairo (which is not governed municipally), were largely confined in pre-War years to new bridges across the Nile, and to necessary main arterial connexions therewith, including some river promenades. As regards the period since the War much has been done, and still greater works are in view. Important projects have been studied with the object of opening up congested quarters, augmenting facilities for the ever-increasing motor traffic, creating arterial streets easily and directly linking up important districts at present semi-isolated, providing in advance for the city's growth, and acting as guide to its future developments.

During this post-War period an expenditure of more



ON A BRANCH OF THE NILE.

than £E1,500,000 has actually been incurred in acquiring property for street improvements; and projects, formally approved and actually in course of execution, will require many millions for their completion. The necessary funds for works of this nature are a direct charge on annual Government Budgets and are not found by means of loans. The instrument available for the compulsory acquisition of properties for schemes of public utility is the Law of Expropriation of 1906, by which the authorities are empowered, by the issue of a Decree, to expropriate in general all property so required; the revision of this Law is now under consideration.

Of town-improvement schemes those which stand first in importance and which, moreover, are rapidly approaching completion are the two new arterial streets radiating from the commercial quarter of Cairo, one north-eastward and one eastwards, costing together about one million pounds. One of these, Sharia Emir Farouk (named after King Fuad's little eight-year-old son), which is about $1\frac{1}{4}$ miles in length and about 100 feet wide, has been driven straight through a highly congested and densely populated area, ill served with streets, to make connexion from the city's centre to another principal arterial road leading to the extremities of the ever expanding northern suburbs. The other radiating arterial highway Sharia El Azhar, which is $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile in length and about 85 feet wide, has been driven parallel to a narrow over-crowded street, the Sharia Mousky, which leads to Cairo's famous and picturesque bazaars, and which is annually traversed

by the many thousand tourists who visit Egypt's capital.

This new artery will not only greatly relieve traffic in the Sharia Mousky, but will directly link up the splendid Azhar University and surrounding monuments with the commercial portion of the city, whilst also serving a district in which many business firms have their warehouses. Both these new arteries will terminate at a point where it is intended in the future to create a very fine Square, which will provide an important central station both for the tramlines that these new streets will carry, and for many other existing lines, all of which will be linked up at this point. As the creation of this Square will entail the demolition of the building which is the present Mixed Courts of Justice, its execution is necessarily being held in abeyance, pending the completion of the magnificent new Mixed Courts, now under construction elsewhere.

Another very important city improvement scheme, the preliminary works of which have been begun, will provide at a cost of some £E400,000 a fine arterial connexion joining up not only the proposed extension of the Main Railway Station, but more particularly the rapidly developing northern area of Cairo (the Shubra district), at present "locked in" between the main railway lines and the River Nile, with a narrow bridge as sole connexion with the centre of the city.

Over this bridge, moreover, must now pass all road traffic from Cairo to Lower Egypt and Alexandria, and this traffic of growing importance will be signally served by the new connexion.

The scheme comprises two subways, the major one to be 130 feet wide, to provide for tramlines as well as adequate space for general vehicular traffic, passing under a main street and the main railway lines; and the second one about 90 feet wide will facilitate access to the Railway Station as also to the Shubra district, for traffic approaching from the north and east. Both these subways, with their approaches, will, when completed, considerably aid in reducing ever-growing traffic congestion in the present Railway Station Square and its access streets. The distribution of the Railway's goods traffic from the new centralised good yards is a problem to which much study has been given, and its solution will involve the construction at considerable expense of two additional subways with access roads, by means of one of which alone, when completed, it is estimated that 60 per cent. of the heavy railway goods traffic could be diverted from present congested centres, and more rapidly distributed to the commercial quarters of the town. Very interesting problems are under study in connexion with the possible electrification of the suburban railway lines to the north and to the south of Cairo. The city terminal stations of these lines are at present separate and lie at some distance apart, so that their linking up is obviously very desirable, and in this connexion reference must be made to a most important street-widening scheme, estimated to cost at least two millions, of which the Egyptian Parliament has approved, and for which annual grants have already begun to be made. This scheme comprises the widening to a minimum of 130 feet of the present Sharia Khalig, which is to-day for the most part a narrow street of about 30 feet wide, formed, as has been mentioned before, by the filling in of the old Khalig Canal. This street traverses the main portion of the city from south to north, dividing it almost in half, of which the eastern portion contains the medieval City, with its numerous mosques, bazaars, and old-world narrow, tortuous streets filled with teeming life, whereas the western area comprises most of modern Cairo proper.

In its future widened form this thoroughfare will provide a magnificent route, three miles in length, of sufficient width to carry tramways and eight lines of vehicular traffic and will, moreover, serve as a ready means of linking up the northern and southern suburban railways by means of an overhead electric railway conveniently tapping the heart of the City.

As regards the general town planning of the still undeveloped agricultural area on this immediate north of the

City, which comprises some 3,000 acres, certain preliminary studies and outline plans have been made, as the continuous trend of growth in this direction clearly foreshadows it as a zone which Great Cairo will include in the near future.

These plans foresee a fine internal Port on the dead end of the old branch of the Great Ismailia Canal, which is to be bridged by main arterial roads, the regrouping of State Railway shunting yards and sidings, with viaducts or subways carrying important thoroughfares designed to link up the existing north-eastern extension of the City with the River Nile, as well as with the main road from Cairo to the north, i.e., Lower Egypt, and with the Shubra district of the City north of the main Railway Station. A great park of some 300 acres along the north boundary of the City's projected extension is a prominent feature of such studies.

In respect of the streets and roads of Cairo, covering to-day an area of about 4,000,000 square yards, there still remain about 500,000 square yards unpaved. Since no legislation exists to oblige private owners developing

several of the principal thoroughfares leading out from the centre to the more distant suburbs will be civic works of striking modernity and imagination. One of these, already partially completed, bears the name of Queen Nazli; another about to be undertaken is the famous avenue leading to the Pyramids of Giza.

With respect to City cleansing, refuse disposal, etc., the expenditure thereon during the past few years has been doubled, and now amounts to about £100,000 per annum. A project is under study for the erection of a series of large modern Refuse Destructors to deal with the City's garbage in a more hygienic manner than the dumping in worked-out quarries and low-lying areas now in practice.

The vast problem of the proper housing of the working classes, the solution of which is so greatly exercising authorities throughout Europe, is forming the subject of active study by the Egyptian Government. The recognised need for urgent measures in this regard has been greatly accentuated in Cairo through the necessary demolition of much poor-class property in the course of carrying out improvement schemes. Decisions which have



SILENT ON A PYRAMID AT GIZA.

property as building estates to pave their streets, the cost of such paving ultimately falls upon the Government. During the past five years some 250,000 square yards of such unpaved streets have been constructed.

As regards maintenance of paved streets and roads, the sudden development of mechanical transport after the War quickly revealed the weaknesses of the tar-painted basalt macadam, which then formed the surface structure of almost all the streets, including main thoroughfares. In 1923 modern methods of two-coat sheet asphaltting laid upon the existing macadam were introduced with such marked success from the point of view of both traffic and hygiene, that so far some 1,000,000 square yards have been completed, and this work now forms the principal annual item in the City's road maintenance works. Two mixing plants, with complete equipment, testing laboratories, mechanical transport, etc., enable some 250,000 square yards to be laid annually, all work being carried out by Departmental staff and labour. In consequence the surfaces of the principal streets of Cairo to-day invite favourable comparison with those of the largest modern cities. Moreover, the remodelling on approved modern lines of

just been taken by the Government comprise the reservation of three selected zones upon which dwellings of hygienic design will be erected. Of these zones, one on the high-lying land on the east of the City covers an area of some 110 acres. Another in the north-west area comprises about 24 acres. The third in the south area is of some 12 acres in extent.

In conclusion, it may fairly be claimed that the Government authorities responsible for Cairo's welfare, for its ever-increasing population and also its annual visitors from all parts of the civilised world, are fully alive to their responsibilities: and, were it not for financial restrictions, largely deriving from the Capitulations, with their embargo on normally legitimate civic taxation, combined with the difficulties from the same source which arise in any endeavour to introduce Building and Street By-laws, Town Planning legislation, etc., the remarkable progress already attained in spite of such obstacles and restrictions would in the near future be still more rapidly surpassed: making Cairo a capital worthy of the most ancient civilisation of the world and one of which this rising country may truly and justly feel proud.

Some Features of Egyptian Agriculture

By A. M. GREISS BEY.

From earliest times Egypt has been almost solely an agricultural country, and this in spite of the fact that it is practically rainless. A beneficent Providence has compensated for this lack by the Nile, which flows throughout the country from its southernmost limits to the Mediterranean. The Nile is the only source of water supply for cultivation, and, indeed, for the maintenance of life generally.

The Basin System.

Rains in Abyssinia have occurred with the greatest regularity throughout the ages at a definite period each year. These rains are responsible in turn for a regular yearly rise of the river. Thousands of years ago the annual rise was taken advantage of for cultivation, and in this way, when the river rose, it overflowed into the so-called basins, which were bounded by their earthen embankments and which now vary in size from 500 acres to 75,000.

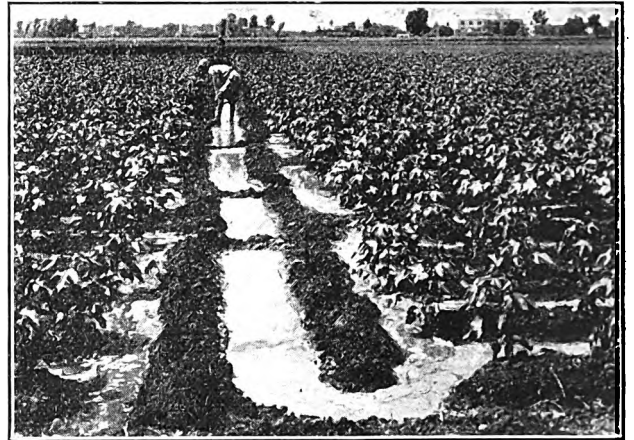
When the river subsided this water flowed back into its channel, and the land which had been submerged was then sown with crops such as wheat, barley, beans, etc. They received no more attention nor water until the harvest. No simpler form of cultivation could be imagined, and yet under this system Egypt was at one time known as the granary of the Mediterranean. For the crops then grown—winter crops only—the method was quite satisfactory, and there was no loss of fertility of the land. This system, moreover, provided both food and clothing for the population, in wheat and flax.

Perennial Irrigation.

The year 1821 saw the beginning of a new era in cultivation. In that year the cultivation of cotton was begun, and, being a summer crop, it could be grown in the first instance only on the river banks where water was available for the lifting. As the crop was a success under these limited conditions, the then ruler of the country, Mohamed Ali, desired to extend its cultivation, and this was possible only if irrigation could be extended. With this end in view he had canals dug which would take the water from the Nile in the summer, when the river was low. This was the beginning of the perennial

as opposed to the one crop obtained formerly, and whereas the winter crops still leave a margin of profit to the cultivator, it is the summer crops of cotton which have so enriched the country.

The lot of the cultivator under present conditions is probably unrivalled in any country; for, apart from a guaranteed and regular water supply when the crops



Cotton under Perennial Irrigation.

require it, the fertility of the soil is almost proverbial, and climatic conditions from the agricultural point of view are also almost unique. Labour, moreover, is always plentiful and cheap. As an illustration of the fertility of Egyptian soil, it may be pointed out that whereas India gives about 100 lb. of cotton per acre and America about 150 lb., Egypt averages 325 lb. in the Delta and 400 or more in Upper Egypt; yields of even 1,000 lb. to 1,100 lb. are not uncommon in certain districts. Climatic conditions in the country have been and are so uniform from year to year, that to this day cultivators carry out their agricultural operations on the same fixed dates each year, using the ancient Coptic Calendar for their guide.

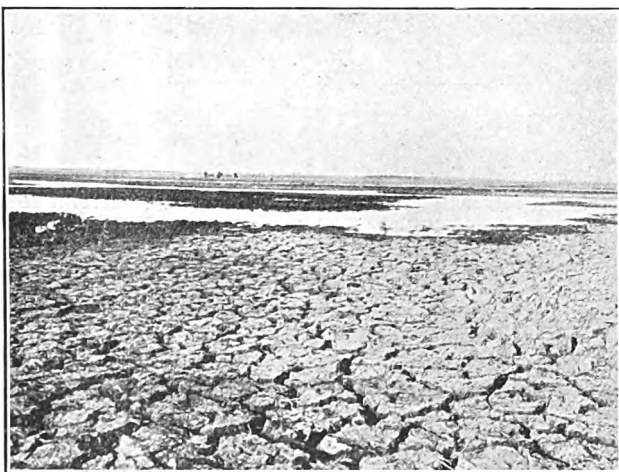
In regard to the land itself, it is of alluvial origin, and, owing to its great fertility and the facilities provided for irrigation, its price is high compared with other countries. An acre of good cotton ground will cost from £200 to £300, or it may be rented at from £15 to £20.

Cultivation.

Cultivation is still carried on largely as it was in the earliest times, the ancient native plough drawn by oxen, and the "fass" (hand hoe) being still the chief implements used. In recent years, however, big landowners and companies have been gradually introducing modern machinery.

A great variety of crops is grown. The main summer crops are cotton, maize, rice, sugar-cane. Cotton easily comes first in importance. Winter crops are wheat, barley, Egyptian clover (Berseem), beans, lentils, lupines, onions, etc.—in fact, all kinds found in temperate climates. Egyptian clover is, perhaps, worthy of special mention. Sown in early autumn, it gives as many as five cuttings of about 7 tons each per acre, or four and a seed crop in eight months. This is the staple green fodder for all cattle. The excess over immediate requirements (and there is always an excess) is turned into dreis (hay) for summer use, when fodder is scarce.

Rotation of crops under basin irrigation is simple—one year, cereals, and the next, leguminous plants. Under perennial irrigation the rotation is either a two or a three years' one, but now by law the latter is enforced on cotton land.



The Flooding of Land under Basin Irrigation.

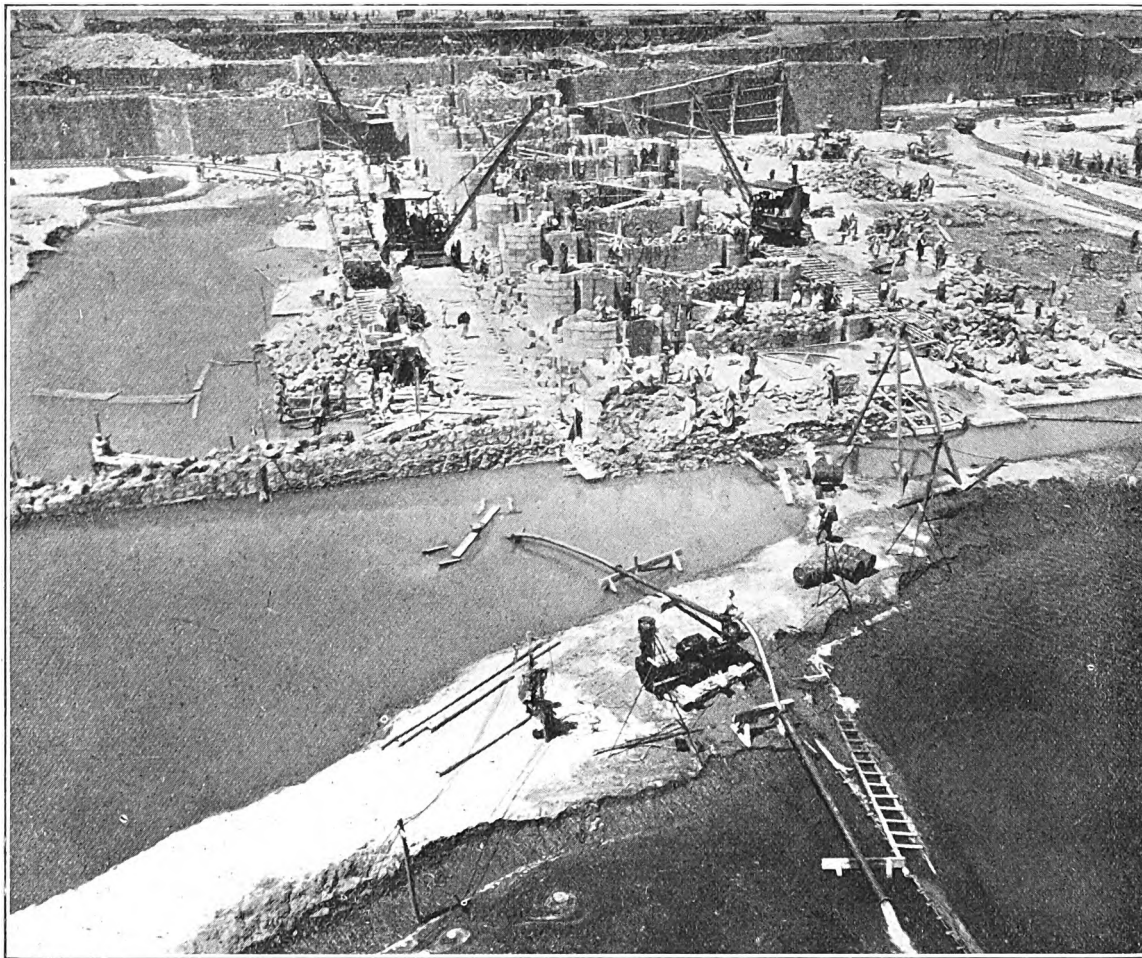
The net result of this change is that both summer and winter crops can be grown on the land in one year, system of irrigation and was extended as time went on, with the help of Barrages and Dams, to store water and to raise artificially the height of the river, until to-day the whole of the Delta and a considerable part of Upper Egypt are under perennial irrigation.

Egyptian Irrigation Works.

Nag Hammadi Barrage.

The Nile and Egypt are in a sense synonymous terms, for the civilisations which throughout the centuries have grown up and flourished along the Nile valley have owed their existence to that wonderful stream which, flowing like a scarlet thread of destiny from its sources to the Mediterranean, has borne facilities for life along its course, and has permitted the creation of fertile tracts supporting a denser population than any other area of the same extent in the world. It was not until the last century, which was rendered notable by the construction of the Delta Barrage, that a really determined attempt was made to exploit to the full the enormous resources of the river which is Egypt. In the present century in rapid succession came the first Aswan Dam, Barrages at Assiut, Zifta, and Isna, the weirs at the

Street, S.W.r., has been in process of construction since last year by the famous firm of contractors, Sir John Jackson, Ltd., who have been responsible for so many important works—the Hindieh Barrage, for instance, in Mesopotamia—and who have recently been given the Singapore dock contract. The second project—the White Nile Dam at Gebel Aulia, which will permit of the storage of a vast volume of water, is now the subject of investigation by an international commission appointed by the Egyptian Government. The remaining works include a reservoir at Lake Albert for the provision of storage for Egypt's ultimate needs, a channel in the Sudd region—or more probably a “bypass” for the Nile round the Sudd area—to enable the water from Lake Albert reservoir to reach the main Nile,



THE NAG HAMMADI BARRAGE: Early Stages

The Lock Walls are seen in the background; in the foreground the first section of the Barrage is nearing completion.

Delta Barrage, and the heightening of the Aswan Dam. (In 1925 the Makwar or Sennar Dam, in the Sudan, was completed, but its primary object is the Gezira). The motive power behind these projects, past and to come, has been the rapid increase in recent generations of the Egyptian population, which has called for a continual increase in the area under cultivation. Thus, while in 1846 the population amounted to 4,476,440, by 1897 it was 9,734,405, and at the last Census, in 1927, it was 14,168,756. At this rate of increase the population in 1955 will be in the region of 20,000,000, in which year the country will be using its maximum cultivable area.

Of the five remaining projects, one, the Nag Hammadi Barrage, which was designed by the engineers, Messrs. Coode, Wilson, Mitchell and Vaughan-Lee of 9, Victoria

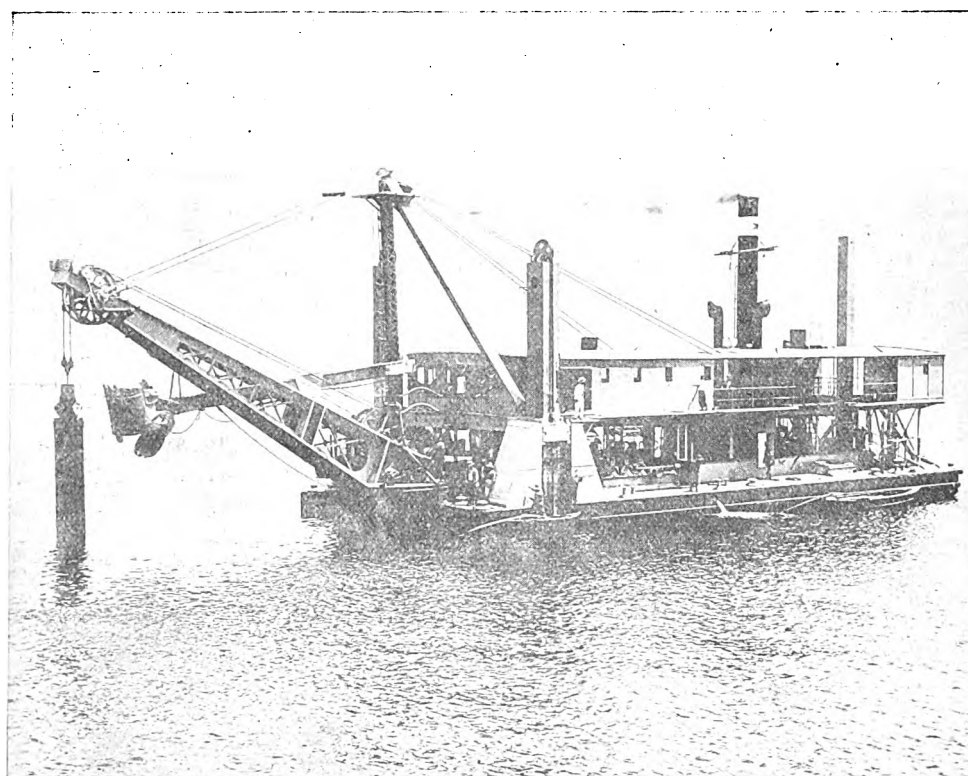
and a Dam at Lake Tana, in Abyssinia. If and when these works are carried out—and much uncertainty naturally exists in regard to the last three, in particular the Lake Tana project, which is the most difficult of all the undertakings in view of its political aspect—the two countries threaded by the waters of the Nile will have the ultimate resources of the river at their disposal. While, as has been pointed out, it is anticipated that the full cultivable area in Egypt will be utilised by 1955, or more than a couple of decades after the construction of the Dam at Gebel Aulia, the date of the development by Nile irrigation of the full cultivable area in the Sudan is put 50 years on, allowing, *inter alia*, for the later inception of the other projects.

The Nag Hammadi Barrage project has been planned

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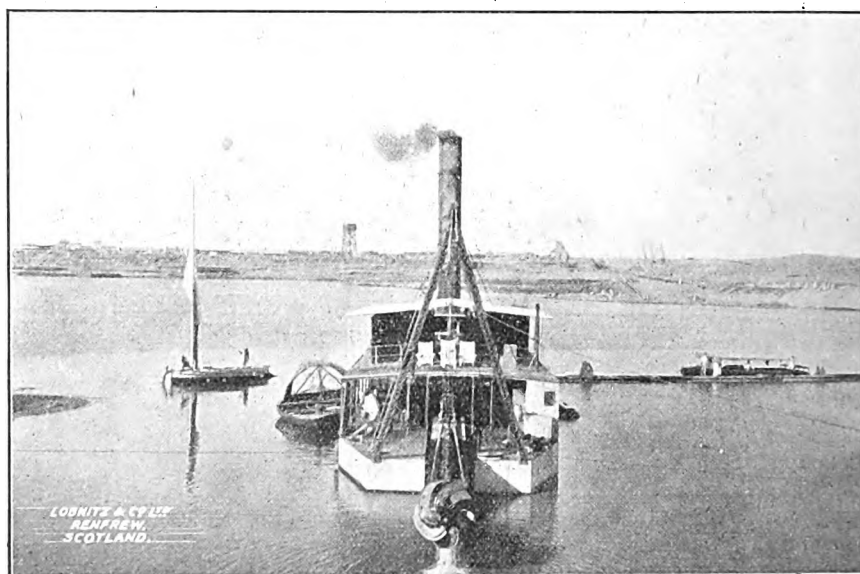
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AT WORK ON "SENNAR DAM" MAKWAR, SUDAN.

to serve two ends. In the first place the effect of the construction of the Gebel Aulia Dam will be to lower the height of the Nile flood, and the Barrage is intended to serve as a protection against land being consequently left unwatered. The two projects, incidentally, were originally to have been finished at the same time, but it was decided to postpone the White Nile scheme, with the result that the protective works will be finished in advance. The second object of the Barrage is to enable a fertile region of about 500,000 feddans to be converted from basin to perennial irrigation. The importance of this may be illustrated from the statistics for 1913, when in this region 128,000 feddans were left unwatered and 58,000 feddans only received half the necessary supply of water. The area is to be converted from the basin to the perennial system by instalments of about 50,000 feddans a year. Tenders for the construction of the Barrage were invited in November, 1926, and were to be sent in by the following April. Altogether nine tenders were received, and the contract was awarded to Sir John Jackson, Ltd., whose tender was £1,976,555, which compares with the official estimate of just under £2,000,000.

The work on the Barrage, which will be approximately 825 metres long with a lock on the western bank, began in the autumn of 1927, and the Barrage will be completed in three sections. The past season's work comprised the lock and western section of the Barrage, illustrations of which appear on pages 769 and 777, while in the present season the middle section of the Barrage is to be completed, leaving the section which will connect up with the eastern bank for the following season. The Barrage is scheduled to be completed by August 1930.

The lock is 16 metres wide by 80 metres long, and it will be crossed by a swing bridge to enable a tramway and a roadway to be carried across the Barrage. The Barrage itself is in general outline planned on similar lines to the Assiut and Isna Barrages, but instead of the 120 vents of 5 metres of these Barrages it will have 100 vents, 6 metres wide, thus avoiding the construction of 20 piers and enabling a substantial economy to be effected. Each of the vents is fitted with sluice gates to control the discharge of the river. There is, it will be seen, a width of opening, if all the gates are raised, of 600 metres. Each of the vents is to have two gates, and the depths of these gates, varying according to their position, will be 6.1 metres, 7.1 metres, and 8.1 metres respectively.

The 100 vents will be formed into ten groups of ten each by abutment piers at each end of the Barrage and main piers at every tenth vent. The abutment piers will be 14 metres wide, the nine main piers will be 4 metres wide, while the intermediate piers will be 2 metres wide, except those at the furthest western ten vents, which are 2.25 metres wide. The construction of the piers is much the same throughout. For the lowest 2.4 metres they are being faced with dressed granite, and for the rest of their height they are being faced with dressed limestone ashlar and limestone blocks. The interior of the piers will consist of limestone rubble masonry in 2 to 1 cement mortar. The piers are joined by arches with a radius of 4.35 metres. As regards the foundations, the whole structure has to be erected on sand, sheet piling being used for the full length of the Barrage on both sides, as in the case of the Assiut and Isna Barrages, with the difference that this time universal joist steel sheet piling is being used. On the upstream side there will be two lines of piling 1½ metres apart, the intervening space being filled with concrete. The floor will consist of 6 to 1 Portland cement concrete throughout, with aprons of shaped concrete blocks, and where special resistance is required the concrete is paved with granite blocks. Where necessary, as at the western end, the flooring is stepped. It remains to add that the Barrage will be crossed by a roadway 6 metres wide, which will have on it a 0.60 gauge line of tramway rails.

An account only of the actual work which is being undertaken quite fails to give an adequate impression of

the vast organisation which is rendered necessary for carrying out a scheme such as this Barrage. Sir John Jackson, Ltd., have had to build at Nag Hammadi what is practically a settlement to meet the needs of the staff comprising 95 Europeans and in the working season some 5,000 native labourers. A hospital has been built, and canteens, recreation rooms, and tennis courts have been provided. Then a power station has been constructed which, besides supplying power for the works, lights the whole colony. The necessary water supply has been obtained by sinking wells and by purifying Nile water. Beside the power station well-equipped workshops for machine tools, etc., have been erected.

Then, as regards material, the work has involved opening up a quarry 55 kilometres down stream, another quarry for limestone on the east bank, and sandpits some 44 kilometres upstream from the Barrage. From the main limestone quarry the material has to be brought three miles by railway to the river bank. A fleet of seven tugs is employed for transport to the site. By the time the Barrage is finished 70,000 tons of cement



Mr. PERCY WESTACOTT, M.I.C.E.
Managing Director of Sir John Jackson, Ltd.

[Photo by Miles and Kaye.]

will have been used, 180,000 tons of sand, and 550,000 tons of limestone.

The problem of communications between the east and west banks of the river presented some difficulty, as it was desired to avoid causing any unnecessary interruption in the river traffic. A solution was found in the construction of a series of cableways, which have been used to transport materials and men from one side to the other, to remove the wet sand from the Nile bed, to place the concrete of the foundations in position, and for other purposes. Naturally in the third season when the work is concentrated at the east end of the Barrage, the cableways will be of enormous utility.

Two canals take off from the east bank, one directly above the Barrage, while on the west bank there is the Fouadia Canal, and for this canal the contract for the Barrage provides for the construction of a regulator with six openings 6.0 metres wide each, with two abutments and five piers. The conversion to perennial irrigation of the area which the Barrage is designed to serve will be carried out by a comprehensive system of canalisation on lines similar to those which have been followed in the development of other areas in Egypt.

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A Shilluk

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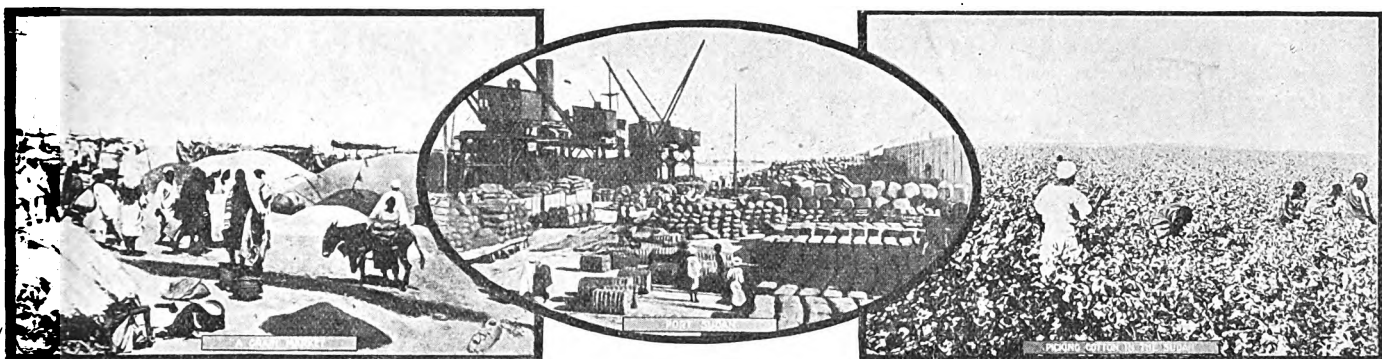
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THE SUDAN



The Gateways of the Sudan

Egypt and the Sudan—whatever the politicians of the former may say to the contrary—are two separate countries, presenting to the traveller two very distinct identities, and it is as much a mistake to think that an impression of the Sudan can be formed from a visit to Upper Egypt, as it is to conclude that the country has been seen when a few days have been spent in Khartoum. For its own attractions and for the variety of experiences that it offers, the Sudan merits a visit "on its own"; that such a visit can be combined with one to Egypt is the traveller's good fortune, but let the Sudan be just as much a goal at the latter.

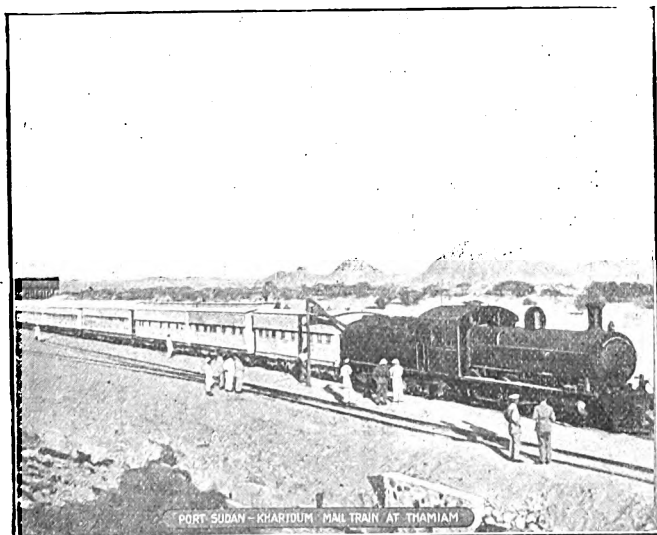
For those who approach it from the northern hemisphere the Sudan can be entered by two gates—at Wadi Halfa from Egypt, at Port Sudan from the Red Sea. Each route has its own attractions. From Port Sudan the railway has to surmount the hill country which borders the Red Sea coast from the Gulf of Suez to the Abyssinian plateau. The watershed of the range lies between thirty and forty miles from the sea; the line has to rise to a point 3,000 feet above sea level, and, after leaving the coastal plain, climbs for over 50 miles an almost unbroken gradient of 1 in 100. Magnificent panoramic views are a feature of this part of the journey. Thamian, 118 miles from Port Sudan, is the junction for the Kassala Railway, which is now being extended from Gedaref to Sennar, where it will join the Khartoum-Kosti-El Obeid line. The latter stretch of this line from Sennar to El Obeid running, as it does, almost east and west,

is of interest as lying very nearly midway between the northern frontier of the Sudan at Halfa and its southern frontier at Rejaf on the Uganda borders. In this connexion it may be noted that it is the railway that serves the northern half of the country, while in the southern half communications are maintained by steamers on the White Nile and its tributaries.

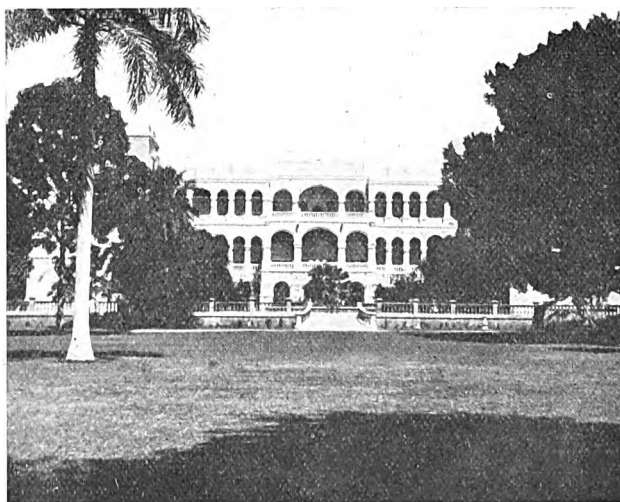
Coming from Egypt, the traveller to the Sudan leaves the Egyptian State Railways at Shellal and embarks on a steamer of the Sudan Railway and Steamers Administration for Halfa, which is reached in thirty-six hours. The journey affords a delightful prelude to a stay in the Sudan. It is full of historic interest and the scenery is striking. The rugged gorge of Kalabsha; Korosko, where the old caravan road to Abu Hamed leaves the river, and where Gordon disembarked on his last journey to Khartoum; the rock fortress of Ibrim; Toski, where the tribesmen of the Khalifa were routed in their attempt to invade Egypt; and the great temple of Abu Simbel, one of the most wonderful of all the temples of Egypt, are passed in succession by the steamer on its way southward from Shellal to Halfa.

At Halfa, the northern frontier station, the traveller has his first experience of that efficient paternal administration which helps to supplement the differences of climate, scenery and character that distinguish the Sudan from Egypt. The contrast is provided in the terms of an official notice:—

"Travellers, while in the Sudan, are particularly requested to refrain from gaining an easy reputation for generosity by giving money to children, beggars or other people who have not earned it."



A train on the Port Sudan Railway.



The Palace, Khartoum.

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At present the population of the Sudan has not been demoralised by indiscriminate almsgiving, but it will not require much of this to make the demand 'bakshish' as importunate and annoying to travellers as in Egypt itself, and cause a considerable number of natives to forsake the paths of honest industry for the unwholesome existence of preying upon others."

The well-ordered efficiency that characterises the steamer service is met with on the railway system. A *train de luxe*, specially built for desert travelling, conveys the traveller from Halfa over the 560 miles to Khartoum, of which the first 230 miles are through the uncompromising desert, until the Nile is reached again at Abu Hamed. Atbara, the junction for the Port Sudan line, and the headquarters of the Railway Administration, is the most important station passed, and Khartoum is reached over the Blue Nile Bridge—the longest in tropical Africa—which carries, in addition to the railway, a road and a tramway.

Not the least impressive feature of Khartoum is the width of its roads. The town, built on lines laid down by Lord Kitchener, is situated at the junction of the White and Blue Nile, with Khartoum North on the other bank of the Blue Nile, and Omdurman stretching northwards for miles along the left bank of the White Nile. Most of Khartoum's main avenues radiate from common centres, after the pattern of the Union Jack. While the arrangement would undoubtedly facilitate military operations in case of need, the generous breadth

of the roads is likely to constitute a burden on the local exchequer when the day comes for placing them in a condition that Western standards require for the thoroughfares of a modern town. The spaciousness of Khartoum is in keeping with the extent of the territory whose destinies it is called upon to control. It is the nerve-centre of an administrative machinery that offers probably the most successful example of British tutelage over a backward country, and this aspect of the capital and its personnel will engross the attention of the inquiring traveller long after he has exhausted its guide-book "sights." The Palace, Gordon College, the Zoological Gardens, the Sudan Club are among the landmarks in a setting which is sufficiently *sui generis* to hold the interest of those who have made the long pilgrimage.

Yet Khartoum is little more than an inner gateway of the Sudan. Some idea of the size of the country will be gathered from the fact that yet another train journey, as far as Sennar or a steamer trip to Kosti, is necessary before the half-way meridian is reached. If the fortunate traveller is bound for the south, he can still embark at Khartoum on his fifteen hundred mile journey to Rejaf. When the Gebel Aulia Dam has been built a short distance above the junction of the two Niles, the terminus of the steamer service may possibly be transferred to Kosti. The Uganda tour from Khartoum, however, calls for a separate account.

Khartoum to Uganda

By G. O. WHITEHEAD.

Those who mean to make the journey from Khartoum up the Nile to the Uganda border would be well advised to take a little trouble to learn about what they are going to see on the way. An endless expanse of thorny scrub and sand, of grassy plain, or of sudd, can easily grow tedious. But as soon as one begins to know something of the people, and their pursuits, of the animals and plants to be seen, and of the history of the country, tedium gives way to a curiosity which it would take more than one journey to satisfy.

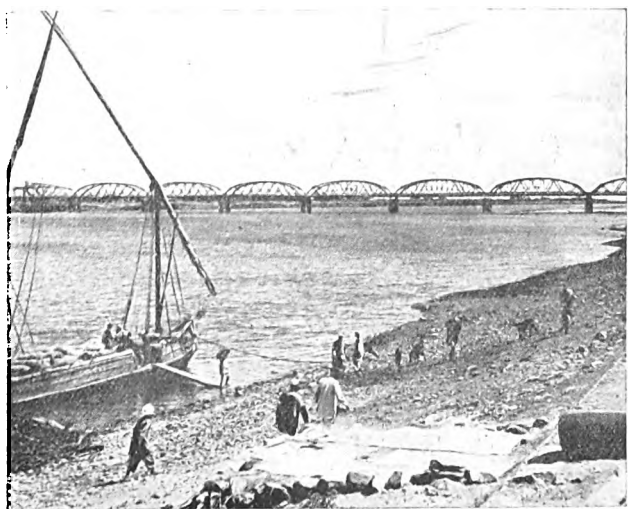
The course of the Nile and its sources constituted one of the last and biggest of the geographical problems of the world to be solved by the courage and curiosity of the European. As one steams away from Khartoum on the broad expanse of the White Nile, one remembers that this was the view that Baker, Gordon and Emin Pasha all saw when they sailed into what was then an almost unknown land, in the 60's and 70's.

One is reminded of them again when one reaches the extreme limits of the Sudan. We see the ruins of Gondo-

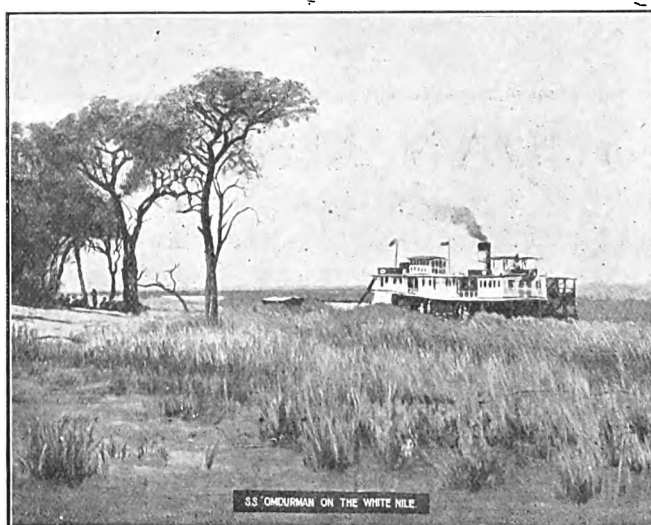
koro, where Baker stayed in 1860 before making his dashing march into Uganda and discovering the Albert Nyanza, and where a few years later (1868-70) he built a station (Ismailia) and, as the representative of Ismail Pasha, tried to bring peace and order to that unhappy country. We see Lado on the opposite bank, where Gordon set up his station when he succeeded to Baker's command, and where Emin continued the work of both of them in his own queer way, for he was much more of a scientist than an administrator, and in a wonderful series of letters described the plant and bird life of this little known region.

But to return. For the first two hundred miles of the journey, that is to about Kosti where the railway from Sennar to El Obeid crosses the Nile, the country on either side is settled by Sudanese Arabs.

After this point they become scarcer, and are only to be seen in occasional settlements on the banks, where they do a little trading or cut and bring wood for the passing steamers. These *mulakias* or Muhammadan settlements have a bad name for a low standard of life



Blue Nile Bridge, Khartoum.



S.S. OMDURMAN ON THE WHITE NILE.

and seem to collect the dregs of the Northern Sudan and of the pagan South.

For the next 400 miles, roughly from Jebelein to Lake No, Shilluks inhabit either side of the Nile. They are tall, reserved and occasionally handsome. At Kodok or Malakal, the headquarters of the White Nile Province, they can easily be studied. They come in from the neighbouring villages, armed with their two long spears and their pipe, and buy a little sugar in the suk or market, or watch the steamer and its passengers. They are, so far as we can know, a proud and self-conscious people, who have stood up bravely to the attacks of Arab and Turk, and cherish a history which goes back somewhere into the 16th century.

Kodok, of course, hides under that inoffensive name the ominous word Fashoda. It was here that the French saw their dream of an Empire stretching from side to side of Africa crumble in 1898.

Shortly after Kodok the mouth of the Sobat is passed on the left-hand side of the river. It leads up through Shilluk country at its mouth into a grassy marsh land inhabited by the Nuers, who have lately given the Government trouble.

At Lake No one enters the last stretch of the Nile—the Bahr el Jebel—or river of the hills, for 400 miles further south the country will become hilly, and for the first time since the steamer left Jebelein (the twin hills) will anything that can be called a hill be seen—the rounded mass of Jebel Lado, and the conical point of Rejaf.

But before these welcome hills come into sight there is a long, and it must be admitted, tedious voyage through the sudd, the great marshy area stretching from Lake No to about Bor.

As far as one can see there is a sheet of papyrus and marshy grass, with here or there an occasional palm tree,

or by the bank the miserable huts of the riverain Dinka.

At Malek on the left bank of the river stands the headquarters of the C.M.S. mission to the Southern Sudan, where an excited group of Dinka boys, some of whom speak and write English in a way that would surprise a traveller, turn out to welcome the steamer. By that time the steamer has emerged from its narrow, tortuous passage through the sudd and completes the remainder of its journey rapidly. At Mongalla, the headquarters of Mongalla Province, there are the usual government buildings, some companies of the Equatorial Battalion, and a Zoo, where most of the small game of the district may be seen. The inhabitants of the Nile bank from here to Rejaf are Bari, a tribe which won an unenviable reputation for savagery from the early explorers, but which now, much reduced by famine, cattle-plague, and slave-raiding in the old days, is peaceable and even spiritless. In the old days both men and women covered themselves with brick-red oil, and the women still do so and look much the colour of the inner tubes of motor tyres. It is interesting to note that this people is in language akin to the famous Masai, the fighting people of East Africa.

The Province capital Mongalla is soon to move to Juba, a site some 60 miles further south, at present a C.M.S. school for boys from all parts of the Southern Sudan. With the new capital, which will also be the terminus of the steamer line, an extension and improvement of communications with the Congo and Uganda may be expected. Whether the Upper Nile, which has been a cul-de-sac for centuries will ever "develop" is more than doubtful. It may and probably will be the route for goods and machinery going into the Congo; it may grow a certain amount of rain-cotton.

But it will ever be the home of a sturdy primitive life with more than one lesson to teach the sophisticated European.

An Early Morning Excursion

BY JAMES HENRY.

Ancient Sennar.

The hamlet of Sennar on the Blue Nile achieved greatness some three years ago by giving its name to the world's then largest dam, which regulates the irrigation of the island between the Blue and White Niles and has converted what was so recently a desert into a prosperous and very important cotton-growing area.

Though nowadays its glory has departed, Sennar can boast a not inglorious history. In ancient times it was under Egyptian and Ethiopian influence and embraced Christianity at an early date. During the latter half of the first century B.C. this part of Africa was conquered by the Romans and a garrison was stationed at Sennar, but

this was soon afterwards withdrawn. The seventh and eighth centuries saw an Arab invasion, with the result that Christianity gradually died out and the indigenous inhabitants of the country—the Fungs—a mixed negroid race, allied with the Arabs, assimilating their speech, religion, and customs, had established by the fifteenth century the powerful kingdom of Sennar, which by the eighteenth century ruled a large part of the eastern Sudan. From this high-water mark there was a decline, until in 1821 the kingdom was overthrown by Egypt, and Sennar is now a province of the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan.

Sennar is to-day of practically no commercial nor political importance and sees an Englishman once a month or

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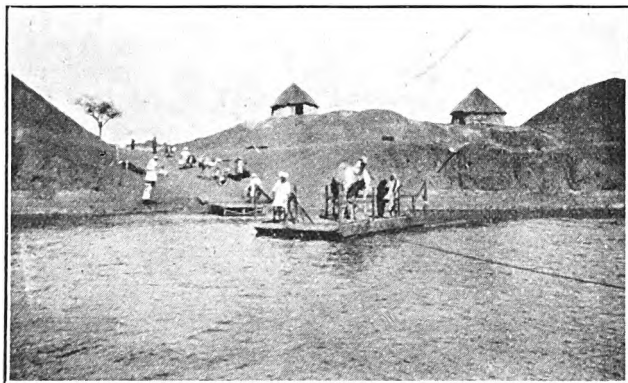
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so, when the District Commissioner comes to try a case or to assess taxes, or a railway official pays a visit of inspection. It is just south of the flourishing cotton belt and just north of the gum and cattle country and, though on the railway, is merely a change-engine and watering station, while even its former importance as a point of transshipment from river to railway has lapsed, as the quay for the Blue Nile steamers is now on the other side of the Dam and some four or five miles away.

Nevertheless a visit to Sennar is well worth while, for there are to be seen—imagine it in this part of Africa—the ruins of the old Roman camp, and, what is almost as incongruous in the northern Sudan, a large monkey forest!



The Ferry at Sennar.

Leaving the railway station, you pass a colony of charcoal burners, and, traversing the market-place, arrive at the ferry across the main irrigation canal. The charcoal burners are well known and send their produce as far afield as Khartoum, nearly two hundred miles away, while the market is typical of a small native village—being a quadrangle of shops and booths with the enclosed courtyard piled with heaps of grain and country produce. The ferry is quite interesting and often amusing; for it is nothing more than a small and primitive raft, and your companions are natives of every grade, with a good sprinkling of donkeys, camels, sheep, and goats, while it may well be that you will encounter a whole family moving house, with impedimenta of pots and pans, beds and drinking vessels, loaded chaotically on donkeys, and the women folk hidden beneath "Howdahs" perched precariously on the backs of bullocks or camels.

Roman Remains.

Leaving the canal, you strike a track that leads you to Old Sennar, as the Roman camp is called, and the monkey forest. Hear you feel that there is a strange meeting of east and west, of old and new, for on one hand is the river, the Nile mysterious, omniscient, and old as time, and on the other the canal, and yet you realise that there is nothing new under the sun, for the Egyptians were building irrigation canals six thousand years ago, and Father Nile, as is his custom, seems to brood and smile, rather cynically perhaps, for he has seen it all before, though it cannot be as anomalous to observe derelict steam dredgers and the weird relics of contractors' machinery.

Old Sennar is finely situated on a cliff overlooking the river, and the site was obviously selected by one who knew where to establish a fortified camp. There is unfortunately nothing of the old Roman city now standing; but as at Roman sites in England, so here, the dispositions of mounds and fosses enables you to trace the walls and to form an estimate of the size and configuration of the old town; but whereas at, say, Caerleon, everything is buried beneath several feet of earth, here there is but a light covering of sand, and amateur exploration is both easy and exciting. Half an hour's scratching about in the mounds is almost always amply rewarded by a find

of a few beads or bits of pottery, and such good luck naturally adds to the enjoyment of the excursion.

This is a side of our character that natives find so hard to understand, and it amazes them that Englishmen "will go anywhere to see anything old!" though their idea of age is rather nebulous, and if you ask them how old a thing is they will reply: "Oh very, very old, before the Khalifa's time!"

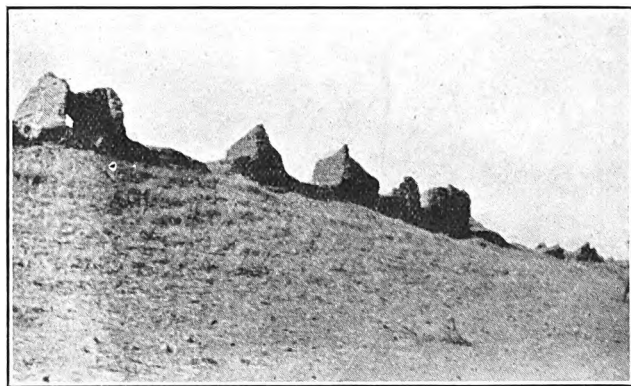
A Monkey Forest.

The monkey forest is about a mile farther on, and its approach is like a London common, consisting as it does of bushes and small trees, only that grassy walks and rides give place to sandy tracks. On the road you meet strings of camels tied head to tail and laden with wood that has been cut in the forest and which is carried in crudely-fashioned panniers. As many as a dozen camels are commonly thus roped together, the column being as often as not in the sole charge of a very small but quite capable native child, who gravely salutes you.

The forest proper is an ideal home for monkeys, for from all the trees hang down to the ground tendrils like ropes in a gymnasium and the upper branches interlace forming a perfect playground. The monkeys, of which are to be seen hundreds, generally in parties of twenty or so, are small grey ones, being about three feet high, and although the forest resounds to the blows of the woodcutters' axes, they never go very far away. They are to be seen playing on the ground like rabbits, but on catching sight of you, they scatter like squirrels or lizards, climbing the tendrils with incredible agility and running about on all fours in the tree tops, making a noise above your head like rats scampering over the ceilings in an old house.

The natives sometimes catch them by the simple expedient of making them intoxicated. They place on the ground pots of beer made from millet, which the misguided monkeys drink and which makes them so sleepy that they are easily captured.

The excursion above described can be accomplished comfortably in three hours, the best time being in the cool of the early morning before breakfast, starting at daybreak. To men folk it is no hardship to walk the



Ruins at Old Sennar.

whole distance, though it is advisable that any ladies in the party should be mounted on donkeys.

A very enjoyable feature of the walk is the wonderful bird life of the Blue Nile. There are to be seen millions of demoiselle crane and sand grouse, and flights of geese and teal, all of which afford in the season wonderful sport, and are excellent eating, while in the forest itself are found birds of beautiful and brilliant plumage, the loveliest, and one of the commonest, resembling a magpie in orange and kingfisher blue.



SERVICE ECONOMIQUE of the LEBANON

Modern means of rapid communication, due mainly to the motor car, have made Lebanon, the sacred mountain of myriad memories, pre-eminently the health and pleasure summer-resort of Egypt and Palestine, and lately also of Iraq, through the short desert route, and have brought it more within the programmes of foreign tourist agencies.

It is moving with the times, and, thanks to official supervision and help, it is able to cope with the new conditions. Existing roads are being improved, main arteries, leading to famous historic sites, are being asphalted, and new roads are being built. Pure water is drawn through pipes, and electric plants are being installed in the chief centres. Hotel accommodation approaches nearer to modern standards, and local attractions are encouraged.

With their varying altitudes, the different centres furnish all the necessary conditions for those seeking health on medical advice. As a few examples may be cited ; SOFAR (4,090 feet above sea-level), 1 hour by car from Beyrout, with its fine residences and Hotel Casino, overlooking the Hammana Valley, immortalised by Lamartine ; AIN ZHALTA (3,925 feet above sea-level), 1 hour 45 minutes by car, between the two famous sources of Safa and Baruq, its cedar forest nestling in the higher chain behind it to the East, and its wide luxuriant valley glowing with a rare variety of rock tints ; ALEY (1,960 feet), 40 minutes by car, the most popular resort ; BEIT MERY and BRUMMANA (2,620 feet), 45 minutes by car, with their wealth of pine groves, commanding the most brilliant panorama of sea and land, and a host of other equally attractive centres in the South and North, such as JEZZIN, HASRUN and EHDEN, and the IMMEMORIAL CEDARS, now reached by car, with an up-to-date hotel near the Sacred Grove.

BEYROUT MUNICIPALITY

BEYROUT, the principal port of the Eastern Mediterranean, promises, under the enlightened direction of its present Municipal Council and Director, to become the Paris of Syria and the Lebanon.

Its new features are :—

The Square, transformed into an elegant garden.

Its rich handsome buildings (including the Municipal Blocks), lining the wide new streets cut through the old city.

Its fine asphalted boulevards, with the National Museum to be erected along the principal artery, Rue de Damas.

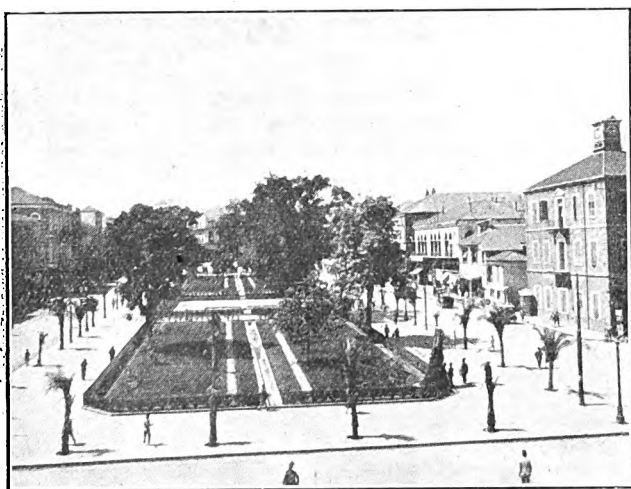
An up-to-date theatre facing the Etoile, projected by the Municipality in the middle of Allenby Street.

SYRIA

Recent Developments

The Appearance of Beyrout.

To those who knew Beyrout before the War, and what losses in life and property it suffered during the struggle, and who have heard, later, of the difficulties of the French in the early exercise of their mandate and of the devastating effects of the Syrian revolt, the air of opulence which the town now presents and the intensity of the traffic in its principal thoroughfares appear somewhat puzzling. But the very security of its position has caused it to profit



New Square, Beyrout.

by the revolt, and to thrive on the woes of the interior. Hundreds of families from Damascus, Homs, Hama, and Aleppo then flocked into the capital, and, at one time, in such numbers that the overflow of its limited housing accommodation had to drift into the suburbs and neighbouring towns, such as Jounih and Hadeth.

On the other hand, the influx of about 30,000 Armenian refugees, and the presence of part of the French troops of the Armée du Levant with their officers and families, and of a not inconsiderable number of civil officials, have been so many adventitious factors of such rapid growth and increased activity. Furthermore, the discovery of the desert route to Baghdad has created an undreamed-of transit traffic of passenger and goods to Iraq and Persia, which has helped to counterbalance the loss of the transit trade with Turkey, Palestine, and Trans-Jordan, brought about by the post-War political changes.

The new features that strike most the visitor to Beyrout are the elegant garden in the square, once known as the Place des Canons, with its pond of violet-coloured glazed tiles, in the centre of which a tall jet of vapoury water is displayed at certain hours of the day, and the rich, indeed, too rich, buildings, several storeys high, that are being put up along the wide streets, which had been cut through the old city by the Turks during the War, and left with mounds of debris for the newcomers to clear away. Many of the old buildings had been expropriated by the Municipality of Turkish times, and paid for in bonds. The Municipality has since redeemed some of these bonds and caused to be built on some of the sites large blocks for its own and Government use.

Motors and Roads.

The advent of the motor car in unexpected numbers (there being no fewer than 3,446 automobiles in the Lebanese Republic) has caused an alarmingly rapid deterioration of city and provincial roads, which drove the authorities, in their desperation, to seek a solution. Most of the stone available in the country is of a rather friable nature, which withstood well enough the vehicular traffic of pre-motor days, but could ill stand the automobile, and less so the heavy truck, especially of the military type. At first, the municipal authorities tried a hard black stone, but the supply was hardly sufficient for paving a few streets, and finally the asphalt covering was thought of, and, once tried successfully, it is now being extensively used for both city and provincial roads. It has been found to be, in the long run, much more economical. First attention is being given to roads used by the tourists and summer visitors, the Beyrout-Naqla, Beyrout-Damascus-Baalbeck and Beyrout-Tripoli roads; and the Shell (Syria) Co., Ltd., is reaping a rich harvest, as it supplies the material, and provides also technical aid. On the section Beyrout-Naqla, already about one-third is asphalted; on the section Beyrout-Damascus, the asphaltting up to Sofar is completed; and on the section Beyrout-Tripoli the asphaltting to Antelias is finished. On the Damascus side the asphaltting has been done up to Doummar. The new road to the Cedars of North Lebanon was lately inaugurated, thus saving the visitor the rough trudge on foot, or horse or mule back from Bsherré to the Sacred Grove. One of the important new roads, for which the French deserve most credit, and which will prove useful from both the



Beyrout: Rue Allenby, under repair.

economic and the touristic standpoint, is the one lately completed between Latakia and Aleppo. If it was calculated to serve a strategic purpose, it is none the less a praiseworthy achievement.

In order to reduce the risk of accidents, sharp curves, especially on the steep mountain roads, are being broadened and made more fit for automobile traffic. In the towns, at congested crossings, the street police are gaining efficiency in regulating the traffic.

G. & S. NASSAN and Company, DAMASCUS



The NASSAN factory and showrooms in Bab Sharqi figure on the programme of sights for the visitor, along with the historic monuments of Damascus, such as the Mosque of the Omayyads, Saladin's Tomb, etc. :: :: ::

All kinds of oriental furniture in copper and wood, as well as woven materials of the most gorgeous kind, are to be seen in bewildering profusion in the showrooms :: ::

Men and women are on view making silk and woollen carpets and rugs, carving copper and inlaying it with silver, also inlaying wooden furniture with minute pieces of ivory, ebony, rose wood and olive wood. It is a work full of fascination and wonder.

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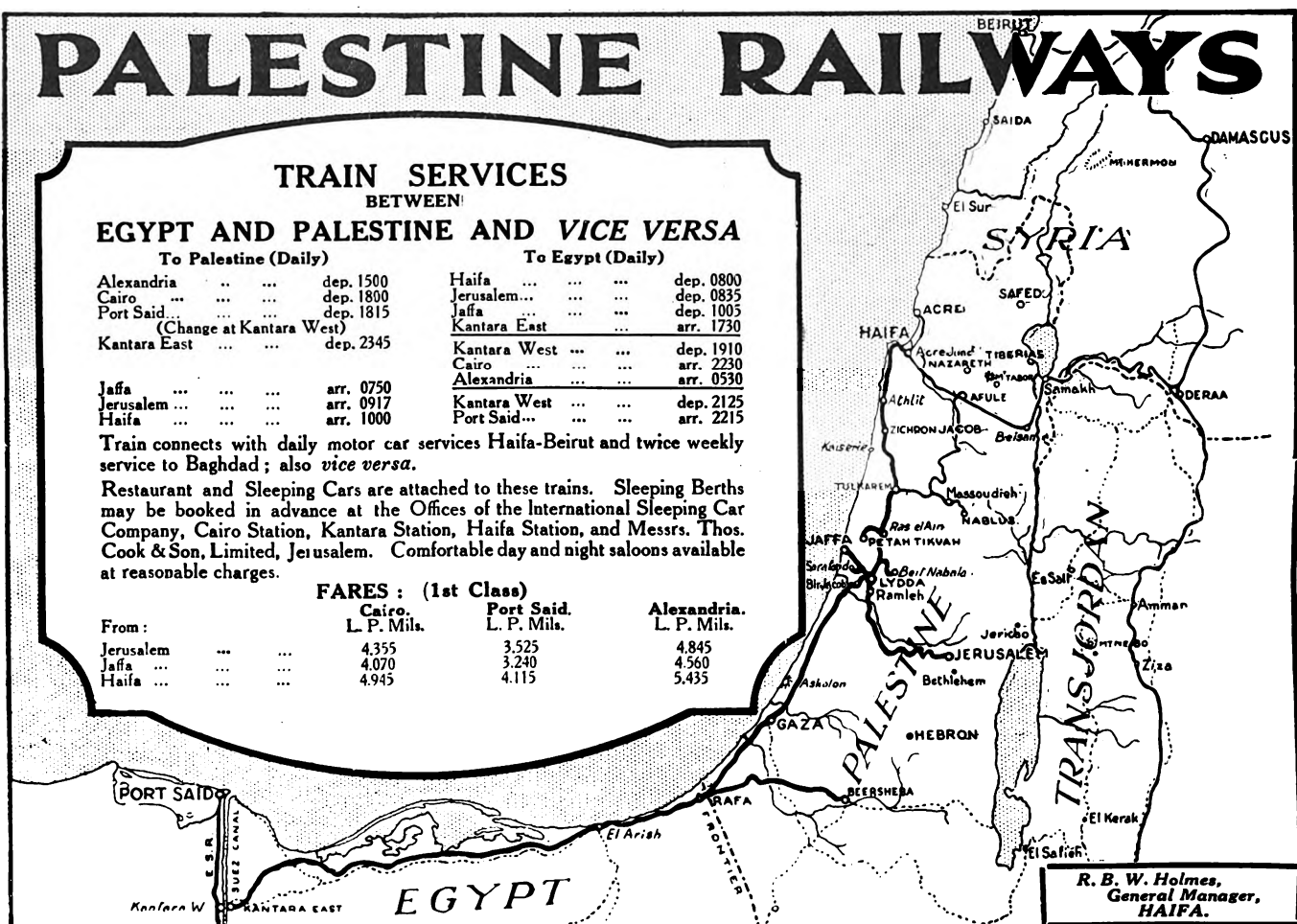
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Railways.

The French railways suffered grievously during the War and the Administration, which sought for several years after the Armistice to recuperate its losses by somewhat exorbitant tariff rates, has lately inaugurated a less selfish policy by reducing some of the passenger and goods rates, and increasing the number of trains, and appreciably improving the speed of those running on the express services. The recent connexion of the quick services with those of the Orient Express at the Turkish frontier is expected to lend a stimulus to the overland passenger traffic, and to the tourist traffic as well.

The Trans-Desert Route.

Only a passing allusion can be made to the trans-desert route between Beyrout and Baghdad, as the subject, to be properly dealt with, would require a special article. For the present the Nairn Eastern Transport Co. (an amalgamation of Nairn and the Eastern Transport Co.) holds the field for passenger traffic on regular schedules.

Much of the progress made so far, such as the installation of electric plants, some under water power, and the supply of pure water through pipes in the principal summer resorts has been due to private initiative. It would seem that the Mandatory Authorities have thus far refrained from lending more than platonic aid to big economic schemes, pending the complete settling down of political conditions. Now, however, that traces of the revolt are no longer discernible, they are beginning to show their hand. They have just released 400 thousand Lebanese gold pounds, representing the remaining share of the Lebanese Government in the Customs receipts so far held at the Haut Commissariat; but on the express condition that these amounts shall be used exclusively on schemes of a productive nature. It is said that they will be devoted chiefly to irrigation schemes already studied, and the vital importance of which has been demonstrated by the last two years of consecutive drought, which spelt ruin to the grain crops, and compelled the country to import tens of thousands of tons from the great grain-producing countries of the world. One of the schemes relates to the Yammuni Lake, which involves the cutting of a tunnel 3 kilometres long, and in the surveying of which the French Aviation Camp at Rayak is lending such valuable help. Furthermore, the imminent understanding with the bondholders, on similar terms as the Turkish settlement, will also be releasing important sums derivable from the revenue hitherto collected by the Ottoman Public Debt Administration. It is said that these amounts will be assigned in great part to the vast programme of road asphaltting.

It is confidently hoped that, as political conditions show signs of further stability, foreign financiers will no more manifest the same shyness in investing capital in the mandated territories.

Improvements at Beyrout.

Meanwhile, the outward signs of prosperity and progress are more in evidence at Beyrout, the gateway of Lebanon and Syria. It has already some of the distinguishing features of a modern city, although it was like an overgrown village in Turkish times. It has now wide, well-laid streets and boulevards, stately buildings, and an up-to-date theatre; and it is shortly to have a drainage system, and an imitation of the Etoile of Paris, the centre of which will be the middle of Allenby Street; and a National Museum to house the treasures already unearthed by the various archæological missions.

French Initiative.

The improvements due entirely to French initiative and capital are (a) the filling up of that part of the sea to the east of the Beyrout harbour (as part of the larger plan of the enlargement of the basin, involving the extension of the stone jetty (breakwater) which is to be proceeded with in sections), which is to provide quay accommodation for steamers of fairly large tonnage, and enable passengers to

land without the medium of boats and tenders: also adequate space for erecting a Customs House, as well as offices for the Health and Light Administrations, more worthy than the present ones of the enhanced status of the port; (b) the improvements on all the railway lines already referred to; (c) the establishment of an air line between Marseilles and Beyrout by the Air Union, Ligne d'Orient; (d) the policing of the large desert tracts, and especially those crossed by the automobile convoys to Iraq; (e) archæological research in various important historic sites, in some of which, such as Byblos (Jibeil) and Mishrefe (Qatna), startling discoveries of supreme scientific value were made.

Air Mail Services.

It is now over three months since the Air Union, Ligne d'Orient, started a tentative service, accompanied by the reconnoitring of the Syro-Lebanese coast, in which the Naval Division lent its help. This was carried out by two hydroplanes, Syrie and Provence, which have already made the flight successfully from Marignan (near Marseilles) to Beyrout and back, calling *en route* at Naples, Corfu, Athens, and Castellorizo. Two more

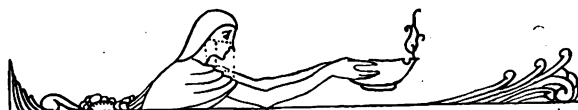


The Old and the New.

powerful hydroplanes of the Cams type are in course of delivery, and once a fleet of four hydroplanes is in commission a postal convention will be signed for the maintenance of a weekly postal service to be started early next spring. The carriage of mail is the chief object. The relay system will be adopted; the hydroplane on its arrival at a hydroport will deliver its load to another hydroplane kept in readiness to take over, and continue the flight. This will reduce the strain on both the pilots and the machines, but will require a larger number of hydroplanes. An understanding is said to have been reached between the Air Union and the Imperial Airways for the carriage of part of the Indian mail to a point on the Syrian frontier to be mutually agreed upon. It is contemplated to extend the service to the Far Eastern French Colonies, in collaboration with the Imperial Airways.

Owing to the limited space inside Beyrout harbour, most of the time crowded with steamers, the hydroplanes will have to alight in the open sea. As the weather conditions there are not very favourable at certain periods of the year, and owing, moreover, to the rather high cost of land required for a large shed and workshop, it has been decided to make of Beyrout only a secondary port of call for the delivery of mail only. The chief hydroport has been chosen at a point near Tripoli.

The French authorities will be granting the Air Union a subsidy, to which the Lebanese Government will make a certain contribution.

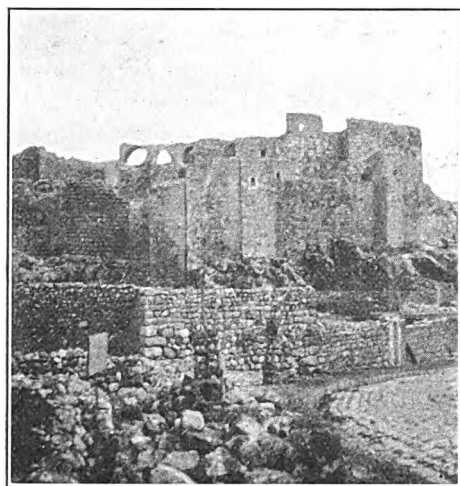


Latakia and the Alaouite State

The recent opening of a trunk road from Latakia to Aleppo marks a further stage in the linking up of the internal communications of the different States of Syria. Already there existed a metalled road between Beyrout and Latakia along the coast; and the two highways are so well made that it is now possible to proceed from Beyrout to Aleppo, a distance of some 250 miles, by that route in one day. Latakia is the chief town of the Alaouite State, which is a little island of direct French administration in the sea of the autonomous Governments of Syria and the Lebanon. It has progressed remarkably during the last few years under this form of administration, in which politics do not act as a brake upon progress. Before the War it was a small port, important only for its trade in tobacco, but almost entirely cut off by land from the rest of Syria. Now, in addition to the two trunk roads linking it with Beyrout and Tripoli on the south and Aleppo on the east, it is connected with the hinterland by a number of good motor tracks. By the side of the old Turkish city a new town is being laid out with wide boulevards, a promenade along the sea, a casino and a spacious Government Office (Serai); and

there is talk of a new and more modern harbour being built, which will be accessible to steamships.

Tobacco is still the principal agricultural product of the district; but the cultivation of cotton is being energetically fostered by the Government. Some 7,000 hectares have been placed



Castle of Masyaf. The Stronghold of the Old Man of the Mountains.

under cotton in the coastal zone; and an American variety is acclimatising itself well. Another new industry in the Latakia region is that of asphalt. A concession for 75 years has been granted to work asphalt deposits in an area of nearly 5,000 hectares to the east of the town; and with the enormous development for motor roads in Syria and the Lebanon the local demand for the product will be large.

Latakia, which inherits the name and site of one of the great foundations of the Seleucid Empire, Laodicea ad Mare, is entering on a new era of expansion. The whole Alaouite country around it is likewise being opened up, both for the inhabitants and for the tourist. Even in the storied East there is scarcely any region which is so interesting historically and so romantically beautiful as that which now forms the State of the Alaouites. It is a small enough country, with less than a quarter of a million inhabitants; but within its boundaries are crowded diverse civilisations and a medley of races and religions. Apart from Latakia, the only other town which it comprises is Tartous, the Tortosa of the Middle Ages, which was the last Eastern stronghold of the Crusaders. The town still retains its mediæval walls and a perfect specimen of a Norman Church, impressive in its gauntness. A few miles out at sea from the town lies the Island of Ruad, the old Aratus, which was one of the centres of Phœnician maritime power, and to this day is populated by a hardy, vigorous race of sea folk. The island, it may be remembered, was occupied during the Great War

by the Allies and used as a centre of the Intelligence Service for the coast of the Eastern Mediterranean.

The population of Latakia and Tartous consist in the main of Sunni Muslims, with a minority of Christians. The population of the hinterland, however, is largely composed of the strange sect of the Nossairis, or, as the French call them, the Alaouites, the followers of Ali, who represent a remarkable amalgamation of pagan, Arab and Christian religious ideas. The country comprises also another curious survival of religious syncretism, the Ismailis, who are the direct descendants of the Assassins of the Middle Ages, and, still occupying their mountain fastnesses, retain in them their secret cults and beliefs. The spirit of the Old Man of the Mountains broods over the ruined castles of Kadmus, Masyaf, and Kaf, around which the villages of the Ismailis are grouped. If they are no longer devotees of the hashish, from which it is supposed they derive their mediæval name, they still maintain fiercely their independence and isolation.

The whole country is studded with mediæval castles, partly Saracenic and partly Crusader; for it was in this land of mountains and gorges that the most romantic episodes of the

mediæval conflict between East and West had their setting. Two great strongholds, in particular, survive in almost perfect preservation on the top of their impregnable hills—Merkab, or the Watch Tower which stands on a cliff some 1,500 feet above the sea midway



Tartous (Torosa): Crusaders' Church.

between Tripoli and Latakia; and Kalaat El Husn, or in its French name Krak des Chevaliers, which dominates the road between the coast at Tripoli and the town of Homs, that was the starting place, as it is to-day a stage, of the desert road to Iraq. Both these fortresses sheltered until recently a large village; and though most of the former inhabitants to-day have preferred to build their houses below the fortress, there is still the accommodation for thousands of men and horses in the vast silent spaces of their halls and crypts and stables.

Scarcely less remarkable is the Castle of Sahyoun, some twenty miles to the east of Latakia, perched on an island rock surrounded by precipitous ravines, which is one of the most perfect survivals in the East of a Frankish chateau. Besides these relics of the ages of Chivalry, the mountains of the Nossairi country are crowned on every prominent hill by a Weli, or Shaikh's tomb, bright with its whitewashed dome, that commemorates a local Saint; for it is one of the distinctive characteristics of Nossairi worship to maintain these local cults.

The Alaouite country is rich then with the memorials of ancient and mediæval history and with the living and picturesque survivals of those religious amalgamations which, throughout the ages, have marked this portion of the Orient. Its isolated gorges and passes, hitherto accessible only to the daring traveller, are now being opened to the passing tourist; and the Frank again mixes and exchanges culture with the Oriental.

London to Baghdad

Via Stamboul—Aleppo—Darbisiyah—Mosul

This route from Europe to Iraq is well known to the officials of the Iraq Government, especially to those of the northern Liwas, but to Iraqi and European business men and to tourists it is hardly known at all, and it is for the latter categories this description is written. Anyone can go to the tourist agencies in London or Paris and purchase a through ticket entitling him to travel by the Simplon-Orient Express service (including food in dining cars) to Stamboul and thence for travel *via* Aleppo to Tripoli by train, from thence by motor to Haifa and on to Cairo by rail. For passengers travelling to Iraq there is a choice of routes from Aleppo, the quickest and most direct being to proceed by train to Darbisiyah and from there by motor to Mosul.

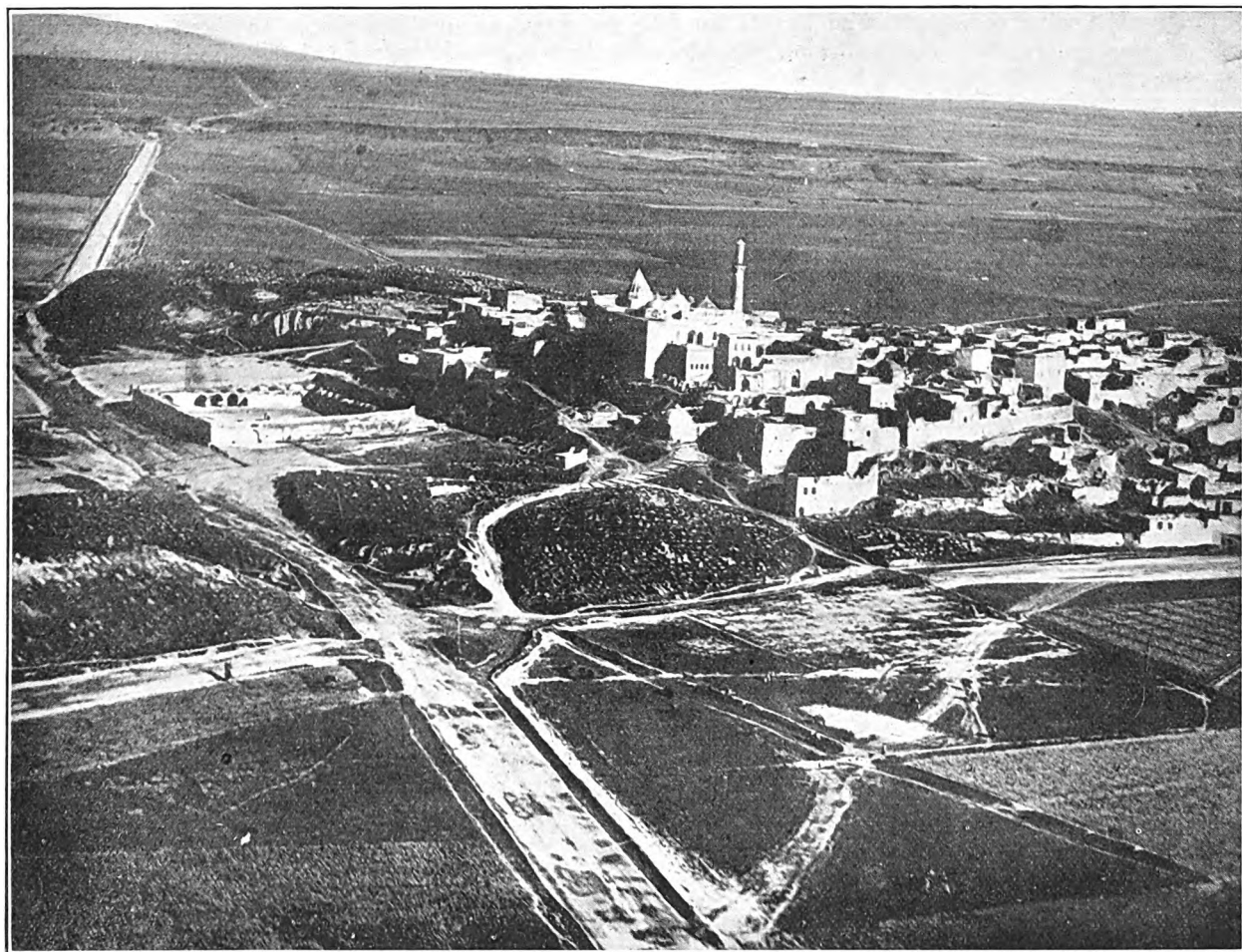
The passenger for Iraq entrains direct from the cross-Channel steamer from Dover into the Simplon-Orient Express at Calais, and after three days and four hours' travel in luxurious coaches and sumptuous dining cars, detrains in Stamboul. Only one night need be spent in

year. The portion of the journey from Darbisiyah to Mosul is done in a motor car and occupies eight hours.

The total time spent on the journey direct from London to Mosul is seven days and eight hours, and the cost is approximately as follows:—

1st Class ticket London-Aleppo	...	...	£24	10	1
Seat London-Dover	...	...	0	1	0
Seat Calais-Dover	...	...	0	2	0
Sleeping berth Calais-Stamboul	...	...	7	10	5
Sleeping berth Haidar Pasha-Aleppo	...	...	4	10	0
Meals <i>en route</i>	...	...	2	10	4
Hotel in Stamboul (one night)	...	...	1	10	0
1st Class ticket Aleppo-Darbisiyah	...	...	3	0	0
Seat in car Darbisiyah-Mosul	...	...	3	0	0
Passport visas whole journey	...	...	3	1	6
			£49	15	4

Note.—By travelling on a "Mixed Class" ticket, i.e., 1st Class London to Trieste and 2nd Class Trieste to Aleppo, the cost is reduced by approximately £8.



NINEVEH.

Constantinople, if speed is necessary. The Bosphorus is crossed the following morning by one of the ferry steamers to Haidar Pasha, and there the traveller again entrains in another comfortable Wagon-Lits at 9 a.m. and detrains at Aleppo at 6 a.m. on the morning of the third day, a run of 45 hours. The journey from Aleppo to Mosul at the time of writing is not as luxurious as that from London to Aleppo, but it is quite a comfortable one. It is, however, anticipated that the Wagons-Lits service will be extended to Darbisiyah or even to Nisibin next

Calais to Stamboul.

From 11 a.m., the first day is occupied in travelling from Victoria Station of the Southern Railway to Dover, thence by fast steamer to Calais, where on the wharf a train awaits with a coach or coaches marked "Calais to Stamboul." The berths in such coaches are labelled with the names of the passengers who have booked through. Other cars are marked for various destinations less distant from Calais than Stamboul.

The journey is then continued to Paris, which is reached

at 19.25, and, after a halt of one hour and ten minutes, is resumed. During the stay at Paris opportunity may be taken to dine in the Station Restaurant or in one outside; or dinner may be had in the dining car on the train. The train passes over the French frontier at Vallorbe in the early hours of the next morning and at about 7 a.m. it enters the Simplon Tunnel near the Swiss frontier and emerges later in Italy. The run through this country is very beautiful, and Milan, Venice and Trieste are points of interest seen and passed. The following morning one awakes in Yugoslavia; late afternoon finds one passing into Bulgaria, and the following morning at 6.40 Turkey is entered, Stamboul being reached at 15.40.

If passengers *en route* to Iraq are wise, they will have their passports visé for transit through Turkey, otherwise they will find it difficult and costly to get a transit visa to enable them to proceed next day. Passports visé for transit are taken from travellers in the train before arrival at Stamboul, and a receipt is given in exchange, with the intimation that on presenting the receipt, passports will be returned at Haidar Pasha at the time of departure for the south.

The trains from Haidar Pasha to Aleppo run on Mondays and Fridays only; so if it is desired to spend a whole day in Stamboul the Sunday's or Wednesday's train from London should be taken, so as to arrive in Stamboul, on Wednesday or Saturday, to spend Thursday or Sunday seeing the many places of interest and beauty, and to proceed on the journey on the following Friday or Monday.

The journey as far as Stamboul is over a very old railway route and one that has been used for many years by the business men of Europe; but the onward journey to Aleppo and thence to Tripoli and Palestine or eastward to Iraq and Persia is much less known.

To those who travel south from Haidar Pasha for the first time the beauty of the country passed through is a revelation, and the interest raised by seeing places, the names of which were brought prominently to notice by

the Great War and later by the Greco-Turkish War, make the daylight hours of travel all too short.

Haidar Pasha to Eskişehir.

The trains which leave Haidar Pasha on Monday and Friday mornings at 9 a.m. consists of Wagons-Lits labelled for Aleppo and Tripoli, with ordinary first, second and third class carriages in addition.

As our party settled down in such a train one Monday morning in early October, we found ourselves leaving the City behind and running into the suburbs, where the line closely follows the shore of the Sea of Marmora. On one side we had the brilliant blue water of the sea carrying shipping from many parts of the world, parts of the Turkish Navy and also the local fishing and trading boats. On the other side, on the slopes of a hill, we saw great numbers of suburban houses set in large gardens. The houses were of a type strange to us, as they almost invariably consisted of a lower story of stone and lime and an upper one of timber.

As the suburbs are passed through, prosperous farms take their place with their crops of maize, tobacco, and fruit trees heavy with apples, quince, chestnuts, walnuts, vineyards with ripe fruit, and patches brilliant with the green foliage and red of capscums. The gardens and farms all have small canals to carry the water to the varying levels, and these canals are bordered with weeping and ordinary willow trees. In about an hour and a half the Sea of Marmora was left behind, and shortly after we found ourselves being carried past a large lake, the banks of which were lined with orchards, and at a station near the eastern end we purchased a large basket of beautiful and excellent eating apples.

The railway then runs through a valley, gradually closing in, until it is a narrow gorge, and the line climbs high up the hillside and runs through many short tunnels. Away down in the gorge a new township is being built on the bank of a considerable river; valley and plain follow on valley, hillside and plain with gardens and

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BAGHDAD**

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KERBALA - KADHIMAIN - SAMARRA

Special arrangements are made by the Railway Administration for Parties of Tourists desiring to visit the places of interest in Iraq.

There are excellent sleeping and dining car services and rest houses are provided for the convenience of tourists at Hilla Station (for Babylon, Birs Nimrud and Kish) and at Ur Junction (for Ur of the Chaldees.)

For travellers proceeding to Persia there is a Rest House at Khanaqin Station.

The Railway Administration will be pleased to answer any enquiries and to make any special arrangements required by intending tourists.

See the Iraq Railway Guide Book obtainable from Messrs. Thos. Cook & Son Ltd., and from principal passenger agents.

Or write to Traffic Manager, Iraq Railways, Baghdad.

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orchards everywhere. A stop was made at Karachu at 5.25 p.m. to attach an additional engine to enable the steep climb from a valley over a hill top to be negotiated. As the train mounts upward we see a sight reminiscent of the War and its waste; lying on the steep hillside, some close to the line and others far down, are a great number of giant locomotives thrown there in some colossal smash. The line runs through deep rock cuttings and through gorges, narrow and tortuous in the ascent to the hill top.

The divide was crossed at 5.55 p.m. and we then ran down into yet another valley through scenes of farms and crops similar to those we had just passed, but the changing views of steep hillside, opening valley and rushing rivers maintain the interest all the time.

As the sun was setting we saw ahead of us a great glare of electric light which made us think we were approaching a large modern city, but soon we saw that the lights were those of a huge new saw mill, and, as we passed it, we could see the great sheds where logs of pine wood were being cut up into scantlings, and great stacks of cut timber were being loaded into trucks for despatch to markets. An aerial railway stretched away over the mountain to bring in the logs from some distant forest. About two miles on the train stopped at Bilejik Station, a largish place with a prosperous look. Darkness then overtook us, and an hour later found us at Eskishehir, the junction for Angora.

The composition of the train was altered considerably here, some coaches were detached and others attached, the train, however, proceeded with a greater load of passengers than it had on arrival. Shortly after we left Eskishehir dinner was served, the attendants prepared the beds and we settled down for the night.

Next morning at 8 a.m. we reached Konia, a large important town with a prosperous-looking people. Round the station and on the main streets large shade trees gave the place a well-cared-for appearance.

The change from Turkish to Roman characters is rapidly taking place. Already most of the station names, as far as we had come, had been altered, and those that had not had the names in the Arabic characters blocked out and the spaces ready for the new names.

The Taurus Range.

Leaving Konia, we entered on a stretch of wide plain with hills bounding the view to the east and west. The western hills nearest to the line have an extraordinary metallic lustre. The plain is cultivated, and must produce great quantities of grain; this year's crop, however, had all been reaped, and ploughing for the next season's crop was in progress. Four hours after Konia has been left, the hills begin to close in and the line rises rapidly, as we are now approaching the Taurus Range. At 2 p.m. we run down a long incline with many curves to approach Ulukishla, a newly-built town which nestles in a valley. Here we saw a large number of motor-cars and buses waiting to take the passengers who alighted there to their homes. The town was beflagged, and a great proportion of the population was on and about the station to welcome some high official.

The view from the train from here onwards is very interesting, as the line winds and climbs through narrow valleys, up hillsides, through short tunnels, and deep rock cuttings, always close to or above a swift running, but at present small, stream, which must be an imposing torrent when rain falls on the steep hillsides. The approach to Bozanti (the Cilician Gates of the ancients), reached at 3.30 p.m., is increasingly interesting. It is indeed wild rugged scenery, the line running along one side of a deep valley, the opposite side of which is closely bounded by hills wooded with fir trees, as high as one can see; beautiful valleys open into the one we are in, and we can see, far up, pleasant-looking farmhouses among a wealth of trees and green fields. The valley narrows till there is not room for both river and rail,

and for a long stretch the railway has to burrow its course through the rocky hillside. The valley then opens out again and the line emerges from a series of tunnels, and runs along the riverside again, now bordered with a thick fringe of Chenar trees. The less steep hillsides now seen have been denuded of fir trees, and the stumps show that men took away their beauty and have made no effort to replace it by planting young trees.

We reached Karapounar at 16.20. Here is seen the commissioned officers to the humble and badly-equipped site of a great base for the operations for the gigantic task of tunnelling through the Taurus Range just ahead. Great quantities of material and plant are spread over a large area. The trucks, engines and machinery have served their purpose and await the scrap merchant to take them away.

The valley from here on is so narrow that the only way of progress was to tunnel and rise up to and over the great range. The tunnel is not quite continuous; as the train rushes through, it emerges frequently for a few brief seconds on the hillside, and one gets a glimpse of a deep narrow gorge, the bottom of which cannot be seen. At some of these short intervals between sections of the tunnel, ranges of workmen's quarters can be glimpsed clinging to the steep hillside just below the line. As we climb upwards the tunnel becomes continuous, and in places of openings in the hillside, short tunnels have been cut through to the side of the valley, admitting glimpses of daylight as we pass. Those openings provided air and a means of disposing of the rock spoil from the tunnel. The time occupied in getting through the tunnel was 18 minutes, and the train emerged into daylight again at Hajikiri. Here we saw that a station had been built on a great artificial flat area which was formerly another base of operations for the construction of the tunnel. The exit from this great work is at a height of 4,816 feet above sea level, and the view from this eminence is truly wonderful. The station is sited on the mountain side, round curves of which the track has to descend. Almost in front and a little to the left is the great cut in the rock which was made by Alexander the Great to allow his army to make a rapid descent to the plain. A picture of this famous work is reproduced on the 2½-piastres Turkish stamp now in use.

All the passengers in the train alighted here to get a better view of the wonderful scene. Far away across a great horse-shoe shaped plain we could see the glacis of the railway bank on the opposite hillside. Entraining again, we swept round the hillside, here and there running through tunnels to avoid the steeper parts, the line gradually descending from the great height, but it was an hour before we reached Kebil, on the opposite side of the plain, and still far above it. The sun was setting as we continued our way down the hillside, and produced a scene long to be remembered. It was dark when we reached Yenidje at 6.45. After leaving this station arrangements for dinner and bed occupied us till we retired. The attendants wakened us early next morning, and we found the train running through the red-clay fields approaching Aleppo, at which place we arrived at 6 a.m.

Aleppo to Baghdad.

At Aleppo we learned that the train eastward to Darbisiyah and Mardin would leave at 7 a.m., and also that we would require to live on the country during the journey, so we procured bread and fruit and bottles of aerated waters hastily before the time of departure. For the present the Wagons-Lits comfort does not exist

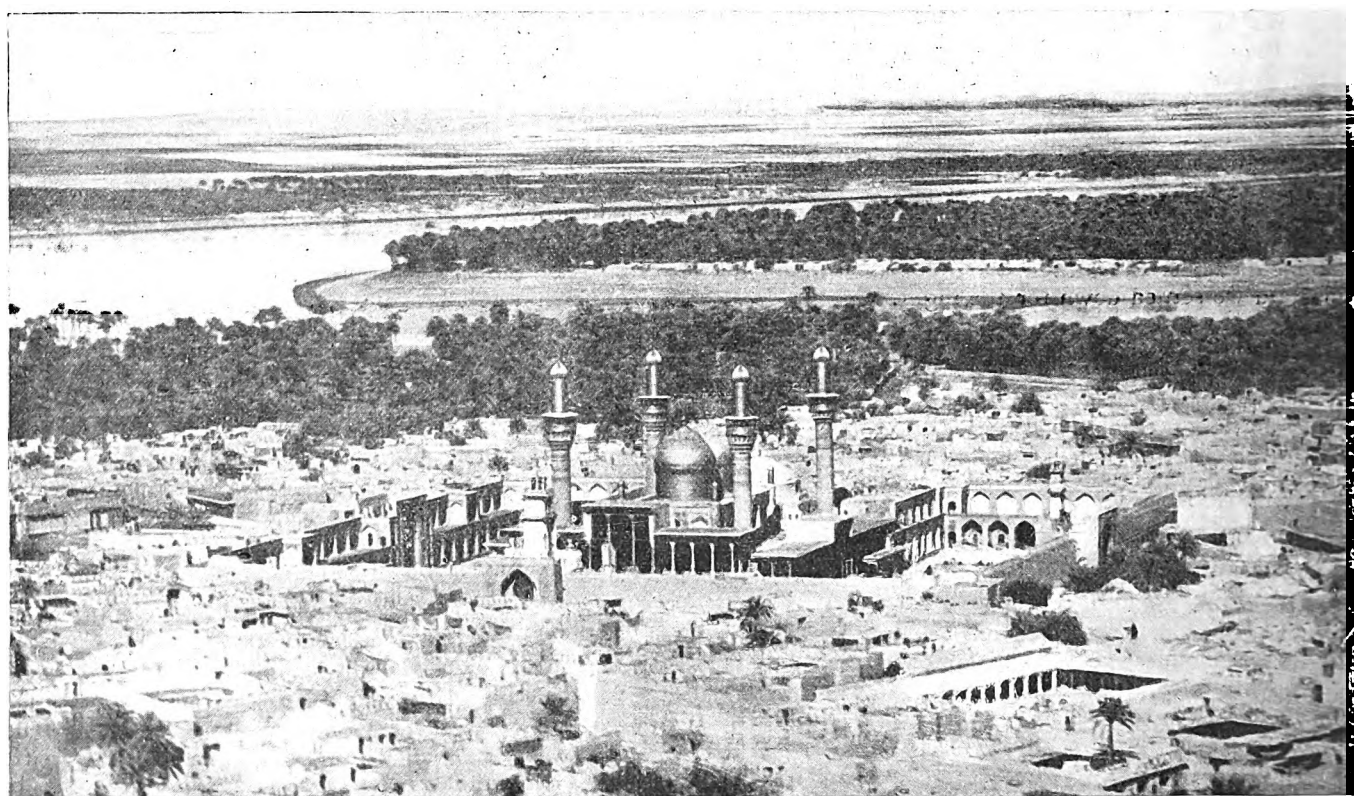


from Aleppo to Darbisiyah, the last station in Syria open for passenger traffic in the direction of Mosul. The accommodation consisted of a compartment seated for eight persons, with dividing arm-rests. There was ample space in the racks and under the seats for our baggage, so we were not separated from it.

This part of the journey is a great change from that just completed. Instead of great hills and valleys, rushing rivers and tree-clad hills, we passed through a great rolling plain of red earth, bare of crops, but either ploughed or being ploughed for the coming time of sowing seed. The halts at stations were long and noisy, but always interesting by reason of the many different races of people and their costumes and manners. Our fellow-travellers were also of interest, the male portion were nearly all in uniform; smartly-dressed officers, ranging from a General down to the most junior, and from non-privates. Several of the officers had their wives and

the border into Iraq before mid-day, and an hour later brought us up at the first Iraqi Police Post named Uglat, where we found an excellent rest room with the ordinary necessities. Here we had many cups of tea and ate some of the fruit we had with us, and went on refreshed and cheered. The road is not any better than most desert roads, but we travelled along at a steady 20 miles per hour, and arrived in Mosul at 7 p.m. We found accommodation in rest rooms at the Club, and next morning continued our journey in a Chevrolet car to Kirkuk, taking Arbil on the way.

This new route to Iraq brings the tourist to the Northern Liwa, and enables him to see the city of Mosul, the ruins of Nineveh, and many of the places of interest in Northern Iraq, such as Shaikh Adi, Al Kosh and Dohuk. Then on the way south Nimrud, also Arbil on its great mound, perhaps the oldest inhabited city in the world, can be visited. Thence passing through Altun



KHADIMAIN: From the air.

children with them. The ladies, obviously Turkish, were young and stout and beautifully dressed in the most up-to-date costumes, and all were shingled.

We arrived at our destination—Darbisiyah—at 10.30 p.m., and, owing to lack of accommodation, had to request hospitality for the night from the officer of a French post close to the station. We were received with the greatest kindness and were given vacant rooms to sleep in. The following morning we secured a Chevrolet lorry for our onward journey—we arranged our trunks inside to serve as seats and put our other cases on the roof, and so proceeded on our last stage into Iraq. After 40 miles' run we came to another French post near to Nisibin, where we showed our passports and enjoyed tea at a local tea shop. Here we could have changed into Ford cars, but we decided that, as we were very comfortable in our oversized-tired lorry, we would remain where we were.

The journey onwards was uneventful, and we crossed

Kupri, built on an island in the Lesser Zab, Kirkuk is reached. This is another mound city and long a centre of the passing dynasties of history. From here a visit can be made to the excavations of Tarkaian, which within the past year years have opened up the history of a nation of which little was known, and which was apparently destroyed in 1500 B.C. From Kirkuk, the Iraq Railways take the tourist to Baghdad, the ancient capital of Mesopotamia, which is the object of visit of most tourists.

This is only a very sketchy description of a route by which to travel from the West to the ancient centre and cradle of mankind, but the journey must be experienced to realise its ease and comfort.



Between Desert and Sown in Iraq

By E. S. STEVENS.

Few people realize that Iraq has a splendid climate for six out of twelve months. Its winter is colder and more bracing than that of the Mediterranean countries and Egypt, and a few days of rain in the course of the winter are soon forgotten amidst the brilliance of the prevailing sunshine. And Iraq, lying as it does on the new air and desert routes to India and the Far East, is always "on the way to somewhere else." The long sea-voyage to India by the Red Sea may be avoided by going *via* Baghdad, which is now only eight to ten days from London; and how much more enjoyable it is to most people to travel by this enthrallingly interesting route than to endure the monotony and heat of a journey by sea.

The chief charm of Iraq is, perhaps, that it is not as yet tourist-ridden. There is a subtle distinction between the word "tourist" and "traveller," and it is to the "traveller," the man who abhors hordes and dislikes the well-worn track, that Iraq particularly appeals. Here, he will not find the obsequious dragoman and the rapacious swarm of blood-suckers that exploit tourists in countries where they have been for years the natural prey of these parasites. On the contrary, he will encounter

instead of by candle-light, the visit "there and back again" may be accomplished in a day. Within the same day too he can see the lonely mound and temple tower of Birs Nimrud (Borsippa), according to Arab legend the Tower of Babel, built by the hunter king; and Kish, declared by tradition to be the first Sumerian city built after the Flood, a site which has yielded priceless treasures during recent excavations. Nearer still are Aqerquf, the ancient Cassite city of Kurigalzu; Ctesiphon with its world-famous arch (all that is left of the once magnificent palace of the Chosroes); and the wide ruins of Selucia, where a German expedition is at present conducting interesting excavations. All can be seen by taxi from Baghdad in the course of a day.

To go to Ur, upon which the limelight of archaeological discussion has been turned so much during recent years, is well worth while even when the season's dig is over, and Mr. Woolley has gone back to expound his latest discoveries in London. As it is a station on the Baghdad-Basrah line, no special expense is incurred by those travelling to the southern city. Its big temple-tower, which rises like a landmark over the plain, can be seen



Najaf: "lying like a casket within its walls in the brown desert."

the natural courtesy of the unspoilt East; and, if the element of uncertainty enters at times into his programme, he will always find ready help and disinterested counsel. The Iraq railway officials, who are anxious to forward the cause of travel in the country, take the utmost trouble in arranging tours and giving advice to visitors, and will furnish motor transport where the railway is not available. Rest houses are being constructed in many out-of-the-way places where there is no hotel accommodation, and several of these rest-houses, as at Ur of the Chaldees and Hillah, have been running with great success for more than two years.

By what varied paths the stranger can travel in the land which has been called the Cradle of Mankind, and which recent discoveries at Ur have proved to be one of the earliest nurseries of civilisation! He must go, obviously, to Babylon—even the old rhyme takes us there, and when it can be done by taxi from Baghdad

from the station rest-house, which, be it noted, is also a good centre for visiting other ancient Sumerian cities in the same district, some as yet awaiting systematic excavation. There is so much buried history in Iraq.

As one goes northwards from Baghdad there are the great Assyrian sites; Nineveh, close to Mosul, where excavations have again begun; Nimrud, the ancient Calah, which contributed so many sculptures to the British Museum; the ancient capital city of Asshur, excavated before the War by German archaeologists; Tarkalan, where the recent discovery of Mitanni tablets has thrown new light on our knowledge of that interesting race; Dohuk and Bavian, where there are mighty bas-reliefs carved in the living rocks by Shalmanezzer, King of Assyria. For these the best centre is Mosul.

But these excavated and partly excavated cities of old time appeal to the archaeologist more than to the ordinary unimaginative person, for in point of spectacular splen-

dour they cannot be compared with the monuments of Egypt. There is one notable exception, the city and palace of Hatra, which lies eighty miles distant from the nearest railway station (Beiji) in the trackless desert. No human being dwells within its walls, and it is visited only by the wandering Badu. The palace with its storeys of chambers, its smooth limestone walls, its courts, its sculptured decorations and its stairways, is in wonderful preservation, and so little is known of the Parthians to whom it owed its architecture and civilisation, that one can look forward keenly to the time when this once prosperous and flourishing city, which defied two Roman Emperors in its heyday and only fell to the great Persian Shahpur through the treachery of a woman, will yield its as yet inviolate secrets to the excavators.

If we turn south again, there is another lonely palace in the heart of the desert, but of later date by more than half a thousand years. It is reached in an hour and a half by taxi from Karbala, by way of the lovely oasis of Shithatha. Its date is deputed, some authorities placing it before and others immediately after the Muslim conquest. Whenever it was built, the immense fortress-place must have been constructed by workmen possessing Sassanian traditions, and the mortar they employed was so strong that the three-storeyed building has held together, as if it were of solid rock. The topmost storey, it is true, has almost disappeared, but the two lower constantly shelter nomads and their flocks when they come to this water-fed place for pasture.

I have by no means finished the enumeration of all the sites which would interest travellers keen on the story of the past, but I must not dwell on these to the exclusion of the living and equally engrossing present. First, I would place the three great cities of Iraq—Baghdad, Mosul and Basrah. The bazaars or suqs of Baghdad are famous, and, as in Damascus and other Eastern cities, shops of a kind are clustered together; copper-smiths in one suq, saddlers in another, silk merchants in another, and so on. Here one can purchase rugs from Persia and Turkey, saddle-bags, embroideries, and the shimmering silk mantles worn by the women of Baghdad, veiled and unveiled, not to speak of copper pots and bowls of charming shape, and objects of silver inlaid with antimony, which are the special craft of the Subbas—the Mandaicans. Just without the town there are the desert tombs of the Sufi saints, the shrine of Abu Hanifa, the great Arab jurist, and the tomb called that of the Sitt Zobeidah, the Arab wife of Harun al Rashid. An excursion must also be made to the suburb of Kadhimain, which is a place of pilgrimage for all good Shiah Muslims, as here, beneath the gold-plated domes and minarets of its great mosque, the "two Kadhims" (the 7th and 9th Imams) lie buried.

Mosul is even more interesting, and a good deal more picturesque than Baghdad. When one has visited all its mosques, some of them, like the Great Mosque, of considerable interest and beauty, and gone to see Nineveh, and the curious little Turkoman Mosque and village of Nebi Yunus (the Prophet Jonah)—which most aggravatingly covers a buried Assyrian palace—one can make from it any number of fascinating excursions. In a matter of a day one can reach (by taxi again) the devil-worshippers' shrine in the hills, or visit some of their villages in the plains. From Mosul one can visit the eagles'-eyrie monastery of Rabban Hormuzd (spending the night at the convent of Al Kosh, near the village where the prophet Nahum is buried); or another monastery of equal antiquity—Mar Behnam. Both the mound of Nimrud and Mar Behnam may be taken in on the drive to Kirkuk, where there is a good hotel and a train service to Baghdad. On the way one passes another mound-city famous in ancient times and continuously inhabited since the dawn of history—Arbil, the Assyrian Arbela, seat of the famous shrine of the war-goddess Ishtar of Arbela. In Kirkuk and Arbil the Kurdish element is predominant, and the Kurdish "blood,"

swaggering along under a huge turban, an arsenal of weapons stuck into the voluminous belt wound round his waist, is a striking figure. Kirkuk, like Arbil, has its citadel high above the plain, on an artificial mound, in which city lies on city. Its ancient name is believed to be Arrapha (the Biblical Ararat). A stone bridge unites the older city of the mound with a modern quarter, but the bazaars of the mound will delight those in search of colour and costume.

Basrah, the third big city of Iraq, cannot compare with the two others in actual interest, but it has a beauty peculiarly its own, and its lagoons and canals bordered by date-palms have given it the name of the Eastern Venice.

Next to the three big cities come the Cities of the Shrines:—Najaf, lying like a casket within its walls in the brown desert; Karbala, surrounded by pleasant gardens; and Samarra. Two of these are reached by railway, and Najaf is about two hours from Karbala station. I have already mentioned Kadhimain, the fourth place of pilgrimage. The life of all these shrine cities is centred about the tombs of the Shiah martyrs, and the mosques which have been built around them. All have domes and minarets overlaid with gold, and in all of them one can see brought to perfection the elaborate art of the Persian tile-maker. Yet each of them is start-



Iraqi Arabs.

lingly different from its fellows. Najaf, the desert city in which Ali, son-in-law of the Prophet, lies buried, is a congeries of crowded ways and deep subterranean passages, a city where fanaticism is rampant and intrigue has ever been rife. Karbala, smiling oasis, standing in the midst of green places and mosquito-breeding swamps, becomes a place no traveller should visit in the month of Moharram, for it is here that the slain Hussain is buried, and weeping devotees during the season of mourning bewail his death with increasing frenzy. Samarra, the third town, on the old German Baghdad railway, holds the hope of the Shiah world, for the twelfth Imam is said to have disappeared in a cellar beneath the great Mosque, and it will be in Samarra that he will reappear again as the Mahdi and lead Islam to its final triumph and glory. At Samarra, too, are the ruins of Eski Baghdad—the city to which the Caliphs transferred their court in 836 A.D., only to forsake it half a century later.

Space fails me, although I have not even mentioned the hill cities of Kurdistan, the reed cities of the marshes in the south, the desert tribes, or the date harvest! But perhaps I have written enough to convince those whose hearts are set on the golden road of travel that airways and desert transport have brought Iraq, once so remote and inaccessible, within a few days of the fogs and frosts of Northern Europe, and that once there, the railway and the taxi make it easy to visit places that were until recently all but unknown, and only visited by travellers of the most adventurous and intrepid type.

PALESTINE

The British Achievement in Palestine

The visitor to Palestine usually makes his journey in what may be called an historical sense; he goes, that is, to see places that are famous in Jewish, Christian, or Muslim history. It is the sense of the past that stimulates (or occasionally depresses) him: he listens to voices across the bygone centuries.

But it is possible to catch a whisper of voices of future centuries. Palestine would be worth a visit, if only its history during the last twelve years were known. And here may be taken the opportunity of emphasising the British achievement in the Holy Land. This is not the place, nor is it our inclination, to dwell on politics. For at the best politics have been made possible by, are even an excrescence from, the freeing of the Holy Land from the Turks by the British: in their most favourable aspect they are but part of the British achievement. It was by the fulfilment of highest duty—and this is a fact which no perspicacious visitor to Palestine is likely to forget—that British forces wrested the way from Dan to Beersheba from the cunning hand which had held it for so long; and it is Britons, primarily, who have been fashioning the processes of life in this historic country for the ten years since the War.

What has been done? First, there is security. Not so long ago, Bishop McInnes, Anglican Bishop in Jerusalem, was ambushed in his motor car, and his chauffeur was killed; but this unhappy incident really illustrated, rather than contradicted, the statement that public security exists in Palestine. It was the exception that proved the rule. And when it is realised that, unlike the neighbouring countries of Syria or Egypt, for example, Palestine has no soldiers on its soil (the Royal Air Force being the only Imperial arm therein) is it not adequate proof that British prestige is high, that the British sense of justice is generally respected?

Secondly may be taken the development of communications. It is a commonplace to point out that, whereas before the War there was hardly a motor-car in Palestine, now the roads are so good that the country teems with cars. One can motor from Dan to Beersheba in a day, from the Mediterranean to the Jordan in a few hours. In the last year or two, moreover, there has been a very considerable improvement in the condition of the roads of Palestine. Nor can any but the hyper-sensitive find fault with the excellent railway system which the Palestine authorities took over from the British military authorities: the Railways are one of the features of the Holy Land. Comfort is admittedly a relative term, but in what other lines in the Middle East can the visitor find such

comfort as he enjoys between, say, Kantara and Jerusalem? As for telephonic communication, it is admirably easy.

In the early days of the Military Administration in Palestine strange tales were told of the eccentricities or unreliability of telephonic communications, or, rather, of telephone operators; but now it is a justifiable boast that, although operators have to know the three official languages of the country—English, Arabic, and Hebrew—the system approaches perfection. The frequent maker of trunk calls in England is in fact apt to be pitied by his *vis-à-vis* in Palestine!

These two things, public security and facility of communications, must impress even the most casual traveller in Palestine. He will, however, not fail to observe the great improvements that have been made in matters pertaining to hygiene, education, justice, and so on. The combat against such things as malaria, locusts, and ignorance, goes on steadily though unobtrusively; but each of these several battles is in its own way really spectacular. Nor is it unreasonable to suppose that there may be even more striking developments in these directions in the near future. The Administration of Palestine, even with the limited funds at its disposal, is doing more, very much more, than the observer of any one particular aspect of Palestine's life is always ready to admit.

To some extent, naturally, the rate of the development and progress of Palestine must depend upon the development of the "Jewish National Home" in the Holy Land, even if only from the point of view of the revenue of the Jerusalem Exchequer. In such a small country as Palestine, which records so sensitively the good or ill fortunes of other, particularly of neighbouring, countries, there must inevitably be ups and downs. Now during the last few years there has been one of these "downs," but the panic that appeared to assail certain interested quarters was imperceptible in the Palestine Administration, which kept on an even keel in the sure faith that the clouds would break. It is not too much to say that the clouds have now broken. Emigration from Palestine of new colonists still continues, it is true; but the corner of the depression has been turned. A spirit of restrained optimism now begins to reign, a spirit surely engendered by the steady advice of the British officials in charge, who are determined to make a success of their job. Certain industries in Palestine, of course, have made the giving of such advice easier. One need but refer to the orange industry, which is well known, to the cement industry (the exports of the Nesher Company of Haifa, for example, were almost four times as much last year as in 1926), or

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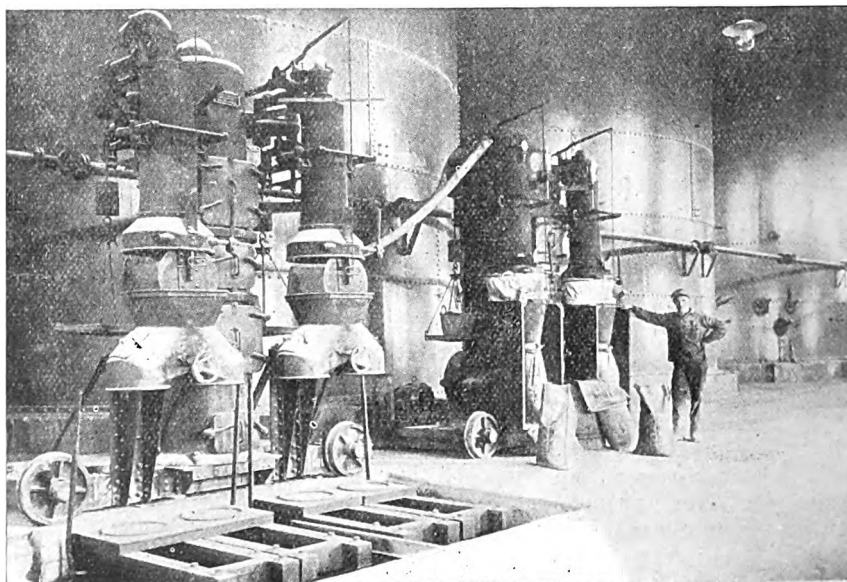
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The Portland Co. "Nesher" Ltd. produces a high-grade Portland Cement, which is up to the latest official British specification of 1925, and is used by the Public Works and the Railway Dept. of the Palestine Government.



Filling Sacks at Haifa Factory.

to the growing tobacco industry. Such well conducted industries as these have an incalculably steadying influence in times of crisis, which are always liable to recur.

But one does feel that it is because of the tightness of the British officials' grip upon the realities in Palestine, their devotion to duty as they conceive it, that the mandate for this well-loved land, so far from being a futile or a wasted effort, will redound in history as one of the finest examples of British administration and enterprise.

That much more remains to be done is granted. Some

of it depends upon the Land Survey, which will not be completed for perhaps another dozen years: some of it depends on moneys which may or may not be forthcoming. But that Great Britain is resolved to make of Palestine a credit to her civilisation is a fact which will become increasingly obvious to the increasing number of visitors to the Holy Land. If present signs be a criterion, the economic development of Palestine with the spiritual or humanising impetus of the Briton may be adopted as the country's "slogan."

Agriculture in Palestine

The Importance of the Orange

While the exploitation of the Dead Sea salts, the construction of a pipe line to Haifa, and a port at that centre, together with the Rutenberg electrification scheme may combine to make Palestine one day a land of industrial activity, the country remains at the present time—despite the development of numerous industries of greater or lesser importance—a region in the main dependent on agriculture, as it has been through the centuries from the beginning. But the chief agricultural development of Palestine has not been on the lines of other countries whose wealth lies in the soil. Considerable areas are devoted to food crops, such as wheat, barley and dura, and, while Palestine imports wheat flour on a large scale, she is an exporter of both barley and dura. The development that has been going on in this branch of agriculture is clearly shown by the trade statistics for 1927, when there was a decrease in the imports of wheat flour of £P55,372, while there was an increase of £P58,087 in the exports of dura and one of £P34,420 in respect of the exports of barley. (This year the food crops have been a failure, and Palestine, in consequence is importing wheat on a large scale.) It is, however, fruit cultivation that has given Palestine agriculture its importance, and has provided the country with its chief export—the Jaffa orange. The importance of this product to Palestine is shown by the fact that in 1926, out of exports of a total value of £E1,308,333 the orange was responsible for £E566,194, while in 1927 out of £E1,899,759 the orange figured for £E798,762. It represents, in fact, between one-third and one-half of the export trade.

In the circumstances it is not surprising that the predominant tendency should be to concentrate on orange growing, and that year by year there should be an increase in the area devoted to this fruit. It is believed that the trend in the direction of fruit-growing generally is likely to become more pronounced as time passes, and in view of past experience it is impossible to say that this policy will be wrong. The present area under orange groves is approximately 70,000 dunums, or about 17,500 acres, of which about 30,000 dunums represent Jewish groves. The rate of increase may be gathered from the fact that at the end of 1922 the area under oranges was 32,000 dunums, while at the end of 1926 it was 42,000 dunums, or, roughly, 10,000 acres. In the last two years there has been, therefore, an increase of about 75 per cent. Palestine, it must be remembered, is only a small country, and it is significant that already its production of oranges is larger proportionally than that of any other country. The total area on which it is estimated that oranges can be grown is 280,000 dunums, or 70,000 acres, so that the land still available for planting amounts to 210,000 dunums, or 42,500 acres, and this area may be added to considerably as a result of reclamation schemes. If, however, the present estimate be accepted as the final limit for orange groves it will be sufficient to raise the exports

to over five million cases on the basis of recent statistics, and that, on the basis of the 1927 trade figures, will mean an addition to the value of the export trade of about £P1,991,900.

The War had a serious effect on the orange groves, and in the year following the Armistice the exports were roughly only one-fifth of the total for 1913-14, which was 1,553,861 cases. With the exception of the 1925-26 season the tendency has been for the exports steadily to rise. For 1926-27 the total was 2,213,983 cases, and for the current season it is estimated at over 2,000,000 cases. It may be taken for granted that in the immediate future there will be a steady increase in the exports, always provided, of course, that the weather conditions are not unfavourable for the groves, as was the case in the 1925-26 season. A recent development is that growers are no longer content to rely wholly on oranges, which take a matter of six to seven years before they begin to yield fruit, but now plant their holdings with a proportion of other fruit which comes to maturity sooner. The advantage of this course is obvious, as it means that the assets of the grower, to use a Stock Exchange phrase, are not now "frozen" for quite the period that would otherwise be the case. The fact that it is realised that it is no longer essential to rely solely on oranges has naturally had a favourable effect on the cultivation of the orange, for those who could not have contemplated an undertaking which took so long to yield a return are able to take a different view if the period of waiting can be considerably curtailed.

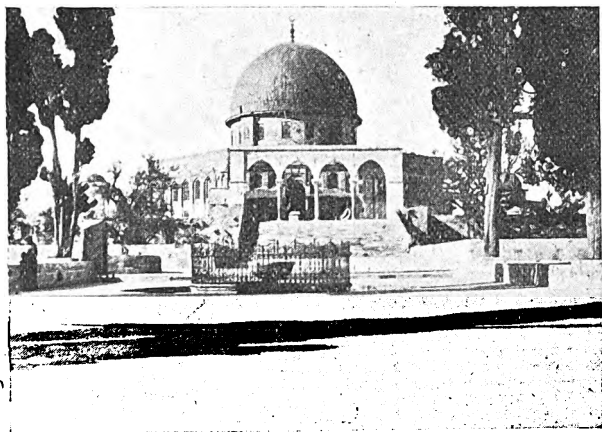
As in the case of all agricultural produce, the profits derived from the orange are bound to vary from year to year according to the yield and according to the position in the world markets. Unfavourable weather conditions in Spain may spell prosperity for the Palestine orange



Jaffa: A street scene.

grower, and a glut on the market will have the adverse effect. To judge by the statistics since the War, however, while prices have differed considerably from year to year, the average return has meant that an orange plantation is a very profitable undertaking. The extensions of the area under orange groves, to which reference has been made, speak for themselves.

The Jaffa orange, popular as it is, is only one of several

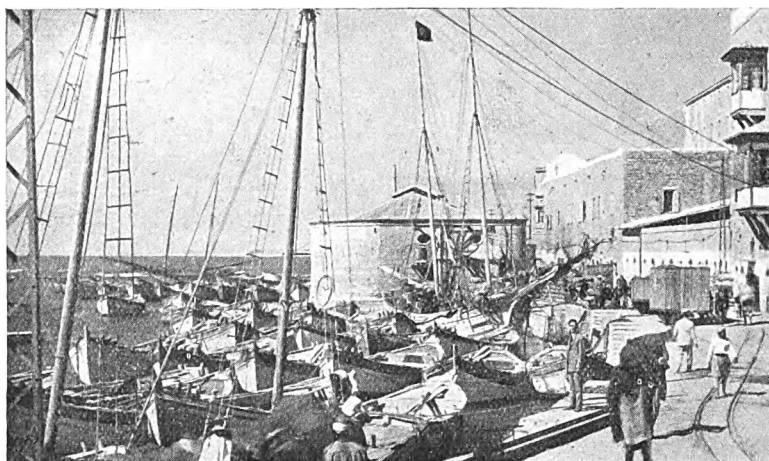


The Dome of the Rock,
Jerusalem.

important fruit products of Palestine. The water melon also looms large in the export list, as does the almond, while increasing attention is now being paid to viticulture. The country of Palestine is particularly suitable for vine

for wine production, and the reason why there has been a change is to be found in the vicissitudes which have attended the wine industry. Developments such as the introduction of Prohibition in the United States have made a great difference to the wine industry, and the result was the development of an inclination to find some fresh outlet for the produce of the vines; hence the concentration on the production of table grapes. The result of this tendency has been an increase in the area under table grapes from 20,910 dunums in 1924 to about 50,000 dunums at the present time, the yield rising at the same time from 6,278 metric tons to 18,004 metric tons. The area under wine grapes at the present time is round about 21,000 dunums, and the production is estimated at about 3,340 metric tons. It is interesting to note that since the move to grow more table grapes the pendulum has swung more in favour of wine grapes, for new markets in the Old World have been discovered to counterbalance the loss of the New World, and great uncertainty still exists as to the possible markets for table grapes, while Prohibition is no longer the spell-working shibboleth that it was in the days of America's early enthusiasm for this cause. Thus, while given the requisite markets and the possibility of marketing the grapes in good condition, the movement for the cultivation of table grapes is likely to continue, it may be taken for granted that there will be a renewed concentration on vineyards for the production of wine.

The fruits mentioned do not exhaust the possibilities of Palestine as a producer of the delights of the table. Although Palestine may not be "a land flowing with milk and honey," yet it is obvious that the extension of fruit cultivation which is in progress will make it a country not only prosperous but very pleasant for the eye to dwell



Jaffa: the Customs House.

growing, and it scarcely needs emphasis that from time immemorial the production of grapes for wine making has been practised. The production of grapes for the table is, however, a new development, and is as yet on its trial. The real revival of vine growing in Palestine is itself comparatively recent, dating from 1882 when the Jewish colonies were founded. Before the outbreak of the War the area under vines amounted to approximately 58,740 dunums, or about 14,680 acres. Due principally to the old age of some of the vineyards, the crops for the quinquennium 1923 to 1927 showed a considerable diminution as compared with the average yield of the period 1910 to 1914, and the consequence has been that extensive replanting has been necessary. Up to about four years ago the vines were cultivated mainly

on, a land of charming groves and fascinating vineyards, with a fragrance of delightful blossoms in the flowering period and an entrancing vision of boughs heavy with fruit and vines bending under the weight of luscious bunches of grapes at the harvest periods. Industry, as we know, has its drawbacks in its masses of hideous edifices and its general effects on the scenery, and it is a satisfying thought that if that touchstone of success is brought to Palestine by means of rails and ports, and electricity, the country will have a substantial background to soften and obscure the rush and hurry of industrial endeavour, and the acres of orange groves and vineyards will serve as an abiding link between the traditions of Old Palestine and the progress which cannot be turned aside.

PERSONAL AND GENERAL

TO-DAY

December 27, 1928 (New Style).

December 14, 1928 (Old Style).

Rajab 14, 1347 A.H. of the Muslim Calendar.

Tebet 14, 5689, of the Jewish Calendar.

The Roumanian Minister has returned to London from Lugano.

The Maharao of Kutch arrived last week at Bath for the cure.

Sir James Currie arrived in England last week from America.

M. Henri Ponsot, French High Commissioner for Syria, left Paris last week on his way back to Beyrout.

Sir Charles and Lady Stewart-Wilson left England last week for the South of France.

Colonel Sir Percival and Lady Marling left London on December 20 for Egypt.

Sir John and Lady Cadman and Sir Arnold Wilson arrived in England on the Berengaria from New York.

Sir Claud Schuster left London on December 21 for Switzerland.

Sir John and Lady Bland-Sutton left London on December 20 by special train to embark at Marseilles on the P. and O. liner Mooltan for Bombay. Sir Thomson and Lady Broom will also be passengers for Auckland, and Lady Orr-Lewis for Colombo.

The British Minister in Yugoslavia was present at the opening at Zagreb, on December 19, of the exhibition of contemporary British Art, organised by the Yugoslav Society of Great Britain, in conjunction with Sir Joseph Duveen's British Artists' Exhibition.

ARMENIAN LADIES' GUILD.

The Annual Ball of the Armenian Ladies' Guild was held at the Gobelins Restaurant on December 14. On behalf of the Armenian Societies Mrs. Michael welcomed Captain and Mrs. Gracey with their son and daughter. The occasion marked the completion by Captain Gracey of twenty-five years' work in the Armenian cause, and in commemoration of it Mr. James Malcolm, President of the Armenian United Association, presented Captain Gracey with a gold watch and Mrs. Gracey with a gold wristlet watch.

NEWS IN BRIEF.

The Greek Chamber adjourned on December 22 until January 10. On December 18 it adopted the Kafandaris-Moloff agreement between Greece and Bulgaria.

The series of historical stamps issued in Cyprus on February 1 last to commemorate the jubilee of the British occupation of that island in 1878 will be withdrawn from sale on January 31, 1929, and any stocks remaining unsold will be destroyed.

The death occurred last week of Miss Eglantyne Jebb, co-founder and Hon. Secretary of the Save the Children Fund. Miss Jebb did much for the alleviation of misery in the Near East. On behalf of the Macedonian Relief Fund she visited Macedonia during the second Balkan War. In Albania a model village has been named after her—Xheba (Jebb).

Mr. Henry Bulwer Fagnani, of Pembroke Square, Bayswater, W., formerly for some years manager of the wire department of the London Branch of the United States Steel Products Company, who died on September 1, left estate of the gross value of £9,329, with net personalty £9,132. He left the gold enamelled diamond-lid snuff box presented to his father by the Sultan Abdul Aziz, also his father's decorations, including his gold medal and certain portraits, to his wife for life with remainder to his son, Captain Henry Hutchinson Fagnani, for life, with remainder to his eldest son, desiring that the said articles may as long as possible be retained in the family "and handed from son to son."

General Piola Casello, commanding the Italian Army Corps stationed at Bari, has been received in audience by King Zogu of Albania. He invested King Zogu with the collar of the Order of the Annunziata on December 16.

The death occurred last week of M. Anargyros, the Greek millionaire who in the island of Spetsai founded a public school on English lines. Over this school Mr. Eric Sloman, a former master of Rugby, was in September, 1927, appointed headmaster.

The Greek Parliament has passed the first reading of the Bill restoring to Sir Frederick Halliday's British-trained Towns' Police the criminal investigation department which General Pangalos transferred to the State gendarmerie.

The death is announced of Mr. Cecil Torr, of Wreyland, Dartmoor. He was a writer of singular charm and individuality. Among his travels he had visited such places as Moscow, Damascus, Sparta, and Granada; and among the books that he wrote there is a delightful one upon Rhodes.

The Muslims of Western Thrace have presented a petition to the local authorities asking the Greek Government to reject the proposal of certain of their fellow-countrymen to introduce into the schools Latin characters, as contrary to the Quran and the Muslim faith.

The death is announced of Brigadier-General Cecil Edward Rice. General Rice was the fourth son of Lt.-Col. Cecil Rice, who fought in the Crimean and Indian Mutiny. He himself fought in South Africa, and, in the Great War, in Gallipoli and France and Egypt. In 1918 he was Chief of the Imperial School of Instruction in Egypt.

Sir Alexander Blackie William Kennedy, F.R.S., of The Albany, Piccadilly, W., consulting civil and electrical engineer, for some years Professor of Engineering in University College, London, who died on November 1, aged 81, left estate of the gross value of £90,909, with net personalty £90,103.

Where to stay in the East

*Write for particulars of attractive offer
for Advertising Hotels on this page.*

BEYROUT—Hotel Metropole.
CAIRO—The National Hotel.
JAFFA—Hotel Jerusalem.
JERUSALEM—St John's Hotel,

KYRENIA, Cyprus—
Sea-View Hotel.
NICOSIA, Cyprus—
George Hotel.
PORT SAID—
Casino Palace Hotel.
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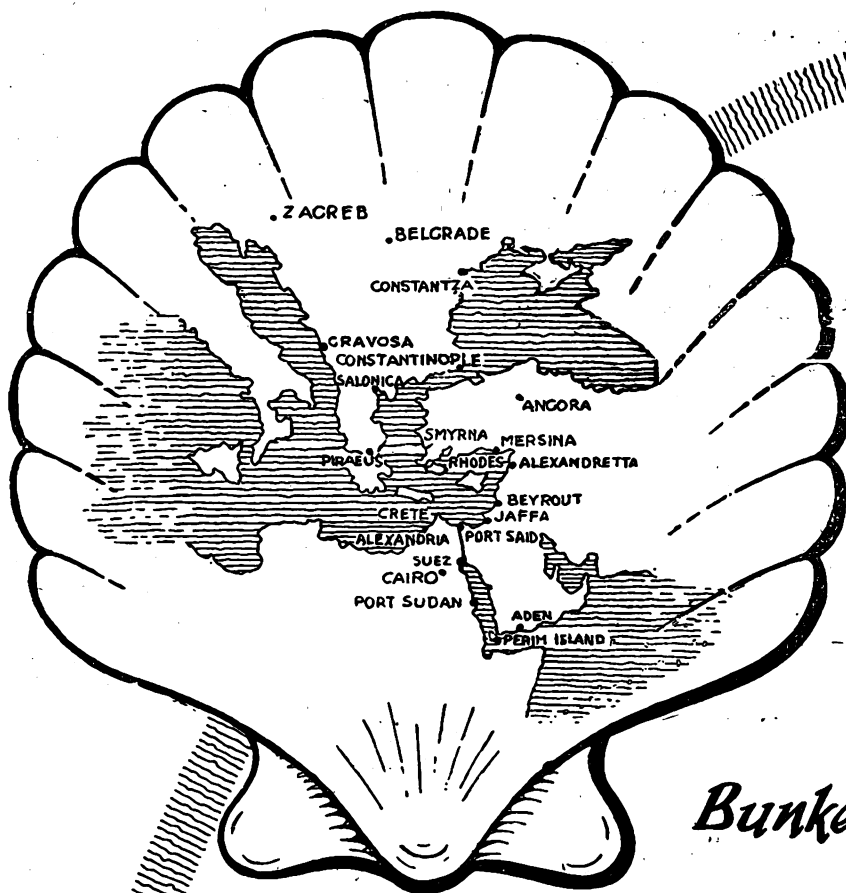
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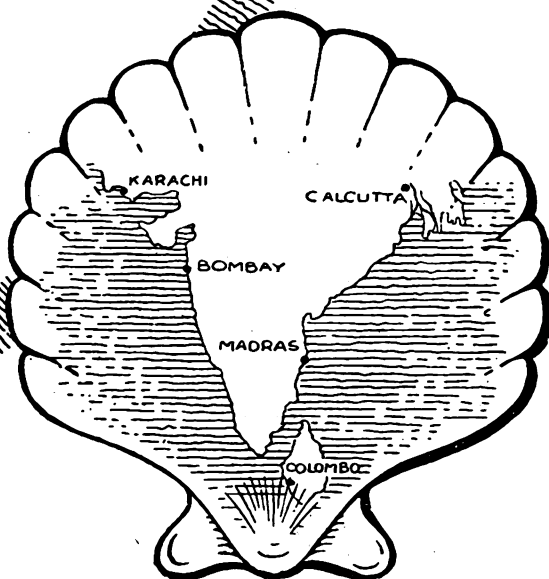
Burmah Shell Oil Storage & Distributing
Co. of India Ltd., BOMBAY.

Burmah Shell Oil Storage & Distributing
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The Asiatic Petroleum Co. (Ceylon),
Ltd., COLOMBO.

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SHELL



Commercial and Financial Section.

NOTES AND NEWS

170, Strand, London, W.C.2,
Tuesday Morning.

British Enterprise in the Near East.

The Supplement which we publish this week is notable for the fact that it covers those regions in the Near East where in the past British enterprise has been specially to the fore and where it is obvious that there will be special opportunities in the future. In Egypt the many Nile works are an abiding tribute to the worth of Great Britain's contribution to civilisation—the latest of the works to be undertaken, the Nag Hammadi Barrage, which is being constructed by Sir John Jackson, Ltd., is the subject of an illustrated article—while in the Sudan one need only mention the Makwar Dam at Sennar, the great Gezira scheme of the Sudan Plantations Syndicate, and the development of Port Sudan. In Iraq there is the development of the oilfields to come, with which this country is so closely identified through the Anglo-Persian Oil Company, to say nothing of the pipeline and the railway which will link up Iraq with the Palestine coast at Haifa, and in Palestine the works of development to come include the exploitation of the Dead Sea Salts and the projected harbour at Haifa, an undertaking linked up, of course, with the pipeline and the railway. As explained in the Supplement, the Nile contract works programme is still a long way from completion, and it may be hoped that in the carrying out of the remaining projects British enterprise will be as much to the fore as in the past. It is a gratifying and satisfactory thought that in the case of all four countries British trade is well to the front, and it is a fact worth placing on record that in the case of three of the countries Great Britain is the principal purchaser of what is in each case the country's staple product.

Turkish Bondholders and the Settlement.

It would be futile to suggest that the Turkish Debt settlement is satisfactory from the bondholders' point of view, and the dissatisfaction felt with it was given due emphasis in Lord Banbury's speech which, in his absence, was read at this week's meeting of the bondholders (a report of which will be found elsewhere in this issue) by Mr. R. M. Holland Martin. Lord Banbury's advice was that the bondholders should give adhesion to the contract, "not because we like it, not because we think it a good arrangement, but solely because it is the best we have been able to obtain." The point for the bondholders, however, is that it is a settlement, even if it is unsatisfactory, and it offers them a prospect at long last of receiving something instead of being spectators at long-drawn-out negotiations. As is known, the Turkish ratification of the agreement was made with certain reserves. On this point Lord Banbury was not very encouraging, for he pointed out that these reserves, "disquieting additions to what was already a very complex situation," was his description of them, might lead to further contentions in the future. It can only be hoped that this will not be the case, and that the agreement will be carried out smoothly. One reason in favour of this is that Turkey has undoubtedly come off very lightly. It was pointed out at the meeting that the annuities only represent ten per cent. of the Turkish Budget, as compared with a ratio of 30 per cent. before the War, so that Turkey's post-War sacrifices are not on a plane with those of the other countries who took part in the struggle. A second and very important reason why Turkey should observe the agreement in the letter is that, as was emphasised by Mr. S. C. Wyatt, who has suc-

ceeded Sir Adam Block on the Council of the Ottoman Public Debt, the Turkish Government is really making strenuous efforts in regard to financial and other reforms. It has to be remembered that it is imperative that Turkey should obtain financial assistance from abroad, and the Turkish rulers are not likely to be blind to the fact that any further action which has an adverse effect on the country's credit will make it impossible for them to approach the foreign money markets with any hope of success.

Windbreaks in Cyprus.

The need for the formation of a series of windbreaks in the Messaoria is discussed by Mr. F. S. Danks in an article in a supplement to the *Cyprus Gazette*. The Messaoria is a broad plain which runs across the Island from Fama-gusta in the east to the bay of Morphou on the west and has a breadth of from ten to twenty miles. Good grain crops are produced on a part of the plain, but most of the area is waterless, and in consequence poor crops are forthcoming. Mr. Danks points out that the formation of areas of shelter-woods or windbreaks would greatly increase the fertility of the protected areas. Such a scheme would require the establishment of a chain of nurseries, and in Mr. Danks' view this cannot be realised for some years. The present position with regard to tree planting can be gathered from the fact that the Forest Department issues from 90,000 to 100,000 tree seedlings each year, but this only represents a third of the demand.

The Rubber Position.

With the past week's addition to the London stocks the rubber industry may be said to have passed another milestone and to have entered the last stage of the process which, it may be hoped, will put it again on its feet before many months have passed. Restriction ended on November 1, but it has taken all of six weeks before the freedom of exports has had time to affect the stocks here. We can now anticipate large increases, week after week, until the accumulated stocks have been used up, and that must mean lower prices for the commodity and for the shares. If one could tell with reasonable accuracy how much rubber there is to be exported, then it would be a comparatively simple task to work out how long it will be before the pendulum begins to swing in the direction of higher prices; but there is considerable uncertainty in this respect.

COMMENTATOR.

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THE WEEK'S FINANCE.

(By Our Financial Expert.)

London, December 21.

Without being in any way sensational, the Stock Markets have experienced a certain amount of activity in the moderately priced industrials this week, while a firm tone has been visible in other markets, without much business being done. Chief interest has been excited by the opening dealings in the new Ford shares at anything up to 21s. premium, mainly on support from New York. Molasses and Mond Nickel have also been outstanding favourites, and engineering shares have been firmer as a result of the merger announcements. Little change has been seen in gilt-edged, but some of the prior charge stocks of the home railway companies have risen as a result of better traffics. Dealings commenced on Monday in the new Greek Loan at a discount, which adversely affected the older Greek issues, but a recovery was seen later. There has been a more confident tone in the Money Market following the better tendency in the New York and Berlin exchanges. It is hoped that the outflow of gold which has lately been causing anxiety may be diminished.

The Rand Mining Dividends.

On the whole the distributions of the Witwatersrand companies for the second half of 1928 have not been such as to inspire enthusiasm. It is true that in two cases the rates, although showing no increase upon those in respect of the first half of the year, achieve record totals, the companies concerned being the Government Areas with a total of 90 per cent. and the New Modder with 140 per cent. Another of the Eastern Rand enterprises also makes a good showing with 10 per cent., as against $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. six months ago and the initial payment of 5 per cent. But the Crown Mines' total is only 55 per cent., as against $67\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. for 1927. The City Deep—a company with a capital of over a million and a quarter—has been making losses practically all the year, while in the case of the Robinson Deep the earnings are again insufficient to permit any distribution on the ordinary shares. One of the less important undertakings, the Simmer and Jack, has lately been reporting improved developments and increased profits. In view of the former feature the earnings of this year and of next are to be devoted to additions to the plant.

Boot and Shoe Companies.

The negotiations for an important fusion in the boot and shoe trade have at last led to a definite agreement, and Messrs. J. Sears and Co., (makers of "True-Form") are to acquire the 99 per cent. interest in the Preferred and Deferred capital of Freeman Hardy and Willis, which was recently bought by the Charterhouse Investment Trust. Both companies are large concerns engaged in manufacture as well as distribution, and their profits have

shown consistent progress in recent years. The popularity of ready-made, as opposed to made-to-measure, goods of late years has nowhere been more apparent than in boots and shoes, and companies that have been in capable hands have been able to take advantage of this popularity. The ordinary dividend of J. Sears and Co., has been maintained at $22\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. free of tax, for the last three years, the increase in profits being allocated to reserve and to increasing the carry forward. The Ordinary shares return only £3 10s. per cent., so that the market has somewhat discounted the benefits that may be expected to accrue from the amalgamation, but on recent earnings the $12\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. Cumulative Preference shares, which are well covered, yield £6 per cent. Lotus Ltd., first formed as a distributing concern but now a complete manufacturing and distributing enterprise, has also had increasing profits in the last few years, and the interim dividend for the current year has been raised from $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. to 3 per cent. Profits, though still low in comparison with the boom years of 1922-3, rose from £49,130 in 1925 to £66,200 in 1927. The last balance sheet disclosed a strong liquid position. The 7 per cent. Cumulative Preference shares, which are the first charge on the company's profits, yield £6 11s. per cent.

Engineering Merger.

Those who have preached the advantages of co-operation and amalgamation between producers in our most depressed industries have at last reason to believe that their teachings are sinking home. The announcement of the great amalgamation scheme proposed by Vickers, Vickers-Armstrong and Cammell Laird is therefore not only interesting in itself, but as evidencing growth in a development which is likely to be of even greater importance in 1929 than it has been in the second half of 1928. The three firms propose to turn over the whole of their steel interests, with the exception of those concerned with guns, gun mountings, armoured cars and tanks, but including the making of armoured plates, to a new company, the English Steel Corporation. Vickers and Cammell Laird will also amalgamate their railway car-

(Continued on page 805.)

FORTHCOMING SAILINGS.

The following are the sailings for the Near East and India, the ports of departure and closing dates for cargo being given in parentheses:—

Anchor Line.—S.s. Assyria for Bombay (Birkenhead, January 8). (For passenger sailings and dates see advertisement.)

Anchor Brocklebank Line.—S.s. Masirah for Calcutta (Birkenhead, December 31).

Bibby Line.—S.s. Cheshire for Port Said, Port Sudan, Colombo, and Rangoon (Birkenhead, January 9).

British India Line.—S.s. Manora for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, December 29); s.s. Warfield for Bombay and Karachi (London, January 19).

Cunard Line.—S.s. Brescia for Gibraltar, Malta, Patras, Piræus, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, and Constantza (this steamer will also call at Volo if sufficient inducement) (Liverpool January 19, Glasgow and Swansea January 18).

Johnston Line.—S.s. Jessmore for Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, and Constantza (Liverpool, January 12); s.s. Quernmore for Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, January 26). (The first sailing of the season to the Danube ports of Galatz and Braila.)

P. and O. Line.—S.s. Ranpura for Bombay (London, January 4); s.s. Bangalore for Calcutta (London, January 5).

Prince Line.—S.s. Highland Prince for Tunis, Malta, Alexandria, Jaffa, Haifa, Beyrout, Tripoli, Alexandretta, Mersina, and Cyprus (London, December 29); s.s. Soldier Prince for Tunis, Malta, Alexandria, Jaffa, Haifa, Beyrout, and Cyprus (Manchester, January 10).

Ellerman and Papayanni Lines.—S.s. Kyno for Gibraltar, Malta, Alexandria, Jaffa, and Haifa* (Liverpool, December 29); s.s. Trentino for Algiers*, Malta, Piræus, Syra*, Volo*, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, and Varna (Liverpool January 5, Swansea January 5); s.s. Lesbian for Genoa, Leghorn, Naples, Palermo, Messina, Catania, Bari, Gruz*, Ancona*, Venice, Trieste, and Fiume (Liverpool January 5, Swansea January 10). *Subject to sufficient inducement. Cargo taken on through Bill of Lading to:—Algerian ports via Algiers; Moroccan ports via Gibraltar; Tripoli (Barbary) via Malta; Syria and Cyprus via Alexandria; Greek outports via Piræus or other convenient ports.

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MEETING OF TURKISH UNIFIED BOND-HOLDERS.

Adhesion to Contract Recommended.

A meeting of Turkish Unified Bondholders, called by the Council of Foreign Bondholders, was held on December 19 at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, E.C.

Mr. R. M. Holland Martin, C.B., who presided, said that Lord Banbury, who was to have taken the chair, was unfortunately unable to attend. He would read the speech prepared by Lord Banbury, which was as follows: As you all know, the contract for the settlement of Turkey's share of the old Ottoman Public Debt, which was signed *ad referendum* on June 13 this year, in Paris, was ratified by the Turkish Grand National Assembly on the first of this month, subject to certain reserves with which I shall deal presently.

A first interest payment is due to be made this month, and Bondholders who present their coupons for such payment thereby signify that they accept the contract. If the holders of 40 per cent. of the total nominal capital of the Long-term Loans, the Lottery Bonds, and the Treasury Bonds signify their adhesion, the contract will enter into force, and we have therefore asked you to come here this morning in order that you may understand exactly what such adhesion entails.

We recommend you to give your adhesion to this contract, not because we like it, not because we think it is a good arrangement, but solely because it is the best we have been able to obtain. Whether, if the Bondholders give their adhesion, it will be carried out, depends on Turkey's good faith, but the fact that after nearly four years of the most difficult and laborious negotiations Turkey has attached to her ratification certain reserves which may lead to further contentions in the future, makes the prospect neither encouraging nor assuring.

As regards the contract itself, I wish first of all to emphasise that it only deals with Turkey's share (approximately 67 per cent.) of the nominal capital of the old Ottoman Public Debt, and you must bear in mind that the percentages referred to in it are fractions of that 67 per cent.

Secondly, by adhering to this contract, you relinquish all your old rights under the Decree of Mouharrem and the Decree Annex, and in the case of further default by the Turkish Government, you will be unable to reclaim those rights. In any case they have already been forcibly expropriated by the Turkish Government.

Thirdly, the annuities which Turkey undertakes to pay are comparatively small, starting, as you see, at two million Turkish gold pounds and only reaching three million four hundred thousand in 1952. It therefore takes twenty-three years to reach the maximum annuity, by which time, owing to the ample provisions for amortisation by purchase at low rates, nearly 90 per cent. of the Bonds will have been amortised.

Arrears of Interest.

The Unified has a preferential scale of interest payments starting at 47 per cent. and reaching 100 per cent. in 1949. The arrears, which in the case of the Unified are the unpaid balance of the coupons from March, 1915, to September, 1922, and the coupons due between March, 1923, and March, 1924, inclusive, are to be converted at 75 per cent. into Non-Interest Bearing Bonds, redeem-

able in 30 annual fractions, each fraction being only entitled to payment of a percentage, which, for the first seven years, is fixed at 38 per cent. and rises gradually until 100 per cent. is reached in 1952. The 5 per Cent. Treasury Bonds of 1911 and 1913 and the 6 per Cent. of 1912 are to be consolidated, the two former at 99 per cent. and the latter at 107 per cent. into 5 per Cent. Consolidated Treasury Bonds 1928.

Now I wish to come to the reserves made by the Grand National Assembly. Under the Decree of Mouharrem, a reserve fund was established, and the Decree Annex states that it is to be used to meet any deficiency of the assigned revenues. As Turkey has been in default, the fund has become the property of the bondholders, who, in the spirit of conciliation they have manifested throughout, agreed to credit Turkey with 62 per cent. of it, it being understood that the balance would be credited to the other States in due proportion. Turkey now claims, not merely her share of this fund, which is to be used for the two initial payments to bondholders, but the whole of it, on the ground that the Treaty of Lausanne only apportioned the liabilities of the Ottoman Empire, and not the assets.

Another fund is the Tripoli Fund, which was created from the amount paid by Italy when Tripoli was annexed, and which represented the cash paid on account of Tripoli's share of the Ottoman Public Debt. This fund is also regarded as available for the credit of all the States, but Turkey again claims, not only her share, but the whole of it.

There is a third fund which concerns the Lottery Bonds, but I need not bother you with the details of it, beyond mentioning that Turkey claims the whole of this also.

These reservations, as well as a further one in connexion with a currency dispute, do not appear to have any direct relation to the decision which you will have to make, and can only be regarded as disquieting additions to what was already a very complex situation. We feel that in the contract as it was submitted for ratification we had reached the utmost limit of concession, and we have so notified the other representatives of the bondholders. I will take this occasion to make public expression of the gratitude felt both by the Council and the Committee towards Sir Adam Block for the great struggle which he made to obtain better terms for the bondholders. As you know, he resigned his position on the Debt Council early this year, and Mr. S. C. Wyatt was appointed in Sir Adam's place.

Objections to Contract.

Mr. D. Reid (the secretary) said that, briefly, the chief objections to the contract that had been raised at different times in the Committee were that the annuities in it only represented 10 per cent. of Turkey's current Budget, as compared with a 30 per cent. ratio before the War—a very low proportion of post-War sacrifice compared with other countries. Further, the bondholders had no practical supervision of the assigned revenues, and in case the currency became depreciated, payments might be suspended. Other objections were that the autonomy of the Debt Council had been very seriously impaired by the provision for joint meeting with a new body, whose interests might conflict with its own, and which had a numerical preponderance; and that the provision for amortisation by purchase at low rates was so ample that when the interest payments for the Unified Debt reached 100 per cent. in 1949, nearly 90 per cent. of the Bonds would probably have been amortised. It was further objected that the general provision in the contract for arbitration in case of dispute might be inoperative in the event of Turkey claiming that the question at issue touched her "sovereign rights."

Mr. S. C. Wyatt said that, while fully appreciating and understanding the effect of past experience on bondholders' present feelings, he thought that they should not overlook the serious efforts which undoubtedly were being made by the present Turkish Government in respect of financial and other reforms. The application of the principle of balancing the Budget without recourse to loans for the purpose was an important innovation. These efforts during a period of transition were being watched and followed sympathetically by other nations, and he felt that they should credit the Turkish Government with the desire and the intention to carry out the contract in spirit as well as in the letter, and they looked forward to the day when, as a consequence of fulfilling the obligations, Turkey's credit would be re-established.

The proceedings terminated with a vote of thanks to the chairman and other members of the Committee.

(Continued from page 804.)

riage and wagon interests. It is a good feature of the scheme that the steel and rolling stock interests are being separated, for rationalisation should mean the amalgamation of like concerns only. The steel agreement is probably the more important, as it is hoped to induce other firms to amalgamate with the new company. As is well known the depression in the heavy industries has been extremely severe and all the concerns involved have been passing through bad times. The amalgamation will, it is hoped, bring about such economies in management and production as will enable the industry once more to compete in foreign markets on profitable terms. If it succeeds the future position of shareholders in these concerns will be better than it has been for some time past.

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Motors and Motoring

By G. B. B.

A Wonderful Motor Cycle Tour.

One of the most extraordinary cycle tours ever undertaken was that which was commenced in March, 1927, by Mr. A. de A Lima, from Loanda, Portuguese West Africa. He started off through the Belgian Congo and into the Sudan, reaching Khartoum rather more quickly than he had hoped, and from there he rode through to Cairo, thence to Palestine, Syria, and Turkey, through Greece and part of Albania, then through Yugoslavia and Italy, through Austria and up into Belgium, through France, across the Pyrenees and by way of Spain to Portugal, covering 18,000 miles in eighteen months' riding. This was, I think, an excellent, if not wonderful, performance, and it speaks well for the machine he rode, which was built at the famous Raleigh works, Nottingham. It gave no trouble throughout the ride, although the route lay through swamps, bush country, and across deserts and mountains, where frequently there was nothing resembling a road. I am not sure what tyres he used, but judging from the way they seem to have lasted, I expect they were Dunlops.

Valves.

There is sometimes a tendency for valves to stick, and where that is noticed nine times out of ten the owner or the mechanic, as the case may be, who is seeing to the fault jumps to the conclusion that the guide wants reaming out to give more clearance. It is very seldom that this is the case; indeed, a moment's reflection should show that there is no mechanical reason why a hole through which metal is working, should grow smaller instead of working larger. The more probable cause of the trouble is either that the valve stem has become slightly bent or that the guide is out of line. An accumulation of carbon in the guide, due to there being a little too much clearance, will cause the trouble.

Valve tappet clearance is a question about which there is some little argument. It involves valve action and also noise; much of the noise and rattle about an ordinary, well-used car, is due to valve clatter through too great a tappet clearance space. Loss of engine power is often due to the same cause. There are mechanics who are fond of giving their views as to the amount of valve tappet clearance that should be provided. Generally speaking, it is wisest to ignore altogether what they say. There is a best setting, and only one, for valve tappet work and that given by the makers may be taken always as being correct. As the tappets wear and the valve length alters through grinding-in, etc., the tappet clearance should be

altered accordingly. With adjustable tappets that is an easy matter.

Clearance between valve stem and tappet provides for two conditions. One of these is expansion of the valve stem from heat during operation, and the other is a settling of the valve due to wear of the valve face and the valve seat due to repeated grinding. In some cases the makers' recommended clearance is with the engine cold, in which case both conditions are taken into account during the setting of the valve tappets. If the tappet clearance is given as having to be so much when the engine is hot, then expansion or lengthening of the valve stem through heat has to be taken into consideration. Too little clearance is dangerous, because if the stem keeps the valve off the seat during the compression and power strokes, the valve will be scored and burned by escaping gases and trouble will inevitably result.

A Coach De Luxe.

I have just received particulars of a new design of road coach which, it is claimed, represents the last word in luxury. The roof is so constructed that there is ample luggage space in readily accessible lockers over each seat, and there are also shelves for carrying light articles, which are of mahogany and are almost as wide as an ordinary seat, so that they will hold travelling rugs or suit cases without difficulty. They are suspended from the roof by polished metal rods connecting to side rails running full length of the apartment. Access to the luggage compartments is obtained from the aisles. The construction permits full head room for even tall passengers, and, by reason of the roof arrangement, the windows can be raised instead of lowered, going up into the hollow roof. Windows in the doors drop entirely into the door wells, actuated by raising and lowering mechanism. While the side window effect is carried round the rear, with curved glass at the corners, the back windows are stationary. At the rear edge of the roof a metal awning is provided, which can be raised or lowered for the passengers' comfort, and the electric lighting scheme is claimed to be one of the most extensive and effective yet introduced.

A Capital Question.

The question whether a car is worth any more after a complete overhaul than it was before was asked me by an accountant recently, and my answer was "yes," but the accountant pointed out that the usual method of handling the cost of a complete overhaul is to charge it into expense at the time it occurs, and that the books of the man or firm owning the car do not show any increase in assets although the car, admittedly is worth more practically if not financially. What the accountant meant

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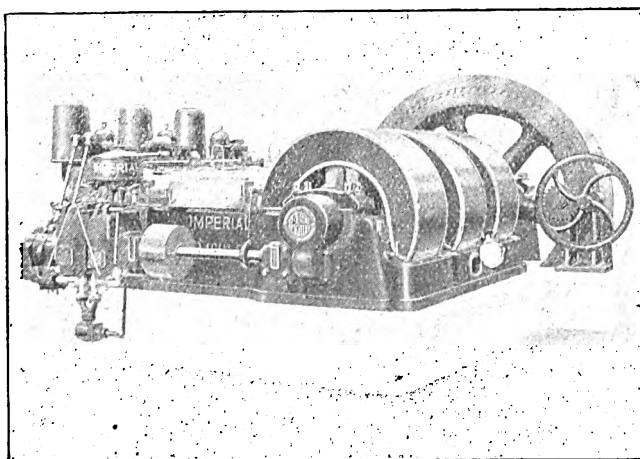
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was that the cost of a complete overhaul is so large, relatively, that when it is charged up in the month during which the work was done, it throws the costs for that month far out of line with those of other similar periods and, secondly, that the wear and tear which made the complete overhaul necessary was spread over the entire period when overhauling was unnecessary. Put in another way, the cost of the depreciation was spread, or should be spread, over six, twelve, or twenty months, as the case might be whilst that of putting it right was thrown on a single month. Put in that way it does not seem right. In my friend's opinion, the cost of the complete overhaul should be similarly distributed uniformly over the period between overhauls instead of being charged in full in the figures for the month during which the overhauling was carried out.

Cotton and Cotton Goods.

THE LIVERPOOL COTTON MARKET.

Messrs. Reynolds and Gibson report as follows for the week ended December 19:—

Egyptian Futures.

Sakel Contract.—Values in this market have been maintained at a steady level throughout the week, the "bearish" influences of restricted trade support and continued poor reports from fine spinning centres being outweighed, for the time being, by the firmness displayed in Alexandria. We have admitted previously that manipulation of the Sakel contracts is not a difficult proposition this season, but we consider that the present movement is premature; holders at some period or other have to unload on to the trade, and, as far as this country is concerned, Sakel premiums have been so dear since the commencement of the season that fewer mills are now tied to this variety than ever previously. The fact that the local contract has, for a considerable period, run at a heavy discount with the producing market and on this account has, to a large extent, lost its usefulness either as a hedge to the importer or an adequate cover to the spinner, has latterly caused a lot of discussion amongst Egyptian houses here. A scheme is under consideration whereby it is hoped by slight modification in certain clauses and a limitation of the varieties tenderable, to re-establish a more definite relationship with Alexandria values. The matter will probably be brought forward officially in the immediate future, and we feel sure will meet with the approval of the majority engaged in this section of the business. For the next week or two the customary seasonal lack of interest will probably persist and little change in values is to be anticipated; however, should any material advance materialise, we think the opportunity might be utilised to enter into moderate commitments on the short side.

Upper Contract.—Only a moderate business has taken place in this market during the past week, the majority of transactions consisting of transfers of straddle interests of near positions to the later summer months. These operations have forced fairly wide premiums, but so much cotton has been imported here below a tenderable basis that further pressure is likely to be experienced before the position becomes really attractive to those prepared to handle actual cotton.

Trade support throughout the week has only been on a moderate scale and spinners appear to be amply covered for the time being. Generally speaking, we still consider that the Upper varieties are moderately reasonable and purchases in easy markets should later on prove profitable.

Egyptian Spot.

Business in actual cotton has been rather quiet on the whole, especially for the native Egyptian growths. This state of affairs is, of course, normal for the time of the year, and it is, therefore, all the more satisfactory to note that during the last day or two spinners have shown a tendency to acquire a little more cotton prior to the holidays. This policy to our mind is a sound one, as very often the lowest prices occur round about the end of the year. Although futures have been remarkably steady during the week, spot cotton has been inclined to ease slightly.

The demand for Sakel cotton has shown no change in character. Seventy-five per cent. has been for the "off" and "low" qualities,

which we should be inclined to quote as "10½d. to 11½d." and "16d. to 18d." respectively. A limited inquiry for cotton at from 50 to 150 on has been in evidence, but anything above the latter price has been practically ignored. Uppers have continued in favour at from 25 off to 25 on, but competition has become extremely keen, as may be seen by the fact that to-day quotations of F.G.F. and below in Upper were reduced by three points. Stocks of Upper are rapidly accumulating here, and much of it is of the bright but "woolly" quality, which, on account of the difficulty experienced in effecting ready sales, invariably finds its way to the contract sooner or later. Heavy tenders are expected in January. Pilon continues to attract attention in certain quarters. There is not a large stock of it here, and we should not be surprised to see the basis harden shortly. Fancy growths have been neglected this week. The improvement in the off-take for Sudan Sakel has been well maintained, but Tokar has been difficult to move.

C.i.f. business appears to be very quiet, and it is difficult to obtain a correct view of what is really happening. Forwardings of the trade last week reached the large total of 10,697 bales Egyptian and 4,932 bales Sudan. Estimated spot sales for the week, 1,200 bales Egyptian and 1,850 bales Sudan. Quotations of Sakel show a net decline of 15 points; Uppers, 23 to 28 points; and Pilon, 20 points. F.G.F. Sakel to-day, 19.35d. F.G.F. Upper to-day, 12.22d. F.G.F. Pilon to-day, 12.85d.

THE EGYPTIAN MARKET.

The Alexandria Commercial Company, in their report for the week ended December 13, state:—

Since our last report the futures market has been very active and the tone generally firm. The week's summary of price movements is as follows:—Sakellaridis: January, 38.49 dollars, 1.05 dollars up; March, 38.98 dollars, 1.11 dollars up; May, 39.17 dollars, 1.02 dollars up; November, 38.65 dollars, 0.47 dollars up. Ashmouni: December, 23.05 dollars, 0.40 dollars up; February, 23.44 dollars, 0.27 dollars up; April, 23.82 dollars, 0.25 dollars up; June, 24.22 dollars, 0.25 dollars up; October, 24.78 dollars, 0.33 dollars up.

Sakel.—The market during the earlier sessions of the week was strong and excited under speculative manipulation. The publication of the fifth American Bureau Report on the 8th inst., however, announcing a figure larger than that generally expected, brought out liquidation sufficient to wipe out most of the advance which had been registered in the earlier part of the week. The reaction was, however, short lived, as with New York sending better advices the speculative element again took hold, and their heavy purchases soon restored to the market the strength temporarily lost. The American Bureau Report of the 8th inst. estimated the probable production at 14,373,000 bales, against 14,133,000 bales last month and 12,789,000 bales at this time last year. Last year's final crop figure was 12,783,000 bales.

The demand for the trade has continued to decline, and has been extremely poor for the last two or three days. The movement in the interior continues to fall off, but it now seems almost sure that the Sakel crop this year will reach about 2,500,000 kantars. While it is naturally too early yet to advance even the most guarded opinion as to the acreage which will be planted next year, it may be taken that if the present difference between Sakel and Ashmouni should be maintained for a few weeks more, it will be only natural to expect some increase in the acreage planted to Sakel.

Rumours have been circulated on the market that the Sudan Sakel crop had been damaged by fogs. These reports were immediately contradicted, and latest advices report that the crop is making satisfactory progress, with good prospects for a production appreciably larger than that of last year. Taking the situation as a whole, we think present Sakel prices rather exaggerated, in view of the fact that there is still plenty of cotton to be placed, and this in the face of an increasing tendency on the part of spinners to replace Sakel by other and cheaper growths. The market is narrow, and clever manipulation can push it higher temporarily, but it is inevitable that prices must sooner or later fall back to reasonable levels if the marketing of the balance of the crop is not to be seriously impeded.

The Sakel/Uppers straddle (January/February) this week stands at 1,505 points, against 1,427 points last week and 743 points at this time last year.

Uppers.—This market has also been very active, but fluctuations have not been on the same scale as for Sakel. Business has for the most part consisted of trade purchases, which were supplied by speculative sales, the latter in their turn being put out against speculative purchases of Sakel. The Uppers market seems to us to be fundamentally sound, and, as we have stated in previous reports, we look for a gradual advance in prices as stocks are moved.

The Ashmouni/American straddle (February/January) this week stands at 326 points, against 283 points last week and 756 points at this time last year.

At the second December tender, dockets for 3,750 kantars were issued, bringing the total tenders so far this month up to 6,000 kantars.

M. Mironescu, Roumanian Minister for Foreign Affairs, states that a loan will be concluded in January.

Palestine's imports and exports during September amounted in value to £P584,746 and £P82,292 respectively, as compared with £P452,433 and £P102,036 in September, 1927.

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